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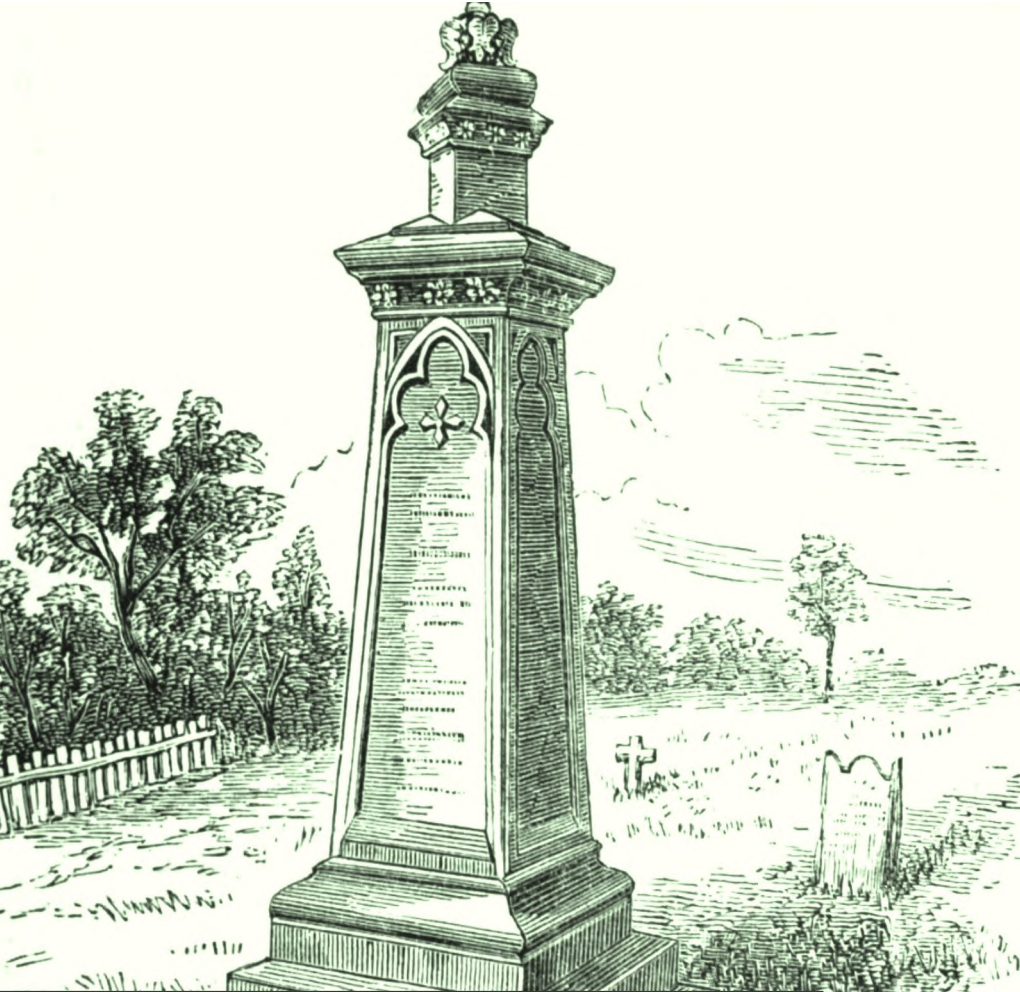
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*History of Cheadle, in Staffordshire,
and Neighboring Places*

Robert Plant, Charles Lynam, W. Molyneux



HISTORY OF CHEADLE,

IN

Staffordshire,

And Neighbouring Places,

BY

ROBERT PLANT, F.G.S.

WITH CHAPTERS ON CROXDEN ABBEY BY
CHARLES LYNAM, AND THE CHEADLE COAL-
FIELD BY W. MOLYNEUX, F.G.S.

LEEK: WILLIAM CLEMESHA.

LONDON: JOHN HEYWOOD, PATERNOSTER
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PREFACE.

Some towns have derived their pretensions to a certain degree of celebrity by reason of their antiquity; some from the enterprise of their inhabitants in the present or past generations; and others, it would appear, from the fact of their having been the birth-places of great men whose renown has been national rather than merely local. Perhaps Cheadle cannot lay claim to notice on any of these grounds. It may not be so rich in historic incidents as some places; and it may be thought that there are few, if any, individuals who have belonged to the town whose biography would be particularly entertaining. Still it is not without a history; and as the seat of manufacturing industry, and the centre of a large agricultural district, and of a great extent of mining field, it is not altogether devoid of interest to those who desire to possess local records.

Hitherto the reader of local history might look in

PREFACE.

by townsmen; and although a county historian (Nightingale) wrote about sixty years ago that "Cheadle has nothing remarkable either in its history or for its remains of antiquity," the Author hopes he may be pardoned for having made an humble attempt to place together such incidents of the past and such conditions of the present day, in relation to the town and district, as appear to him to possess features of interest, at any rate to those who, like himself, have been born there.

The History of Cheadle has been produced as a labour of love, and that labour has been performed during moments snatched at intervals from the discharge of the active and not unfrequently embarrassing duties connected with the management of a large business concern. Strictly accurate compilation, rather than literary display, has been aimed at, and if there are faults of style or arrangement, the Author hopes that readers may be indulgent and not severely critical.

Thanks are due to Mr. W. Molyneux, F.G.S., and Mr. Charles Lynam for the chapters bearing their names; to Mr. J. Ingamells, as well as to other gentlemen who have kindly assisted in the production of the work.



HISTORY OF CHEADLE.

CHAPTER I.

TOTMANSLOW HUNDRED—OFFLOW, CUTTLESTONE, FIREHILL, AND SEISDON HUNDREDS—DERIVATION OF CHEADLE—MANORIAL HISTORY—THE BASSETTS AND SUBSEQUENT LORDS OF THE MANOR—SITUATION OF THE TOWN—RELIGIOUS CENSUS—CENSUS OF THE TOWN, PARISH, AND UNION.



TOTMANSLOW, which gives the name to the Hundred in which Cheadle is situated, is a small hamlet on a lofty eminence half a mile east of the village of Draycot, and in the parish bearing the latter name. In olden times, when the distinctions of Hundreds or Wapentakes had more significance than now—when an owner of property, sustaining damage to that property by rioters or losing it by

administration of justice and like purposes, each vassal attended armed and "touched" the spear of his overlord, in token of homage—a court baron was held in this little agricultural hamlet. The places from which all these divisions into Hundreds in Staffordshire took their names are obscure and insignificant spots; so insignificant, in fact, that the farm, hamlet, or village of Offlow is marked on no map and is not alluded to in the county histories; while Cuttlestone, which gave a name to one Hundred, is only known by a bridge over the Penk near Penkridge; two farms near Aston gave the name to Pirehill Hundred; a hamlet, containing a few houses, as stated above, gave the name to Totmanslow; and Seisden Hundred is so called after a small village near Trysull on the borders of Shropshire. Most of the names of the places in Totmanslow are of Saxon origin, like that of the Hundred itself, which signifies Deadman's grave.

And yet the derivation of the name of the town under notice is not easy to discover with certainty. It has been spelt in various ways at different periods—Cedda, Celle, Chedull, Chedle, Cheadle. Mr. Francis Redfern, the historian of Uttoxeter, thinks the word was probably derived from Ceorles—merchants or traders—or Ceapan (Saxon, to buy or sell), or a compound of the two, denoting that the place to which it is applied is, or has been, a market town. Then again, it bears a near affinity to "deal," to trade—(Anglo-Saxon, *dæl*).

A writer in a local newspaper—the *Staffordshire Sentinel*—recently without hesitation attributed the

disproved by the documents given by Omerod in the History of Cheshire with regard to the origin of Cheadle in that county. "It is clear from a deed by Dr. Williamson, in the Vill-Cestr, that Cheadle [Cheshire] was held directly from the Earl of Chester in the time of Hugh Kevelioc (1150—1180), as that Earl quitclaimed to Robert de Chedle 'four porkers, which he used to pay the Earl by agreement, made in love before his barons.'" The same was supposed to have been brought in marriage to Geoffry, son of Hugh de Dutton, ancestor of a family "which assumed the name of Chedle and were settled here and at Clifton." Cheadle Hulme is termed a "moiety of the manor of Cheadle in the Inquisition, being that portion of the original vill of Chedle which passed with Clemence, daughter and coheiress of Roger of Chedle to William de Bagalegh." Again, "Cheadle and Wimslow were erected on lands separated from the domain of Earl Edwin."

But the manor of Cheadle in Staffordshire is two generations older than the date named by Omerod, and possibly the Cheadle family he names may have possessed lands in Staffordshire and either taken their name from or given it to the town under notice.

The Manor of Cheadle, like that of other places, is in reality a freehold estate held by the Lord of the Manor, who is entitled by immemorial custom to maintain a tenure between himself and the copyhold tenants. Copyhold is technically expressed as "tenure by copy of court roll, at the will of the lord according to the custom of the manor," which

Manors originated in England at the time of the Norman Conquest, the vills and places mentioned in Domesday being so designated. The Conqueror divided his kingdom into knights' fees. Such of the barons as had extensive fees or possessions adjacent united them into one manor for the convenience of holding their courts, and granted out the lands to their tenants upon rents and services to be rendered at the Manorial Court. Subinfeudation was prohibited by statute in the reign of Edward I, and no manor could be created after that date. It follows that all existing manors must trace their origin from feudal times and that copyhold estates are a relic of ancient feudalism. They now form an exception to the general rule in England, where freeholds constitute the highest kind of estate known to the law. The lord of every manor is now authorised to enfranchise or convert into freehold the copyhold lands by agreement with the holders.

According to the Blore mss., in the William Salt Library, in the 20th year of the reign of the Conqueror, Robertus held Celle of Robert Baron de Stafford. In the 22nd year of the reign of Henry II., Osbertus Basswynne held Chelle or Cheadle and gave the same to William Bassett, younger son of Richard Bassett and Maud Riddell, Richard being the younger son of Ralph Bassett, of Drayton. This William Bassett was also seated at Sapcote, in the county of Leicester, and in the 9th year of the reign of Henry II. executed the office of Sheriff for the counties of Warwick and Leicester, as deputy to his brother Ralph. In the following year he executed that office for Leicestershire for himself, and from the 11th to the 15th inclusive and half of

the 16th of Henry II., was himself Sheriff for both of those counties. It appears from the great roll of 20th Henry II., that during his shrievalty he added two Knights to the five Knights and ten sergeants who before had kept guard in Warwick Castle pursuant to an order of the Barons of the Exchequer, and about the 16th and in the 26th and 29th of Henry II., he was one of those Barons himself (Madon's History Exchequer). In the 19th of Henry II. on an inquisition by commission concerning all the Sheriffs of England, he paid a fine of £100 for some transgression in that office. Two years later he was one of the justices itinerant in Yorkshire, as also in the 24th of the same King. In the 23rd year of Henry II. he executed the office of Sheriff of Lincolnshire for one half of that year, and from that time to the 30th of that King's reign inclusive. He had issue Sir Simon, his successor Ralph, ancestor to the Bassetts of Blore, and a daughter Emma, who was married to Sir Robert de Grendon, of Grendon, Warwickshire, Knight. This Simon, in the 6th year of the reign of Richard I., married one of the daughters and co-heirs of William Averill, of Haddon-in-the-Peake, Derbyshire, and was living in the 20th year of the reign of Henry III. He built a college for a warden and priest at Sapcote, and had issue Ralph, who married Millicent, one of the daughters and co-heirs to Robert de Chancumbe about the 15th of Henry III. This Ralph gave to Ralph Bassett, his cousin german—namely, the son of Ralph—the Park Hall in Cheadle. He had the shrievalty of Lincolnshire

III., he received command to attend the King at Chester, well fitted with horse and arms to restrain the incursions of the Welsh, and the same year was made governor of Northampton Castle. He received the same appointment five years afterwards. But in the 48th of Henry III., he sided with the rebellious barons, and was then in arms with them at Northampton. And soon afterwards, the King being taken prisoner at Lewes, and the barons having consequently all in their power, he was the first person by them summoned to the Parliament which they held in the King's name (49th Henry III.), and the first person ever called to Parliament by writ of summons. He was afterwards with the barons at Evesham Castle, where they were totally overthrown. He had issue Ralph Lord Bagot, Baron of Sapcote (living 24th Edward I.), who by Elizabeth his wife, the daughter of Roger Lord Colville, left issue Simon, who amongst other great men of that time in the month of June, 1294 (22nd Edward I.) had summons to attend the King wheresoever he should be to advise touching the weighty affairs of the realm, and shortly afterwards he was commanded to attend at Portsmouth well furnished with horse and arms thence to accompany him into Gascoigne. By Isabella his wife (daughter of William Lord Boteler of Wem), who survived him, he had issue Ralph Lord Bassett, who in the 4th of Edward II., was in the expedition to Scotland, and was commanded to go to Newcastle-upon-Tyne well provided with horse and arms to march against the Scots. He subsequently joined the army of Edward III., whom he accompanied into France to raise the siege of Aquillon. He fought at the

other engagements against the French. During his absence from England Robert, the son of Walter de Colville, died without issue, and it was found by inquisition that his inheritance descended to him (Ralph Bassett). After all his military employments, he founded a chantry in the church of Sapcote for three priests to celebrate divine service "for the health of his soul," and endowed the same with lands of good value. Dying soon after—namely, on the Sunday preceding the feast of St. Margaret, 2nd Richard II., seized of the manor of Cheadle, besides considerable estates in the counties of Lincoln, Northampton, and Leicester—he left two daughters his co-heirs—namely, Alice his elder daughter, then married to Sir Robert Moxen, of Peckleton, and Elizabeth his younger daughter, married to Richard, grandson of John Lord Grey, of Codmore.

Upon the partition, the Manor of Cheadle came to Lord Grey. He was a very active man in the wars with France in the reigns of Henry IV. and Henry V., and died about the 6th year of the reign of Henry V., his wife Elizabeth surviving. Failing male issue (the name of this once powerful family of Bassetts having become extinct) the manor came to Lord Zouch, Lord Grey's kinsman; but the estate was, before the death of Elizabeth, settled on the Duke of Somerset and some others, to the intent that out of the revenues thereof they should discharge the debts and funeral expenses of Elizabeth and her husband; that she should be buried by her husband, at Aylesford in Kent; and that they should "find a priest to sing there for

the like service; which, being perform'd, she settl'd this manor upon John, the son of William Lord Zouch." The manor subsequently changed hands several times by purchase. In the early part of the eighteenth century it was sold by Edward Lord Harley, and his wife Lady Henrietta Cavendish Holles Harley (daughter of Henry late Duke of Newcastle, who was only son and heir of William first Duke of Newcastle, by Elizabeth Duchess of Newcastle, his wife, who was daughter and sole heiress of William Bassett of Bloor in the county of Stafford), to Mr. Penniston Lamb, of Lincoln's Inn. In 1719 it was again sold by Mr. Lamb to Mr. Joseph Banks, of Revesby Abbey, Lincolnshire, grandfather of Sir Joseph Banks, to whom reference will be made hereafter. It remained in this family till 1791; when it was sold by the trustees of Sir Joseph Banks, to Mr. John Holliday, of Lincoln's Inn, to whose exertions many of the hills and valleys in the neighbourhood of Cheadle and Dilhorne owe their present picturesque appearance. Mr. Holliday died in 1801, and left the manor to his grandson, John Buller Yarde-Buller, who was afterwards raised to the peerage as Baron Churston.

Sir John Yarde-Buller was born April 12th, 1799; was educated at Oriel College, Oxford; succeeded his father, Sir Francis Buller Yarde-Buller, as third Baronet in 1834. He represented South Devon in Parliament 1835-58. He married on the 24th of January, 1823, Elizabeth, daughter of Mr. Thomas Wilson Patten, of Bank Hall, Lancashire, and had issue John Buller, born 1823; educated

Charlotte, daughter of the late E. S. Chandos Pole, of Redbourne Hall, Derby; had with other issue, John, born 1846. His daughter Bertha, born 1825, married 1854, Sir Matthew Lopes, Bart., M.P. The Baronetage dates from 1790. In 1858, Sir John was created Baron Churston in the peerage of the United Kingdom. His Lordship's first wife died 1857, and he married, secondly (in 1861) Caroline 3rd daughter of the late Sir Robert William Newman, 1st Baronet, and her ladyship died in 1866. He was brother to Sir Edward Manningham Buller, Bart. — *Arms.*—Quarterly: 1st and 4th sable, on a cross, argent, quarterly, pierced, of the field, four eagles displayed of the first, *Buller*; 2nd and 3rd, argent, a chevron, gules, between three water-bougets, *Yarde*. *Crest.*—A Saracen's head, couped, proper. *Supporters.*—Dexter, an ostrich, proper, in the beak a horse shoe, or; sinister, an eagle sable. In the old arms of the baronetcy there is no motto; but in the arms of the barony of Churston is the motto adopted by Sir E. M. Buller, Bart.,—" *Aquila non capet muscas*"—The eagle does not catch flies. The first baron died in September, 1871. He was succeeded by his grandson, John Yarde-Buller, who was born October 26th, 1846.

The Manor of Cheadle was purchased from the executors of the first Lord Churston by Mr. Alfred Sohler Bolton, of Moor Court, in 1872.

The old manorial residence once stood on the Park Hall estate. The moat and portions of the foundation of the old building remain. At the present time Park Hall is owned by Mr. Almond.

The town is situated on the northern slope and base of a hill rising out of the centre of a valley,

higher than the houses, affording a wide and pleasant prospect. The ridges which bound the view from Cheadle on the south east and the west are now clothed with fir plantations, forming an ornamental feature in the landscape. The town is about midway between the Churnet Valley line and the main line of the North Staffordshire Railway running from Stoke-upon-Trent to Derby. It is intersected by the roads from Newcastle to Ashbourne, and from Leek to Uttoxeter. There are four main streets, irregularly built of bricks, but containing some good houses.

Cheadle is a parish 6701 acres in extent, a market town, head of a union, petty sessional and county court district, and a polling place for North Staffordshire. It is distant about ten miles from Leek, Uttoxeter, and Stone; about the same distance from the centre of the Potteries, and 147 miles from London.

Amongst the manuscripts collected by the Rev. Stebbing Shaw, which are preserved in the William Salt Library at Stafford, is one evidently written in the time of Queen Elizabeth, setting forth the number of houses in various parishes in Staffordshire, including Cheadle, 195; Cheddleton, 203; Caverswall, 274; Draycot, 84. Allowing five for each house (the average at the present time) the population of Cheadle parish in the 16th century would appear to have been 975; Cheddleton, 1015; Caverswall, 1370; Draycot, 420. Kingsley is mentioned in connection with other places beyond the limits of the Hundred of Totmanslow.

In 1676 a Religious Census of the Province of

wardens of the several parishes to "give an account of the Inhabitants, Papists, and other Dissenters." A copy of the Census in ms. is in the William Salt Library. At the time the Census was taken Cheadle union was all included in the then extensive Deanery of Uttoxeter. The following figures are taken from the volume:—

Place or Township.	Conform-ists.	Papists.	Noncon-formists.
Draycott-in-ye-Moors	88	0	12
Chedleton	300	6	20
Dylthorne	352	2	11
Croydon (Croxden?)	129	0	0
Alveton	400	14	2
Carswell	205	15	7
Ipstones	403	12	73
Chedle	1000	4	1
Checkley	473	39	6
Kingsleigh	399	1	3

Taking the whole of the diocese of Coventry and Lichfield the Nonconformists were less than five per cent. and the Roman Catholics a fraction over one per cent. of the population.

The two foregoing statements are not inconsistent with each other. It may be that the figures were based on slightly different boundaries, and while one shows approximately the population of Cheadle and district in the sixteenth century the other indicates the dominant religious feeling in the next. It is represented that Draycot contained 84 houses in the sixteenth century and only 100 inhabitants in the seventeenth, which may have been the actual numbers. Various causes may have operated to reduce or increase the population of

the decade ending April 1871 there were some remarkable fluctuations, from causes presently to be explained from official sources, in places in the Cheadle Union.

Precise and reliable information is now obtainable as to the population, though Cheadle itself is one of those towns which have no recognised boundaries that are deemed suitable as a basis for a return of population. In each such case the superintendent registrar distinguishes the houses which in his opinion may properly be considered within the limits of the town. In the town of Cheadle the superintendent returned the population in 1871 as 2929, and the inhabited houses 645, while no less than 51 houses were uninhabited, a decrease of 56 inhabited houses and 262 persons since 1861, when the figures were—701 inhabited houses, and a population of 3191. But to take a defined boundary, it appears from the official census that the population of the parish (which includes the hamlets of Freehay, Cheadle Grange, Cheadle Mill, Brookiston, Huntley and part of Oakamoor) has increased from 2750 in 1801, when the first regular census was taken, to 4492 in 1871, the date of the last census. While the increase had been slow but regular each decade from 1801 to 1861, during the ten years ending 1871 there was a decrease of 311. The Registrar General's returns give the following as the census of

CHEADLE PARISH.

1801	1811	1821	1831	1841	1851	1861	1871

SUPERINTENDENT REGISTRAR'S DISTRICT.

Registrar's Sub-district	Parish, Township or Place.	Area in statute acres	Inhabd. Houses		Population	
			1861	1871	1861	1871
ALTON.	Cauldon (a)	1458	77	73	400	365
	Alton Parish :					
	Alton		253	253	1173	1074
	Upper and Lower Cotton .. Township		88	95	446	477
	Farley	7379	82	95	390	421
IPSTONES.	Denstone		53	53	241	263
	Bradley-in-the-Moors	650	11	11	43	50
	Kingsley Parish: (b)					
	Kingsley		291	259	1332	1196
	Whiston	4714	137	141	788	689
DILHORNE.	Ipstones with part of Foxt hamlet (c) Parish	6490	373	341	1904	1673
	Part of the parish of Checkley with part of					
	Cheddleton Parish: [Foxt....Hamlet	393	24	21	124	119
	Cheddleton and Rownall .. Township		301	312	1374	1502
	Cunsall	9080	49	45	248	226
DILHORNE.	Bastford		76	72	428	370
	Caverswall (d)	5300	609	789	3046	4082
	Dilhorne Parish :					
	Dilhorne (e)		174	154	849	734
	Forsbrook	3648	162	187	724	802
CHEADLE.	Draycott-in-the-Moors	3690	89	87	451	430
	Cheadle (w) (f)	6701	1034	981	4803	4492
	Part of Checkley (g)	5043	597	518	2304	2234
	Total	55146	4390	4487	20988	21199

closing of some paper mills. Caudon parish includes the township of Caudon and the village of Waterhouses.

(b) The decrease of population in the parishes of Kingsley and Ipstones and in the township of Basford, is attributable to exhaustion of iron mines in the locality and the migration consequent thereon.

(c) The hamlet of Foxt is partly in Ipstones parish and partly in Checkley parish. The remaining part of the parish of Checkley is in the Cheadle sub-district.

(d) The progress of the staple (pottery) trade of the district is assigned as the cause of the increase of population in the parish of Caverswall, a portion of which adjoins Longton. Caverswall parish includes the hamlets of Cookshill and Mear Lane, Dividy Lane, Werrington, Mear, and Adderley Green.

(e) The decrease of population in Dilhorne is attributable to the exhaustion of collieries and the dispersion of workmen and their families. Dilhorne includes Boundary and Daisy Bank.

(f) The decrease of population in the parish of Cheadle is attributed to the partial exhaustion of the iron mines in the neighbourhood, and to the temporary closing of a factory.

(g) This part of the parish of Checkley includes the villages of Lower Tean and Checkley. The remainder of the parish is in the Ipstones sub-district.

POPULATION OF SUB-REGISTRARS' DISTRICTS.

Place.	1801	1811	1821	1831	1841	1851	1861	1871
Alton	1964	2298	2604	2813	2788	2740	2693	2650
Ipstones	3351	3765	4270	4464	4831	4826	6118	5775
Dilhorne.....	2330	2620	3070	3256	3602	3716	5070	6048
Cheadle	4124	4889	5932	6306	6638	6806	107	6726
Total in the Union.	11769	13572	15876	16899	17859	18088	20988	21199

MARRIAGES, BIRTHS, AND DEATHS

In Cheadle Superintendent Registrar's District, which is identical with the Poor Law Union.

Population	Registered in the ten years 1861-70.			Excess of registered births over deaths	Increase of population between censuses of
	Mar.				

CHAPTER II.

WARES—FAIRS—CUSTOMS—AGRICULTURE OF THE
DISTRICT—COUNTY AND CHEADLE SOCIETIES—
TURNPIKE ROADS—TREES, &c.



CHEADLE, it may appear, has not progressed so rapidly as some other places, but it is not difficult to find a reason for this. It must not, however, be inferred that no advance has been made, and that the external appearance of the town and the habits of the people have not been improved. Within little more than a quarter of a century the parish church has been rebuilt and the approaches to it have been improved; a Roman Catholic edifice has been erected from the designs of one of the country's greatest architects, and fitted up with lavish splendour; while commodious places of worship have been provided by the Nonconformists, and schools of all kinds abound. It is true that the feast of the dedication of the parish church (the wake) is annually observed during the week which commences on the Sunday next St. Giles's Day, the first of September; and that the fairs are held on the festivals of the Epiphany (January 6th), the Annunciation (March 5th), the Ascension and St. Luke (October 18th); also on May 6th, July 6th, and August 21st, the latter being called "mellow pear fair." And it is also true that exceptions might be

taken, occasionally, to the manner in which some of these celebrations are carried out. But in this respect there has been a change and an improvement, in testimony of which a quotation may be made from a letter written in 1875, by Mr. W. H. Keates, a native of Cheadle, then residing in South Devon:—“Since I was a boy the festivities of the people have greatly changed. Sixty-five years ago, bull baiting was the great sport of the wakes; and on the Wakes SUNDAY morning the bull or bulls to be baited were led about the parish, and collections were made towards the expenses! Football was played on Shrove Tuesday in the main street of the town, when shopkeepers put up their shutters, it being held that they had no remedy for broken windows on that day.” These and many other objectionable practices, including cock fighting, were continued to a much later period than sixty-five years ago; but such barbarity and lawlessness are now numbered with the past, never again to be revived.

In olden times the system of “gooding” was carried on at Cheadle as well as in other parts of Staffordshire at Christmas time; and not only old men and women, but representatives from every poor family in the parish, made their rounds in quest of alms. During their peregrinations it was customary for the recipients of money to present to their benefactors a sprig of misletoe. It was also a practice here and at other places at one time for sums of money to be collected from the wealthy inhabitants and placed in the hands of the clergyman and churchwardens, who on the Sunday morning

"Whether the mummary of 'guisers' (disguisers)," writes Mr. Keates, "who went about the parish at Christmas when I was a boy, do so still, I do not know. The church singers and ringers went about the parish making collections for their services. Christmas waits or musicians, who for a month previously had gone about the parish giving night serenades, on Christmas Day and following days called on the parishioners with their music and made collections." Opinions are much divided on the subject of waits. There are those who characterise nocturnal musicians as nuisances and their music as a barbarous relic of a bygone age. On the other hand, others profess to love "sweet music in the stillness of the night." The practice has not been discontinued altogether, nor is it a nuisance of an intolerable character, if a nuisance at all, at Cheadle, and will only die out altogether when a period is put to the almsgiving by which it has hitherto been supported.

Time was when Cheadle was essentially an agricultural town in the centre of a large extent of moorland district. To go back two centuries and a half, there were sweet grass and large oxen grown in this open country; and Drayton, in his *Polyolbion*, wrote of the moorlands in 1613:—

She from her chilly site as from her barren feed,
For body, horn, and hair, as fair a beast doth breed,
As scarcely this great Isle can equal.

Dr. Plot, who published his *History of Staffordshire* in 1686, spoke of North Staffordshire as

and their wool but coarse; nor in the production of corn, for though the land employed for tillage be naturally but mean, yet where the industry of the husbandman has anything showed itself in marling, liming or mixing lime with ess, and so laying them together on their healthy grounds, it produces corn of all sorts plentifully enough." The lines quoted were applied to the district a few miles south of Cheadle "Twixt Trent and battening Dove." At the same time it was also written—"the black moorish and gouty grounds of the moorlands, with the best helps are fit indeed only for oats," but the arable lands "are of so rich a clay that they produce as good hard-corne (*i.e.*, wheat and rye, peas, beans, etc.) as any in the south, though not so much; the sheep too of the south bear somewhat a finer fleece, and the district produces more and better coal and ironstone." Applying his remarks to a wider area, the Doctor proceeded—"Besides wool for the supply of the cloathing trade and felting trade, which are chiefly exercised about Tamworth, Burton, and Newcastle-under-Lyme, they sow both hemp and flax all over the county, in small proportions, whereby they furnish't too in some measure with linens; so that all things considered, this seems to be a land (*terra suis contenta bonis*) that can subsist of itself." After giving a minute description of the system of tillage adopted in his days, the Doctor went on to say "When the time of harvest is come they reap their wheat and bind it, and so they doe their rye; when bound they gather nine sheaves together and sett them upon their butt ends, and cover them with three, and so let them stand ten or twelve days before they carry them, the corn

barley they mow with their sithe and cadour in the south parts of the county, but in the moorlands they reap it with hooks, letting them lie in reaps ten or twelve days, and turning them once the day before they carry them."

As an illustration of the superstition of the seventeenth century, consider the method adopted for curing the disease among cattle called the "Foule," which, "falling into their leggs and feet, causes such imposthumes or cores of putrified matter that they cannot go farr. They strictly observe the turfe where the oxe, cow, or heifer thus distempered sets his sick foot when he first rises in a morning, upon which they usually find some of the sanies, or matter of the imposthume, press't out by his weight: this very turf, with the impression upon it they cut up, and hang upon a tree or hedge towards the north wind, which blowing upon it, the beast becomes cured in three or four days."

"In the moorlands they cut the turf in the spring time with an instrument called a plush plow, being a sort of spade shod somewhat in the form of an arrow, with a wing at one side, and having a cross piece of wood at the upper end of helve after the manner of a crutch, to which they fasten a pillow, which setting to their thigh, and so thrusting it forward, they will commonly dispatch a large turf at two cuts, and then turn it up to dry, which in good weather is done on one side in 8, on the other in 4 or 5 days; when dried, if intended for fuel in winter, they pile them up round in manner of a hayrick 10 or 12 feet high, and let them stand all summer; but if for manuring their land, they heap

sometimes three weeks together, still putting on new turf as the old burns away, only giving them vent by air holes, which they make with a stick; the ashes of this turf they call *ess*, which laid on their meadows, or tillage land, goes further than dung or lime: they also use turf to ridge and hedge their meaner houses, and sometimes thatch with it. In their moorish boggy ground they also dig peat, either for fuel or to burn for manure as above."

A writer in the last century (*Zoonomia*, vol. 1, page 162), speaking of the neighbourhood of Checkley, said "Many of our shrubs, which would otherwise afford an agreeable food to horses, are armed with thorns or prickles which secure them from these animals: as the holly, hawthorn, gooseberry, and gorse. In the extensive moorlands of Staffordshire the horses have learnt to stamp upon a gorse bush with one of their fore feet for a minute together, and when the points are broken they eat it without injury. Which is an art other horses in the fertile parts of the county do not possess, and prick their mouths till they bleed, if they are induced by hunger or caprice to attempt eating gorse."

Mr. Pitt, who published his *History of Staffordshire* in 1817, dealt very lengthily with the question of the agriculture of the county in all its various branches, even devoting several pages to the subject of weeds, bearing out that "One year's seeding makes seven years' weeding, but one year's good weeding may prevent seeding." He described the Moorlands as, "a rough, dreary, cold tract, the snow lying long on it." "The Moorlands consist in part of gravelly

of surface: other portions consist of high moors and peat mosses, where peat is dug for fuel, the soil beneath being a gravelly clay. A considerable part of the county is upon a limestone bottom, in many parts rising out of the main surface in huge cliffs. The limestone is covered with good calcareous loamy earth, and is the best part of the Moorlands, but the elevation is too great to ripen corn in due season. Oats have been unripe in November, and no other grain is sown."

On the subject of waste lands it is recorded that in the beginning of the present century "The east side of Dilhorn heath [near Cheadle] was cultivated with potatoes, after the heath and gorse had rotted and been mixed with lime and compost; the crop of potatoes was so abundant as to admit of many waggon loads being sent in the winter into the vicinity of the Potteries, about six miles from Dilhorn, which afforded a seasonable supply to many thousand manufacturers. The quantity was not only immense, but the quality of the potatoes was in so high repute that the Dilhorn potatoes produced two-pence per bushel above the common market price. In this part of the Moorlands the potato harvest is of great consideration, and the thirty thousand artificers and yeomanry [in the Potteries?] eat less wheaten bread than in most other places with the same numbers. Give a cottager in the Moorlands, with a wife and large family, a cow and a few roods of potatoe ground, and you make him a happy man; he goes to his daily labour, earns money to purchase clothing, etc., for his large family; the younger children collect dung and soil from the public roads

assist to get in the potatoe harvest, the chief support of their family about nine months in the year." Pitt, who quoted the above, observed "A pig might be added, to eat up the offal, which, when fat, would add to the general plenty."

From the remarks of Pitt on poultry it appears that fowl stealing was a very common practice in his time: "The profits of these [poultry] are of but little consideration in or near the populous parts of Staffordshire from the risk of their being carried off by thieves, which is done in some places two or three times a year; and these depredations being committed in the night, are seldom detected. To prevent this, the poultry-house should be under the command of a lodging room window, where fire arms are kept in readiness, and a dog chained near. If they could be kept in security they would deserve more attention, and those who are at the pains to rear them early in the spring, find it worth their while, the chickens selling at a good price and at an early growth. Eggs also produce considerable profit, being sometimes sold at 2d. each. A poor woman, who reared some chickens and ducks, took them to market and sold them well, and bought a pig with the money: this is commendable management, and worthy of imitation. The gallin or Guinea fowls, are very prolific; their eggs are much admired; their appearance is singular, and adds to the variety; their flesh is also much esteemed by some people, who fancy its taste and flavour resembles the pheasant."

During the last sixty or seventy years very considerable advances have been made in improvements for cultivating the soil and the breeding of

which have led to these agricultural improvements the partiality of many of the large landowners of the county for this most interesting and useful art may be said to be one of the principal. The long prevailing taste for these improvements has led to the establishment of several agricultural societies and farmers' clubs. The first Staffordshire Agricultural Society established at Lichfield was "liberally supported by the nobility, gentry, and the principal farmers of the county." But the premiums were confined to the practical farmer, as there could not, in the early days of such societies, be expected to be a fair competition between the owner of the soil and one who rented it only. Therefore the landed proprietors, in all matters of competition, either made matches amongst themselves, or entered into different sets of sweepstakes. Cheadle was at the beginning of the century embraced within the area of the Newcastle and Pottery Agricultural Society, which then existed for promoting the best modes of husbandry.

Eventually the present Staffordshire Agricultural Society was established, and it is now the principal institution of that description in the county. This Society holds its exhibitions in a certain number of towns throughout the county, taking them in rotation, or as circumstances may suggest as the most favourable place for the success of the exhibition and the convenience of the exhibitors. Cheadle was supposed to have been one of these favoured localities, and in 1857, according to the past order of proceeding, the show of the Staffordshire

and no doubt acting as they thought for the general good of the members and exhibitors, preferred Stafford as a place much more favourable for the show than Cheadle, which then as now suffered from being beyond the reach of a railway.* The Cheadle farmers, subscribers or competitors at the annual shows, naturally regretted the loss which this resolution of the committee would entail upon the district, but with a promptitude and liberality which did them honour they resolved to repair the loss to a certain extent, and in a manner which they had reason to believe would turn to their own permanent advantage as well as to the advantage of the town. The resolution they came to was to organise and carry on a society of their own, and at a meeting held on the 13th of March, 1857. it may be said to have been formed. Starting with a most formidable number of members, amongst whom there was a rivalry of zeal, with funds sufficient to offer a large number of prizes, with the assistance and countenance of the influential proprietors in the neighbourhood; in short, with everything requisite to make a good and successful operation, the society made its arrangements for the first show with the most favourable anticipations that it would turn out worthy of their zeal, their efforts, and the district; and at the same time be an excellent nursery, as it were, for competition in what might be regarded as the parent Association, the Staffordshire Agricultural Society. The first show of the Cheadle Society was held on the 2nd of October, 1857. There were no less than 171 entries, independently of a large exhibition of implements, and the general excellence

of the stock was the subject of admiration. Subsequent local exhibitions were equally successful. But unfortunately the rinderpest made its appearance in England in June, 1865, and in course of time extending to Staffordshire, interrupting for a while the progress of the county association, and suspending the operations of many local societies, some of which, including Cheadle, have not since been revived.

The preceding remarks indicate that in past generations much of the land was waste and many of the hills around Cheadle were barren, devoid of beauty, and profitless. The foundation of the great improvements which have been made during the last century was laid in 1780, when a bill in Parliament was obtained for enclosing waste lands in the parish of Dilhorne and for making exchanges of lands, from whence great conveniences frequently sprang and great scope was given for improvements. A few years afterwards, owing to the intolerably bad state of the roads in the neighbourhood a second application was made to the legislature for powers to construct a turnpike road through the parish of Dilhorne. The bill met with opposition from some persons interested in mines in the neighbourhood. But one of the retired Admirals, the Hon. John Leveson Gower, who was then in Parliament, having, with his wife, visited Dilhorne, declared that he would rather be in the Bay of Biscay in a storm than upon one of the Dilhorne roads in a carriage. The opposition was beaten down ; the bill passed into law, and benefited not only Dilhorne but contiguous

On the 22nd of April, 1831, the Royal assent was given to an Act of Parliament for consolidating the trusts of the turnpike roads in Cheadle and the neighbourhood, and for making deviations and new branches to and from the same. It recited the Acts which had previously been passed for repairing the roads through a wide district of which Cheadle is the centre. One of the objects of the Act of 1831 was to "divert a steep and dangerous road and make a new road from a place called Cheadle Grange in the parish of Cheadle to communicate with the present road at or near Oakamoor." Further recitals show that at that time there were other roads near Cheadle which were in some parts "narrow, circuitous and inconvenient for travellers, and in times of floods dangerous and impassable," and could not "be effectually maintained, widened, improved, and kept in repair by the ordinary course of law." The Act contained clauses appointing a very numerous body of Trustees and investing them with great powers. Even in 1831 the framers of the Act in question would seem to have had in view the prospect of having their roads cut up by the traction engine, notwithstanding that locomotion by steam power was then in its infancy, and that only six years had then elapsed since the opening of the first line of railway—that from Stockton to Darlington. The Act contained a clause enacting "That the tolls hereby made payable for or in respect of any carriage propelled or drawn by steam, gas, or any other like means, shall be paid every time of the passing and repassing of such carriage along the said roads." During

Oakamoor and Froghall, but in other directions, though it cannot be said that there is not room for further improvements. Under the Turnpike Continuation Act the trusts of 41 miles, 1 furlong, 83 yards of roads in and round Cheadle have recently expired, the annual cost of maintaining the same having hitherto been £878 7s.

Soon after the Act of 1780 was passed Mr. John Holliday, who became Lord of the Manor of Cheadle, and resided at Dilhorne Hall, devoted himself unwearidly to the improvement of Dilhorne and the neighbourhood. In 1792 he was awarded a gold medal by the Society for the Encouragement of Arts and Manufactures for having planted 113,000 mixed timber trees. Mr. John Sneyd, of Belmont, had previously received a gold medal for having planted 10,000 larch trees in the neighbourhood of Ipstones. The example of these gentlemen acted as a stimulus to others, and within less than half-a-century the landscape was rendered picturesque and inviting, whilst agriculture in the Cheadle union has also advanced with the times. Pitt in his history alluded to the subject of the planting of trees, and said with respect to the proper site of ground, every landowner of prudence and taste who resides on his property will furnish himself with shelter and shade near his habitation, in such situations as local circumstances permit; but large plantations should not be made on good land, of much more value in this country for corn or pasture, but always (where such abounds) on land impracticable to the plough, upon precipices, sides of hills, or in dingles, where the land unplanted is of little value. Plantations on

forming a chain of three or four miles in length and those of Kingsley and Oakamoor being upon steep and uneven hills. The same author said "The underwood will bear cutting every seven years for cratewood and pay nearly £1 per acre annually, whilst large tracts of similar land unplanted are not worth one-fourth of that value." After suggesting the introduction of Scotch and other firs and sycamore, he proceeded—"Perhaps many other of our native timber trees might succeed intermixed with these, as one would shelter and screen another. To give any such plantations a fair chance of success, I should propose to begin, not on the summits, but on the declivities of the hills; and, as such first plantations increased in growth, to begin with such fresh ones nearer the summit, till the whole should be covered; by which management the plants of strength and growth would be made to protect and shelter those of tender age. The putrefaction and rotting of leaves, from such plantations, would increase and enrich the surface soil; and, as they came to maturity, the woodlands, upon plain and practicable ground, might be cleared and converted into arable and pasture land. If such scheme be practicable, which I think it certainly is by judicious management and perseverance, these dreary barren hills, which now convey an idea of nothing but poverty, want, and misery would not only beautify and ornament the country, but by furnishing it with timber and wood, answer the purpose of more valuable land, and enable an equal breadth of plain woodland to be converted to pasture and arable, without re- . . . the supply of these necessary

Views of Staffordshire, published in 1830, the same subject is dwelt upon; and the concluding remarks are worth quoting here as showing in some degree the progress of the improvements: "The commons, or waste lands, between Cheadle and Oakamoor (a place so named from being nearly covered with dwarf oaks) called High Shutt Ranges and Alveton Common, consist of an immense number of rude heaps of gravel, upon an understratum of soft sandy rock thrown together without order or form, or rather, into every form that can be conceived, into sudden swells and deep glens, with scarcely a level perch: the mind in endeavouring to account for their formation, must conceive it owing either to some violent convulsion of nature, or some strange confusion of matter. This tract, impracticable to the plough, now rough, barren and bare, might be improved into woodland and plantation, and some open spots of the most favourable aspects might be reserved for gardens to cottage tenements, and cultivated with the spade and hoe. Above Oakamoor, to the north, the plan of planting precipices has been executed. A plantation has been made there on a declivity as barren, rocky, and bare of soil, as any before-mentioned: this plantation, which is little more than twenty years old, is in a very thriving condition, and contains Scotch firs, spruce, oak, lime, birch, fallow, and mountain ash. A little north of Oak Moor the lime stone country begins and extends over a great breadth of country to the north, east and west, in many places rising out of the main surface in huge

CHAPTER III.

MONKHOUSE HILL—A GLIMPSE OF CHEADLE—BRASS
WORKS—COPPER SMELTING—MESSRS. PATTEN
& CO.—MESSRS. T. BOLTON & SONS—CHEADLE
COALFIELD—SILK MILL—CRAPE MILL—TAPE
WORKS—COINAGE, CHEADLE TOKENS.



IN the days when Croxden Abbey was in its prosperity, it was customary for the abbots, out of the superabundance of their wealth, to appropriate "cells" in the nature of houses of recreation or refreshment at small distances; and they not unfrequently founded small colonies, all the lower classes of which remained subordinate to the parental and superior house. The Abbot of Croxden established one of these "cells" or inferior houses on the summit of Cheadle Park. Its monastic vicinage gave it the name of "Monkhouse," and hence the hill on which it stands bears the same appellation. From a manuscript in the Salt Library, it seems that Cheadle Park, being a Royalty, or separate Lordship, had the privilege of an ancient freebond of 7ft. wide at the extremity of a circumference of three miles. which has gone

wealthy Abbots of Croxden riding in coaches or their carriages round their territories."

A glimpse of Cheadle in the beginning of this century is given in a book published in 1807 entitled "The Moorland Bard, or poetical recollections of a Weaver in the Moorlands of Staffordshire: with notes," by Thomas Bakewell, of Cheadle. One of the subjects treated in the book is Monkhouse Hill (*see Appendix I.*), and the bard described what could be seen from that spot in his days. A writer in the *Staffordshire Advertiser* for February the 5th, 1814, spoke of the distressed condition of many squatters on common lands who were about that time disturbed by the Enclosure Commissioners. (*See Appendix II.*) The picture which Mr. Bakewell drew has been somewhat altered—for the better, it is to be hoped—since he wrote. The aspect of Cheadle and neighbourhood has been improved. The town, slow in growth as it may have been in comparison with the onward march of many other places, is more cleanly, and contains more "marks of commerce and of trade;" the surrounding hills and valleys are more picturesque, and "the fabrics for luxurious ease" are more numerous; while the farmers are as industrious as ever. Poverty and sorrow abound no doubt in many a lowly cot in Cheadle as elsewhere; but Mr. Bakewell's doleful picture is inapplicable to the present condition of the labouring classes of the town, and to the management of parochial affairs at the workhouse, for since his time the whole system of poor law administration has been

and outdoor, are attended to, due regard being paid to the ratepayers' pockets.

Cheadle parish was at one time the seat of one of the largest brass works in the kingdom, which was successfully carried on for upwards of a century. The business was established by Mr. Thomas Patten, of Bank, near Warrington, great grandfather of the present Lord Winmarleigh, about the year 1725, and continued till 1835. Mr. Patten had previously, about the year 1717, established copper smelting works at Bank Quay, near Warrington. Up to about the year 1820 brass was made by cementation—that is, heating copper in earthen crucibles, together with a mixture of calamine, an ore of zinc, and charcoal in powder. This process was gradually superseded by that in which copper is melted with metallic zinc. The old process required extensive premises for the preparation of the zinc ores and other materials, whereas by the direct mixture of the metals, brass is made in much smaller works and with simpler appliances. The works, situated near the Brook House, which are now little more than a wreck, formerly consisted of thirty six furnaces contained in nine smelting houses, with furnaces and mills for the preparation of calamine, charcoal, etc. A copper smelting works was added in the year 1794, and this branch of the business was carried on by Messrs. Key and Son for some years after brass making was discontinued. The copper smelted here was originally obtained from Mr. Patten's works at Bank Quay, having been brought to Cheadle in waggons previous to the opening of the Trent and Mersey canal;

Mr. Garner, in his Natural History of Staffordshire, refers to the smelting works for the ores of lead, zinc, or copper in operation at Whiston at the time he wrote. He says (page 513) "To reduce zinc ore, which is, like that of lead, a sulphuret, it is calcined, to rid it of the sulphur, and then distilled, *per descensum*, from iron or clay crucibles, closely covered up, of course, as the metal would otherwise fly off in the form of oxide. The melted metal escapes by a hole at the bottom of the crucible into a receiver, when it is cast into quadrangular cakes. At Whiston we noticed six of these crucibles of clay arranged in a circular oven of a similar form to those used by the potter. Calamine is here more particularly used for the manufacture of brass." Again he says (Page 516) "The most valuable ore at Ecton is the sulphuret of copper, which is picked, stamped, and buddled or washed in the river below the mine. It is smelted at Whiston, and was formerly also manufactured into brass and copper at several works in the district. The process of reducing the ore and obtaining pure copper has for several centuries been pursued at Whiston. It is a complicated operation. The small ore is first calcined in a furnace, being frequently stirred to prevent fusion. This rids it of a portion of its sulphur, arsenic, etc., and it is then melted in a second furnace, when part of the slag, iron, etc., is got rid of: the melted ore is then run out into water, when it puts on the form of a coarse shot, of a dark colour; the ore may now contain one-third metal. It is again several times recalcined and remelted, being each time granulated or else

purplish-red metal is covered, in the melted state, with charcoal; and then a pole of wood (birch or larch) is inserted into the melted metal, which is attended with an ebullition, owing to the escape of carbonic acid gas, and the copper, on cooling, obtains the desired properties of malleability, etc. This process of poling requires care, and if overdone produces effects different from those desired; in which case an opposite course must be pursued. After poling, the metal at Whiston is formed into large cakes, small ingots, or shot; the last being obtained by letting the melted copper fall into a well of water."

For some years prior to 1794 Messrs. Patten and Co. had a copper smelting works situate in the parish of Cheadle, near the Woodhead colliery, on the way to Kingsley, of which not a vestige now remains. The same firm possessed a manufactory at Greenfield, near Holywell, till towards the close of the last century. The calamine used at the works was obtained chiefly from mines in Derbyshire, Yorkshire, Flintshire, and the Mendip Hills. For nearly half a century the brassworks at Cheadle were directed by the late Mr. John Keates, and under his guidance the brass intended for rolling into sheets and drawing into wire was cast into plates in properly prepared moulds of granite, while that intended for the use of brassfounders was cast into ingots and sent chiefly to Birmingham. The plate brass was carted to the Company's rolling mills at Oakamoor, where it underwent various operations. The portion for wire, after the processes of rolling and slitting, was taken to the wire mills at Alton (subsequently converted

extensive brass business, Messrs. Patten and Co. had also a considerable copper trade—notably the manufacture of cylinders on which were engraven the various patterns for calico printing.

After the business of Messrs. Patten and Co. was discontinued, the works at Oakamoor were purchased by Messrs. T. Bolton and Sons, of Birmingham, by whom they have been successfully carried on up to the present time. No doubt the site was originally chosen for the sake of working ore by means of the valuable water power supplied by the river Churnet. The works have increased until, under the direct management of Mr. A. S. Bolton, they have become the most important of the kind in England. From one hundred and fifty to two hundred hands are employed there in the manufacture of telegraph wire, locomotive boiler tubes, brazing materials, brazed copper tubes, the copper rollers used in the printing of calico, sheet brass and sheet copper of all kinds, including the copper sheathing for ships' bottoms. At these works the copper wire was made which formed the core of the first Atlantic cable, and since that time thousands of miles of the same kind of wire have been produced there. It might be supposed that the presence of a manufactory of this description in the deepest part of the valley would detract materially from the charms of the spot; but that is not the case. Nature is too strong there for any rival to have a chance at present; and as half the power is still derived from two great water wheels, the quantity of smoke given off is not large, and what there is soon loses itself amongst the all-pervading green.

Coal exists in great abundance in and around

in his time; and although the coal has been worked for at least two centuries, only the upper seams have yet been raised. This subject is alluded to in a manuscript History of Staffordshire by Dr. Wilkes, written early in the present century, as follows:—"A corf is almost the same as a skip; only there is no winding done about the edges of it to keep the coals upon it, so that it must of necessity hold less than a skip. This loaded, or a corful, as they call it, has sometimes been sold for 3d., but is now worth no more than 2½d. They called 12 of these a ruck, and double this number is called a dozen: so that every ruck is now valued at 2s. 6d. and every dozen at 5s. Of this sum the colliers have 1s. 10d. for getting the coal and finding all things necessary for the work, as candles, ropes, corfs, mandrils, etc. The constant rate for sinking a new pit is 2s. 6d. per yard from the top to the bottom, only when they come to the rock stone they have a farther allowance, this being exceedingly hard. The pits are commonly about 25 yards deep, and the several sorts of earth which they meet with in sinking are as follows: viz.: Soil, brown clay and rock, hard brown rock, a hard rock betwixt brown and white, gray rock, gray shale, black shale, and then coal. The thickness of the coal here is 35 inches, or 3ft. abating one inch. The mine lies very true and has a hard rocky roof. They hole in the earth, so that all the coal is gotten without loss. The coal is not very hard, and though it seems to have a great deal of sulphur in it, by the shining yellow colour which frequently appears on the outside of the coals, yet they are exceedingly sweet and durable fuel and burn all to white ashes. Here are only three pits which are kept constantly at work,

£55 per annum. And though the mine is so thin, yet 'tis observable that more than £500 has been cleared by the proprietors of one single pit."

Mr. Garner, speaking of the Cheadle coal field, says it is, "in formation, similar to that of the Pottery district, having ridges of grit on the west and north-east sides: Sharpstones Cliff and Ipstones Edge being to the north-east, and Wetley Rocks, and the ridge extending towards Caverswall, forming the opposite side of the trough. There is likewise the new red sandstone and its *detritus* thrown up into hills across the base of the field to the south. The coals are frequently good and similar to the deep beds of the eastern side of the Pottery coal field. Calamites and fine impressions of ferns have occurred, particularly at the Delph House colliery. A small but distinct coal field occurs to the west of Cheddleton, not worked at the present time. It appears to be a trough with the grit dripping towards it on both sides."

Mr. Hall speaks of Cheadle coal field as being but slightly productive, "stretching from the valley of the Churnet on the north-east, to the hills of the new red sandstone, which stretch in a picturesque and abrupt semi-circle along its southern borders. Towards this range the strata dip (s s.w.) and on the north side of the Churnet the high moorlands of the millstone grit rise from beneath the coal formation. In the centre of the coalfield, an outlier of new red conglomerate reposes unconformably on the coal measures, and forms the site of the pretty town of Cheadle. The following is the succession of the coal seams: 1. Two yard coal; 2. Half yard coal; 3. Yard

Churnet valley contain two thin coals, one of which has a roof and black shale with *Goniatites* and *Abicalo-pecte*."

Mr. Elliot, in a report to the Coal Commission in 1871, stated that the North Staffordshire coal field consists of one large and several small outlying districts. The area of the surface of the Cheadle coal field he estimated at 11,616 acres, and the quantity of available coal at depths not exceeding 1,500 feet, after making all deductions, he estimated at 104,524,603 tons.

"The Cheadle coal field had been looked upon as a very small one indeed, but there were few people who really knew the extent of that field. The Cheadle coal field comprised the upper and the lower measures, the upper of which were alone being worked. The upper coal came to the surface and dipped down, taking Cheadle as the centre, the outer edge of which took a course from Woodhead to Kingsley in a straight line. From thence it curved round to Greenhead and Whitehurst to Dilhorne, where it was obliterated by coming in contact with the conglomerate or Permian beds; but still maintaining its basin until it came in contact with a fault at Cheadle Grange. Thus was the basin of the upper measures of the Cheadle coal field formed; whereas the lower measures commenced at a point where they were cut off by the same conglomerate or pebble beds near Stansmoor Hall, thence by Bank Top, Blakeley-lane, and Black Bank, where they were separated only by a narrow ridge of the sandstone (which overlayed the lower coal measures) from another small and distinct coal field known as the

long by three quarters of a mile broad. It then went in an irregular manner to Ipstones Park, where a fault came in contact or crossed and ran in a straight line to Marston Wood round to Oakamoor, besides which in almost all cases the measures were underlaid by a millstone grit formation on the eastern side of the field and cut off by the conglomerates on the western side, under which the coal measures would no doubt be found. If they found in Cheadle valley the millstone overlaid by hydrate and stinking mine, it gave proof that the seams he had mentioned were to be found in the district. No doubt at Wetley Moor, which was lower than the Pottery coal field, they might get at the same seams." These lines are taken from a report of a speech delivered at Birches Colliery in October, 1874, by Mr. C. J. Homer, F.G.S. This subject is exhaustively dealt with in a separate chapter by Mr. W. Molyneux, F.G.S.

The silk mill in Oakamoor road, Cheadle, was built by Messrs. J. Arnold & Co., of Macclesfield, and was subsequently purchased by Messrs. Durant & Co., silk brokers, of London. For five years the mill was leased to Messrs. Kay & Co. In July, 1877, Edmund Phillips entered into partnership with Messrs. Kay & Co., and purchased the mill. Crape, as well as silk, has latterly been extensively manufactured at the mill, and about 250 hands are employed when the mill is in full operation.

The tape works of Messrs. J. N. Philips & Co. at Cheadle and Tean are the most extensive manufactories of the kind in the kingdom. A member of the Philips family was the first to introduce tape weaving into this country. Seeing the process carried on in Holland, he brought over

a carpenter in the art of making the requisite looms. This was about the year 1747. John and Nathaniel Philips, sons of Mr. John Philips, of Heath House, set up a few looms in Tean Hall, which they rented from the Ashley family. The manufacture of tape continued for several years to be conducted on a very limited scale, for there were many hindrances to the success of the business. The Dutch were at that time particularly skilful and enterprising in regard to the manufacture of tape. British perseverance and superiority of fabric, however, at length prevailed, and manufactories were before the end of the last century firmly established at Tean and Cheadle. In addition to the manufactories, loom sheds were added in many instances to the dwellings of private individuals, and looms were furnished to them by the firm. Bleachworks were established near Tenford, the material having been formerly bleached at Tean Hall; and about the year 1824, the looms were collected from the villages of Kingsley, Lower Tean, and Draycot, where they had previously been worked, and were placed in the mills at Tean and Cheadle, to which large additions had been made, and into which steam power had been introduced.

The privilege of coinage was universally practised in the middle of the seventeenth century. Just as, in these days, important events are usually celebrated by a dinner, so, in olden times, tokens were often struck to mark occurrences. Thus in 1661 Charles II. made a formal procession from the Tower to Westminster, as a preliminary to his coronation, and a specimen of the triumphal arches under

coined by the keeper of the Pageant Tavern at Charing Cross, past which the procession had to go. Tokens were struck by the thriving men of commerce in various cities and towns of Great Britain. There were other objects besides commemorating events of interest to be gained thereby. The want of an authorised money as small change had been long felt and complained of. (Chambers' Book of Days). Farthings, half-pence, and pence had been struck by the government of silver, the farthings necessarily being so small and thin as to be losses rather than gain to the trader. Many no doubt also desired to adopt tokens as a means of advertising in a durable manner their names and businesses. Hence an authorised currency was established and larger copper coins, known as "Abbey pieces" and "Nuremberg counters," were issued by the great monastic establishments and by traders, who exchanged each other's tokens, they being in fact small accommodation bills payable at sight. They never formed part of the national coinage struck at the national mint. Throughout the Commonwealth almost every innkeeper and tradesman had his own tokens struck "for necessarie chainge," but after the Restoration tradesmen's tokens were prohibited by Royal proclamation. The Royal interdict was, however, ineffectual, and metal tokens continued to be coined for various purposes for many generations, and were only superseded by an abundant supply of national coins and superior facilities for advertising.

Pitt, in his History of Staffordshire, devotes

CHAPTER IV.

THE MARKET CROSS—CHANGE OF MARKET DAY—
STOCKS—DARK HOLE—NIGHT WATCHMEN—
CONSTABLE'S ACCOUNTS—WALKING THE BOUNDARY
—THE WORKHOUSE—FORMATION OF CHEADLE
UNION.



OCCUPYING a prominent position in High street is the Market Cross, which is now diverted from the original purpose of such erections, and is surmounted by a gas lamp. Crosses have been used for different purposes in different ages. The cross was a common instrument of capital punishment amongst the ancients. It was customary to proclaim the name and offence of the person crucified, or to affix a tablet to the cross on which names were inscribed. Malefactors were sometimes fastened on a simple upright stake, and so left to die, or they were impaled upon it; but very generally a cross piece was added to the stake, to which the arms of the criminal were tied, or to which his hands were nailed. The death of Christ by crucifixion led christians to regard the cross with peculiar feelings of reverence, and to make use of the cross as a holy and distinguishing sign. Crosses have existed in England in different situations, but would all seem to have had their origin in

erected as stands to preach from, or in commemoration of events regarding which it was deemed proper to evoke pious offerings. As these structures were incorporated with or surmounted by a crucifix, the



VIEW OF THE MARKET CROSS.

term cross was so indelibly associated with them

to inspire men with a sense of morality and piety amidst the ordinary transactions of life." (Milner's History of Windsor). In Britton's Architectural Antiquities there are interesting accounts of some of the more celebrated crosses, which are far different objects to the stone shaft erected like the one at Cheadle and others in this county.

The Cheadle cross is not of very ancient date, nor is it of that imposing character which is possessed



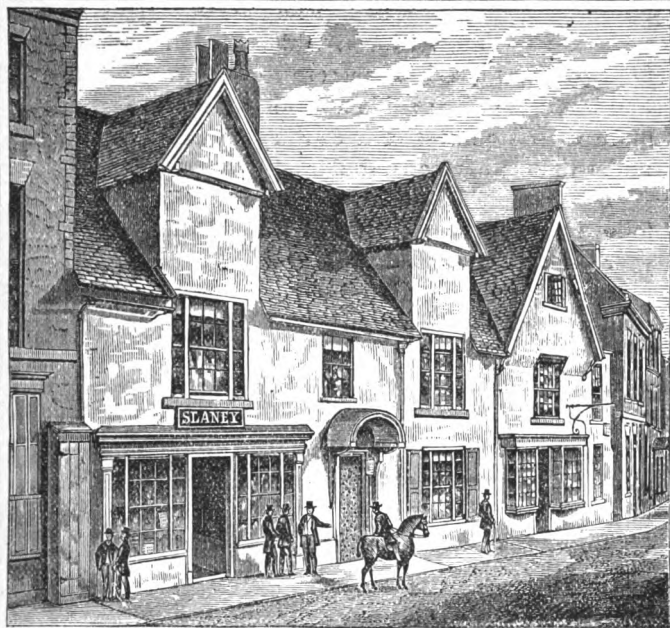
VIEW OF HIGH STREET.

by the ornamental crosses erected in some other towns. It was erected about the middle of the seventeenth century, probably when the market day was changed from Thursday to Friday,—an event which happened according to an order "By the Committee for Regulating Markets," bearing date August 3rd, 1652, and worded as follows:—"Upon the

the market that was kept on the Thursday in the said town shall hereafter be held on the Friday, unless good cause be shown to the contrary before the Committee on the 22nd day of September next, this Order being openly published in every market town within ten miles of the said town of Cheadle by the chief officer of every such market town, fourteen days before the said second day of September. Danl. Blagrove, Thos. Atkin, Wm. Leman, Wm. Purefoy, John Baker."

Just below the Market Cross Cheadle stocks once stood, and some there are now living in the town who have for petty offences been fastened by this wooden instrument. The offender was placed on a bench with his ankles fastened in holes under a moveable board, the period of punishment by this means usually being about two hours. Many men found drunk on Sundays have been put in the stocks by order of the churchwardens—a less troublesome and less costly method of dealing with offenders of this class than the present process of dealing with drunkards according to law. Breakers of the peace and other delinquents were formerly punished by being thrust into the "dark hole" (which some still living well remember) at the parish workhouse, where they were kept locked up twelve hours or more, according to the extent of their offending. Until perhaps half a century ago the churchwardens had a variety of duties, one of which was to perambulate portions of the parish and visit public houses on Sunday afternoon for the purpose of discovering tiplers, tip cat players, and others, who became

In High street, facing Church street, formerly called Paradise street, stands the timber and plaster house depicted below and formerly occupied for many years by Mr. Slaney, saddler and harness maker.



THE OLDEST HOUSE IN THE TOWN.

On the 7th of December, 1812, a public meeting was held for the purpose of providing for the protection of the inhabitants. It was decided to establish a "night watch" for the town. A committee

watchmen. The committee met several times at the workhouse, and selected men to begin watching at half past ten in the evening and "give over" at five in the morning. The number of men engaged is indicated by a resolution that three coats, three rattles, and three dark lanterns be purchased for the watchmen. Cheadle had prior to this time been protected by one parish constable, an office sometimes filled by a man who held numerous other appointments, and was otherwise unable to discharge his duties. For more than a quarter of a century Cheadle has been under the county constabulary.

A constable's account for the year 1677 is in the following words: "29th May, 1678. Y^e day and yeare abovesaid Thomas Gettcliffe, constable, for y^e parish of Chedull for y^e yeare 1677 did then account with y^e parish for his office of constable, and it did then appeare y^t hee had rec^d in pounds y^e summe of £15 1s. and that he had disbursed in y^e execution of his office y^e summe of £15 15s, soe that there remayns due to him upon account and charges made y^e somme of 15s." The account is signed, besides others, by Thomas Harrison, whose signature frequently occurs in the parish register for the last quarter of the seventeenth century.

On the 18th of June, 1767, a public meeting was held at Cheadle to consider the question of walking the boundary of the parish. The parishioners resolved "That the bounds thereof shall be begun to-morrow and to be completed if possible on the following day; that John Wood, George Wood, Thomas Stubbs, and John Bostock shall attend the minister in going the bounds, for which they shall be paid 2s. a piece for each day; that twelve boys of

service, for which they shall be paid sixpence apiece for each day's attendance ; and that the whole expense thereof shall be paid for and borne in the proportions aftermentioned : That is to say, one half thereof by Joseph Banks, Esq., Lord of the Manor of Cheadle ; one fourth thereof by the churchwardens and overseers of the said parish, which shall be allowed them in their accounts ; and the other fourth part and residue thereof by the Rector of Cheadle." Signed by T. Ward, Rector ; John Child, Thomas Lowe, Thomas Silvester, and Charles Bamford.

In the 43rd year of the reign of Queen Elizabeth, *i.e.*, 1601, an Act of Parliament was passed which provided that the churchwardens of any parish, and four, three or two substantial householders then as should be thought meet, "having respect to the proportion and greatness of the same," should nominate yearly in Easter week, under the hand of two or more justices of the peace, persons to be called overseers of the poor "for setting to work" the children of all persons, married or unmarried, having no means to maintain them. The overseers were liable to a penalty of 20s. for absenting themselves from the fixed monthly meetings appointed for regulating all matters relating to the management of the poor. It was also enacted, at the same time, that necessary places of habitation might be provided for such poor impotent people, with the consent of the Lord or Lords of the Manor, on common or waste land. The overseers were therefore empowered to build convenient houses of dwelling for the poor, and place "more families than one" if necessary in one cottage or house, which cottages were not at any

than as a habitation for the poor who should from time to time be placed in them by the overseers and churchwardens, or "the most part of them."

It appears that, in accordance with the terms of the Act of Parliament referred to, the first places used for the housing of the poor in Cheadle were separate cottages or groups of cottages, where they managed their own matters subject to some occasional supervision by the churchwardens, overseers, and parish constables, who made them needful allowances.

In 1761 parish matters in Cheadle seem to have required some revision, and on the 27th of September in that year a numerously attended meeting was held, when several proposals were agreed to for regulating the proceedings in vestry, and more especially with respect to the poor. The fifth proposition is thus recorded in the old parish register: "That if any complaints are made by the poor, and it appears to the overseers or any three parishioners who pay to the poor necessary, an extraordinary vestry shall be called between the general or monthly vestry's, but not otherwise." The eighth proposition was worded thus: "That a list of such persons as have pay out of the parish be enter'd in such book, with their respective weekly or monthly allowance, and that badges be prepared with the letters C P, and be fixed upon 'em, and that each person receiving pay shall have 'un fixed to their coat or gown on the outside the arm." The next resolution was "That an Overseer of the workhouse be appointed and a salary or

for be in the workhouse, and when any dye to be supply'd by others so as to keep up the number in the workhouse." The word "workhouse" here used was probably applied to a group of small cottages occupied by the poor, for a few years later (April 4th, 1774) there is a record of the plans of Thomas Tittensor for building a workhouse being approved, and the first workhouse in the proper sense of the term was erected from those plans. It was opened the following year, the record (dated September 25th) stating that the inhabitants of the old workhouse, meaning, no doubt, the group or row of cottages, who were not able to maintain themselves, be removed to the new one, and that the old workhouse be let for the remainder of the lease for the benefit of the parish. The site of the workhouse erected by Mr. Thomas Tittensor was part of the bequest known as Beech's Charity, which, after a long correspondence with the Charity Commissioners, was ordered to be paid for out of the parish funds in February, 1834. The resolution to build the workhouse was passed at a vestry meeting held after evening prayer the first Sunday in September, 1773.

Various methods of raising money for the relief of the poor were adopted in bygone days, collections in churches being frequently made. The collections thus made were not always devoted to the relief of the poor of Cheadle. Numerous entries in the register show that the alms obtained in the parish church were sent to various parts of the country. A few examples may be quoted:—

"1655. Recd. of Devereux Spencer, Recr. of Chedull, the sum of four shillings sixpence. Collected at Chedull towards

"1666. Collected on the first monthly fast, being second day of August, towards the relief of the persons and places visited by the plague, 14s. 7d."

"1666, Collected towards the relief of the poor of London for their sad lamentable loss by fire—£2 12. 6d."

"Collected in the parish church of Cheddull for James Mavill, Esqr., an Irish gentleman, the sum of 6s., June 16, 1661."

It is not explained whether the Irish gentleman was in distress himself, or was endeavouring to obtain funds with which to succour his poor friends elsewhere.

Various propositions have from time to time been made with regard to the management of the poor of Cheadle. On the 19th of May, 1791, a proposal was made by Messrs. John and Nathaniel Philips and Co. to take temporarily the whole of the poor house and to employ the poor and give a preference to Cheadle parishioners. The overseers at that time required Messrs. Philips to give a guarantee that none of the persons employed at their mill from other places should become settled parishioners; and the bond which they asked was fixed at £10,000. Of course this unreasonable demand was not acceded to by Messrs. Philips, and the proposition was never carried into effect. At a subsequent period the workhouse was for a short time "farmed" by the governor. At a vestry meeting held on the 9th of December, 1833, it was resolved "That the proposal made by the governor, Richard Ball, for farming the poor of the workhouse at 2s. 6d. per head per week from 12 o'clock at noon on the 25th day of March, 1834, to the same hour of the day of the 25th of March, 1835, be accepted, the said Richard Ball to be allowed necessary new clothing and materials for mending the old clothes and bedding for such poor

of the poor in the house only—the said Richard Ball to find coals, washing, and all other necessities, he being allowed his salary of £40 as governor in consideration of his collecting the bastardy money, paying the out-door poor, and doing the other usual business of his office.”

Other expedients for affording relief to the poor were adopted. At a public meeting held on the 11th of October, 1811, the overseers were directed to buy two asses for the use of the parish, and to lend them to William Rowley till such time as he could get work to maintain his family.

The boys of poor parents were put out as apprentices in the last century as they are at the present time, and it was formerly a common practice to draw lots to decide to whom the boys should be apprenticed. On the 3rd of November, 1771, a vestry meeting was held in the parish church and it was agreed to put out as apprentices all the poor children of the parish, and that another meeting should be held on “the 15th of this instant November to draw tickets who shall have them, as witness our hands—John Holmes, Thomas Steele, William Fowler, Wm. Fallowes, Thos. Rattliff.” More recently—August the 3rd, 1812—a vestry meeting was held, and it was “ordered that all children of proper age and fit to be put out apprentices be placed out by the proper parish officers, and that the following householders be required each to take an apprentice.” A long list of names is appended to the record, indicating that Cheadle in common with other places suffered from the then prevailing depression.

The placing of a girl out at service in the last

the girl happened to be very poor. The register contains the following and other similar minutes: "5th November, 1769. At a public vestry meeting held in the parish church of Cheadle, Mrs. Eliza Wharton agreed to take James Lord's wench from the workhouse and keep her four years with sufficient meat, drink, clothes, washing, and lodging, and to have 10s. a year for the first three years and at the end of the fourth to give her clothes fit to go out to another place." And this arrangement is "Agreed to by us, John Holmes and George Spencer, churchwardens."

The register supplies information on the subject of allowances to doctors: under date November 29th, 1772, it is stated that it was agreed in vestry for Mr. Howard Norton to be "surgeon, physician and midwife to the people of the workhouse or ealss where, being under the care of the overseers of the poor for the inshewing year, and for the due performance of the whole year to be paid fore pounds ten shillings." And it was further agreed that if the overseers should think him deserving of it he should have "ten shillings more at the end of the year."

The first record of the name of a master of the workhouse that can be found is dated August 29th, 1773, when it was ordered that George Barnett be "continued in his office as manager of the workhouse till Easter week on the usual terms." On the 22nd of August, 1779, the parishioners decided to appoint John Meredith and his wife, of Birmingham, as "governor and governess of the poor at the yearly salary of £20 and their maintenance." In April, 1794, the parishioners resolved to have a "resident governor and governess," and the next month James

for seven years, at a salary of £40 and reasonable maintenance. The governor at that time was expected to act as relieving officer to the out-door poor. In March, 1812, Richard Ball and his wife were appointed governor and governess. Mr. Ball was also constable and assistant overseer, his salary being £35 to commence with. Two years later the duties of scavenger were added to the other engagements which Mr. Ball had to fulfil.

In July, 1772, the parishioners in public meeting assembled agreed to appoint a "standing overseer of the poor," by which was meant a permanent assistant overseer. His salary was fixed at twelve guineas a year, the overseers receiving a guinea a year each.

Allowing for the difference in the value of money the amount which the overseers had to disburse in the seventeenth century was not small in comparison with the amount now required to be raised for the relief of the poor. A statement of accounts of the overseers for 1667 is as follows: "That Henry Barnes and Wm. Wood, overseers of the poor of y^e parish of Chedull for y^e year 1667 did disburse in y^e time of their office y^e sum of £28 4s. 7d., according to an account then delivered to y^e parishioners by them allow'd, and it did then appeare that they had then remayning in their hands 7s. 4d. not expended, having received £28 7s. 11d. for y^e defraying of their office."

In July, 1772, the inhabitants of Ipstones and Chedale combined for the purpose of keeping their poor. This was an arrangement arrived at in accordance with a resolution passed at a public meeting, and was not of long duration. It was not till 1834 that the Poor Law Amendment Act was

tration of relief to the poor. It was under this Act that the union of the following parishes and places was formed: Alton, Bradley, Cheadle, Cauldon, Caverswall, Checkley, Cheddleton, Consall, Cotton, Denstone, Dilhorne, Draycot, Farley, Ipstones, and Kingsley. This union rendered an enlargement of the workhouse indispensable, and the old premises were accordingly extended. The workhouse is a plain brick building calculated to accommodate 150 paupers.

The first meeting of Guardians of the Union was held in the Workhouse (the vestry room) on Friday, the 2nd June, 1837, Mr. Thomas Stevens, Assistant Poor Law Commissioner, acting as chairman for the day.

First Guardians elected for the several places, viz.:

Alton: Mr. Godfrey Johnson and Mr. Charles Smith.

Bradley: Mr. Joseph Gent.

Cauldon: Rev. Richard Ward.

Caverswall: Mr. William Marson.

Cheadle: Mr. Gervase Marson, Mr. John Malkin, the Rev. E. Whieldon, and Mr. Richard Godwin.

Checkley: Mr. John Turner Weston and Mr. William Ball.

Cheddleton: William Sneyd, Esq., and Mr. John Hambleton.

Consall: Mr. Benjamin Finney.

Cotton: Mr. John Prince.

Denstone: Mr. John Wood.

Dilhorne: Mr. Thomas Holmes.

Draycot: Mr. Benjamin Bond.

Farley: Rev. John P. Jones.

Ipstones: Mr. James Fernihough and Mr. Charles Weston.

Kingsley: Mr. William Townsend and Mr. Bennett Fallows.

First Chairman, Mr. Edward Buller, M.P.

.. Vice-Chairman, Captain Powys.

.. Vice-Chairman, Rev. John Sneyd.

.. Auditor, Mr. Thomas Weston.

.. Treasurer, Mr. John Stupart.

.. Clerk, Mr. Thomas Hallows.

.. Relieving Officer, Mr. Thomas Fletcher.

CHAPTER V.

CHEADLE MAYOR—ST. THOMAS'S CLUB—MOORLAND
BARD—OYSTER EATERS DISAPPOINTED—DRUNK-
ENNESS AND MADNESS—SCOTCH REBELLION—
DUKE OF CUMBERLAND AT CHEADLE—PURSUIT
OF THE REBELS—A REBEL SPY—TANNING HIS
HIDE—SKINNER'S BROOK—WILLIAM MURHALL.



IN April, 1878, the following appeared in *Notes and Queries*: "A manuscript, without date, but written during the latter part of the eighteenth century, in the William Salt Library at Stafford, says with reference to Cheadle—'This ancient town seems to have been of much higher degree of consideration in days of yore than it is at present, since within living memory some of the heads of the first families in the county have not only graced the election of mayor of Cheadle with their presence, but have actually been elected mayor in regular annual succession.' Was Cheadle ever a corporate town? J. Ingamells, Newcastle-under-Lyme." The inquiry does not appear to have elicited any information on the subject, and diligent search has failed to discover any confirmation of the statement in manuscript found amongst other papers preserved at Stafford. The probability is that if Cheadle ever had a mayor he was not the president

with, and there do not appear to have been any borough magistrates. It is more likely that he was the presiding genius at festive gatherings attended by gentlemen whose business was not to pave, sewer, light, and watch the town, but who met for social intercourse and enjoyment on a similar plan to that adopted by the "ancient corporation" of Hanley nearly 100 years ago, and initiated at Leek in 1879.

Cheadle did at one time boast of a social club, the members of which were confined to persons whose Christian name was Thomas. "St. Thomas's Club" suffered sore disappointment one night early in the present century, which has been duly recorded in "The Moorland Bard" by Thomas Bakewell, who was one of the members. The rhyme at once explains the object of the club and the disappointment which some wag or thief caused:—

THE OYSTER EATERS DISAPPOINTED.

A FACT.

One ev'ning of late, when the Thomas's club
Were met to devour of oysters a tub,
And all things prepar'd, knives, towel, and ale
Nicely warm'd and well ginger'd, our tastes to regale;
Bread, butter, and vinegar, pepper—and now,
All completely made ready by the good Mrs. Howe.*
Friend Walters, whose strength you may tell by a look,
Impatient for action, a hammer up took,
And struck some hard blows with a direful intent;
Then broke up the cover, and in his hand went.
A pause now ensu'd, while he look'd very odd,
Then exclaim'd, Nought but shells and potatoes, by G—d!
Dear reader, hadst seen that keen look of surprise,
While stifled vexation shot fire from all eyes;—
But description would fail; so I leave thee to fill
By fancy the scene, while I laugh till I'm ill.

Bakewell appended a note to this in which he said—"As it may be expected that the circulation of this work will be confined in a great measure to the

neighbourhood where the author resides, he may plead this in excuse for inserting several pieces that can have no other than a local value." The object of reproducing these lines is neither to detract from nor eulogise the merits of the composition, but to bring to the minds of the present generation a custom prevailing in the town of Cheadle in bye gone days. The succeeding piece in the book also affords a little insight into the manners of the times. It is headed "Drunkenness not distinguishable from madness," and is declared to be "A tale founded on fact." Indeed, it had been previously published in a separate form, and Mr. Bakewell apologised for introducing it into the book, "as one of the party alluded to was much hurt by it." He commenced—

Wit is to madness near ally'd,
For so a witty poet cry'd;
But drunkenness, 'tis very clear,
To madness is ally'd more near.

He then went on to explain that a youth in the neighbourhood of Cheadle lost his reason. Two of his neighbours, "hale and stout of heart," sympathised with his sorrowing friends, who embraced their offer to convey the young man to a lunatic asylum. The madman and his neighbours having arrived at the town where the asylum was situated, the rest of the story shall be told in Mr. Bakewell's words :

————— they stop some food to gorge,
At the best Inn, I think the George ;
With choicest fare themselves regale,
And drink the best of Lichfield ale ;
Then bumper after bumper fill,
With copious draughts their paunches swill.
The doctor sent for, tho' at home,
Thinks it not right at first to come ;
For then it might appear to view,
That he but little had to do.
At length he waddles to the Inn,
And hearing a most fearful din,

Prepares his waistcoat and his chains ;
 But e'er the parlour door he gains,
 The waiter comes with nimble feet,
 And thus the doctor does him greet :
 " Hast got, my lad, has got, I say,
 A patient for me here, I pray ? "
 " O yes, good master ! I have three,
 As bad as e'er I madmen see.
 When first I did the party scan,
 I thought it was the tall young man ;
 But soon I found to my surprise,
 The little man with gogling eyes
 Was also mad as mad could be ;
 And he who sings Twang dillo dee,
 Is now quite raging mad, I'm sure ;
 We cannot, sir, their noise endure ;
 Pray take them all and make them fast ;
 We've wanted you these two hours past,"

The doctor enter'd very stout,
 But soon was rais'd a dreadful rout ;
 For seizing first the little man,
 Who not approving his rough plan,
 He call'd him rude, ill-manner'd clown,
 And knock'd the gouty doctor down,
 The doctor scrambled on the floor,
 And look'd most wishful at the door.
 Yet thinking he someone should have,
 He does his pardon humbly crave ;
 Goes to the next, who could not speak,
 But points to th' third, who now does sneak
 Into a corner, full of fear,
 Suspecting why they brought him there ;—
 Secur'd, he soon away is led,
 The other two are got to bed.

Next morn, a num'rous gaping crowd,
 At the adventure laugh aloud ;
 And though long past, yet 'mong their friends
 The story still with laughter ends.
 But 'tis a serious thing, I think,
 For those that will indulge in drink,
 To find the doctor, grave and sage,
 Experienc'd from his tender age,
 That to distinguish he could not,
 Betwixt a madman and a sot.

There is no authentic record of any great battle
 ever having been fought in the town of Cheadle,
 although tradition, which has made a strong

Checkley, points to that village as the scene of carnage at a somewhat remote period.

In 1642, during the troublous times of Charles the 1st, when a majority of the members of Parliament sought to exalt their own authority and diminish that of the King,—when the people were plied with rumours of danger, with the terrors of invasion, with the dread of Papist vengeance, “petitions from all quarters loudly demanded of the Parliament to put the nation in a posture of defence, and the county of Stafford, in particular, expressed such dread of an insurrection among the Papists, that every man, they said, was constrained to stand upon his guard, not even daring to go to church unarmed.” From an old constable’s account at Uttoxeter in 1642 it appears that the excitement and civil strife which led to the death of the King, extended to this neighbourhood, an entry stating that the sum of two shillings was paid to men from Tean and other places “when they came to help the town against Wortley,” and when a contest evidently took place there, as shown by another entry, which sets forth that one Johnson, who took some of Wortley’s men prisoners, received 6s.7d. per head. There is an entry that in September, 1651, three messengers were paid a sum of money for giving certain notices respecting the militia, and an intimation is given that on the 22nd of November in the same year: “When the militia and foot soldiers were first summoned to appear at Cheadle five men, three horses, three days and one night with soldiers, charge £18.” These entries, however, give no evidence of a conflict in the town.

the rebels, and rested one night in the town. James Ray, of Whitehaven, a volunteer under His Royal Highness, in 1749 published a "Compleat History of the Rebellion." In December, 1745, said Ray—"The advanced party of the King's troops, which lay at Newcastle-under-Lyme, consisting of about five regiments of horse and foot, hearing of the approach of the rebels, the drums beat to arms, which put the inhabitants into the utmost confusion. The regiments were all drawn up on parade, and rested under arms for some time, when, about 12 o'clock at night, they marched out of Newcastle, leaving their baggage unladen in the Market place, and retreating to Stone Town Field, where His Royal Highness drew up his army and artillery, expecting that the rebels would come and give him battle; but they were unwilling to come to an engagement where His Royal Highness commanded. They therefore filed off toward Leek. On the third His Royal Highness ordered his army into Stone for quarters, which were very hard to get, it being but a very small town, and so many soldiers soon occasioned a consumption in the victuals and drink. December the 4th the Pretender entered Derby with about 500 horse and 2,000 foot, and in the evening the rest of the forces, in all 7,000, arrived, with a train of artillery, consisting of fifteen pieces of small cannon and one co-horn, with all their baggage. On the 5th, the weather being extremely cold, I rode all night with a guide, and about four o'clock in the morning I got to Stafford, where His Royal Highness was with his army. The town was very full. However, I got my horse taken care of at the Cross Keys. By the

I was pretty much fatigued, yet had no opportunity to get to bed, but the satisfaction of being among the King's troops, with the help of some good old beer, and a couple of stewed rabbits, I was well refreshed to take another day's march. At half-past six I went to His Royal Highness and acquainted him with the observations I had made, and repeated the most material part of the letters of the rebel post, not having them with me for fear of being taken. Being joined to the King's army, and having nothing to fear but common fate, I resolved to take my chance with them in so good a cause. On the 6th the rebels made a feint as if they would have marched for Loughborough, but suddenly retreated northward with the utmost speed, and fled to Ashburn that night. December 9th, they marched from Ashburn to Leek, destroying in their passage what they thought might be of use to the King's troops that were in pursuit of them, showing a warm spirit of resentment for the disappointments they had met with. This provoked the country people to do them all the mischief they could, though they managed to carry their train of artillery with them. December 9th His Royal Highness set out from Meridan camp, Warwickshire, in pursuit of the rebels, having previously marched from Stafford and Lichfield to intercept them, and to bar their way to London. And to facilitate his march the country people, firm and loyal to the King, brought in horses to mount 1,000 foot soldiers, draughted out of several regiments, that were to follow the Duke in order to overtake the rebels. Our foot soldiers not being accustomed to

rebels was visible in every countenance. With so much pleasure they rode along, and the countrymen with fresh horses coming to remount our soldiers, running themselves on foot very cheerfully, really afforded a most pleasant prospect. On the Duke's arrival at Cheadle, in Staffordshire, the country people brought in a rebel spy, which they delivered to our army (when on their way to Macclesfield), where he was hanged on a gibbet, and ordered to hang until eight o'clock at night, when about that time Mr. G — A —, an apothecary and surgeon, in this town, went to the sentinel to buy the body, which he bought for 4s.6d. The dragoon who sold it thought it a good price, and the doctor was likewise well pleased with his bargain, intending to anatomise his carcase, and expected to have had leather of the skin (worth his money), which he accordingly gave to a tanner to dress, but the miracle mongers say that the hide was of so holy a nature that it would not tan, nor be confined to lye under water by any weight that could be put upon it, so that the tanner after much labour lost was obliged to take his holy hide and bury it. As the person dyed a martyr to a good cause, as they call it, and inlisted himself under the banner of rebellion with a holy resolution to murder the King and Royal Family with all other heretics out of the pale of their Catholic Church, if this skin had been preserved and well managed by a skilful priest, there might have been as many miracles wrought by it as any holy relick brought from Rome, though bought there at a high price." The battle of Culloden occurred shortly afterwards.

The skin in question, it is said, was taken to a

was probably consequent on the occurrence narrated above.

Mr. Ward, in his History of Stoke-upon-Trent, relates a story which bears a remarkable similarity to the particulars in the extract given from the Journal of James Ray:—"William Murhall, Esq., a magistrate of the county, who lived here [Bagnall] in the year 1745, is still the subject of traditionary fame, for the summary and savage justice he inflicted upon one of the Scotch stragglers who fell into his hands, out of revenge for the injuries he received from a detachment of horse which came to Bagnall (their most advanced post) and then retreated to avoid encountering the Duke of Cumberland's army encamped on Stone field. Mr. Murhall was buried at Endon, in which churchyard is a monument to his memory, with this enigmatical inscription, 'Beneath lie the remains of William Murhall; of Bagnall, who died the 4th of January, 1762. Part of what I possessed is left to others, and what I gave away remains with me.'"

In a letter written by the Rev. James Middleton, of Hanley, dated December 28th, 1745, on the subject of the rebellion, it is stated that about thirty of the rebels came to Bagnall, "and took Justice Murhall along with them, and kept him two or three days. It's said he gave 'em three hundred pounds to be released."

In the History of Stoke-upon-Trent there is a long dialogue written in the old North Staffordshire dialect, in which the rebellion is incidentally alluded to. Speaking in regard to a funeral which had taken place some time before John Tellwright said—

Wal, to be sure, it wer a queer consarn; and oi think oi've heard at yer cuzzins harrin war on April foor day; so I s'pose it

Ralph Leigh : Whey, sartin sure it wur o' th' furst o' April, jist two year arter th' Scotch rebels coomn as fur as Baygna', (Bagnall) t' th' oud Justice Murhall's.

Tellwright : Oi queit weel remembur th' tawk abâit that ; bu oi wur oanly 5 or 6 yer oud. Th' Justice did no' loike em, oi've yerd.

Leigh : Oi think no'. Th' young Pretender wi' his officers steydn to brexfast at th' squeirs ; an' aterwords th' Scotch sojers robt his hâhis of his foire arms an money, and meydñ him shew 'em th' road to'art Darby.

Tellwright : But they fund'n ther way back ogen pratty seun, afore th' Duke cud meet wi' em,

Leigh : They didn ; an' th' squeir thout he'd ma' 'em amends for robin his hâhis ; so ee catched a laisy Scotch rogue as had lagg'd behind,—tuck't him up wi' a hawt'r o'er a soin post at Leek [Cheadle?] had him fleeced loike a cawf, an sent his hoide to th' tan yard t' may into leather for a drum yead.

Mr. Ward thought this strange relation was unquestionably true “if there be any truth in oral tradition not quite a century old.” The “oral tradition” in some measure bears out Ray's record, and the fact that it was “oral tradition” would account for the discrepancy between the two statements. In all probability Murhall despatched the “country people” with a straggler or spy to the Duke of Cumberland while he was at Cheadle with a detachment of his army (the main body being still at Stone) as related by Ray. He would thus be enabled to gratify his feeling of revenge and satisfy the Duke of his loyalty at a time of great political excitement and uncertainty well expressed by Dr. John Byrom:—

God bless the King—I mean our faith's defender—

God bless (no harm in blessing) the Pretender.

But who pretender is, or who is king—

God bless us all, that's quite another thing.

Beyond the fact that the Duke of Cumberland visited Cheadle there is little that is recorded as to his stay there. There is no doubt, however, that His Roval Highness remained in the town one night, and

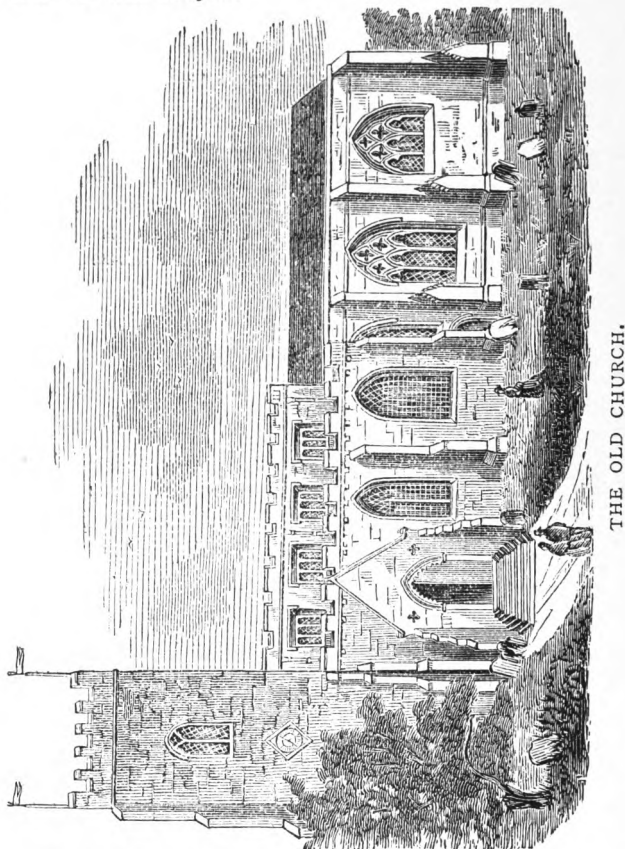
CHAPTER VI.

OLD CHURCH—LAST SERMON IN IT—NEW CHURCH—FIRST SERMON IN IT—ALMS CHEST—STRONG BOX—BENEFACTIONS—MONUMENTS—EPITAPHS—FALLING INTO A GRAVE—THE RECTORY—REGISTRY—PAST RECTORS—A DEAF RECTOR—ST. CHAD'S, FREEHAY—NATIONAL SCHOOLS—MONKHOUSE SCHOOL—SCHEMES FOR ITS MANAGEMENT—TRUSTEES—CHEADLE AND KINGSLEY CHARITIES.



THE old parish church of Cheadle, which formerly stood at the extreme south of the present churchyard, was an ancient Gothic structure of stone, roofed with oak. It was situated on an eminence, and the square stone tower, which contained a clock and six bells, was adorned with four pinnacles and vanes. The interior was very neat. The nave was supported by six Gothic arches, and it contained two galleries. Many of the present inhabitants of Cheadle, who worshiped in the old church long before it was demolished, have confirmed the statement of Pitt on the subject, that when viewed from the chancel the effect was "simple and sublime, the windows casting 'a dim religious light,' and the large organ at the west end in a very elevated situation rising almost to the ceiling," gave "an air of magnificence to the

and resembled in general style and arrangement the neighbouring church of Checkley, to which in ancient times it was subject."



On Sunday, the 9th of July, 1837, the last sermon was preached in the old church. The Rev. C. S. Hassells was the preacher, and his sermon was

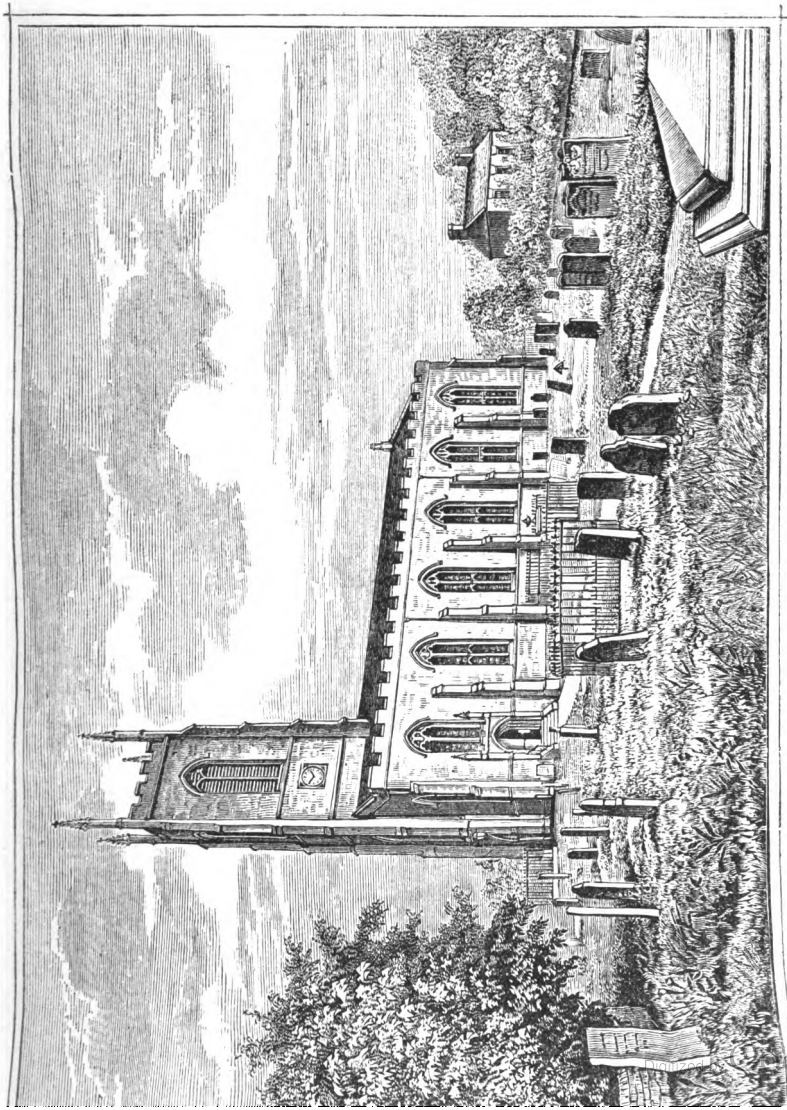
the timber shall answer it." (Habakkuk ii, 11.) In the course of his discourse Mr. Hassells said—"The taking down of this remarkable sanctuary, raised by the hands of the forefathers of this place, dear as it doubtless was to their hearts, cannot be contemplated without producing in our minds feelings of a pensive and melancholy nature, mingled as they will be, however, with emotions of a happier and brighter kind, when we shall look forward to the edifice by which it will soon be succeeded. We can hardly imagine the heart and mind of any individual connected with this neighbourhood remaining unmoved by such an appeal to ingenuous sympathy as that which is here presented. We would commend a warm and honest attachment to the hallowed church of our forefathers. We would honour the tear which involuntarily gave its eloquent testimony to the sentiments so worthy of a good man to entertain: 'Who loves not the place where they worshipped their God? Who loves not the ground where their ashes repose?'"

The tower of the old church had at that time been taken down, and the materials lay scattered "in ruinous heaps" on the ground. The bells and the dial of the clock were likewise in the churchyard. The communion rails of Cheadle old church are preserved in a summer house at Harewood Hall, and they are interesting as having cut upon them the following names and date:—"Wardens 1687, Will. Beach, To. Turner; N. Fflacret, clark; Ri. Stedman, parson." The tracery of the windows of the old church is also preserved on the grounds of the same place.

interesting building architecturally, but is more commodious, was commenced. It was erected in 1837-8. The new church, built of stone, is in the Perpendicular style, standing about the centre of an extensive burial ground. The ground south of the edifice was the first used for burial purposes in Cheadle, the portion on the north side not being opened till 1860.

The new church contains sittings for 1600, of which number 500 are free. The eastern window is beautifully embellished with stained glass by Wailes, of Newcastle-on-Tyne, and the walls of the chancel to the height of the window, are covered with oak screen work, containing the Creed executed by a native of Cheadle. The tower contains six bells, which are thus inscribed: First bell, "Prosperity to the Church of England, 1722;" second, "John Ridgway, Curate, 1722;" third, "Abo Rudhall, of Gloucester, Cast all, 1722;" fourth, "Prosperity to the Town and Parish, 1722;" fifth, "Edward Leigh, Esq., and Ralph Challinor, Gent., Churchwardens, 1722;" sixth, "Wm. Barnett, Dyer, and Saml. Weston, Yeoman, Churchwardens, 1730."

In the preface to a published sermon preached by the Rev. C. S. Hassells, on Tuesday evening, June 11th, 1839, at the opening of the new parish church it was stated: "I cannot neglect this opportunity of recording the gratification so generally felt in the very becoming manner in which the occasion of opening the new church was observed. The fact that nearly if not quite all the shops of the town were closed throughout the day (and a 'joyous holy-day' it was), as a voluntary tribute unsuggested by formal solicitation, was indeed a beautiful testimony



NEW CHURCH.

the morning and evening services, and under other circumstances, spoke well for Cheadle. It evinced a flow of public feeling, a lively interest, a strong affection towards the object which I trust in God will be expanded and perpetuated.

“The collections were made for the incidental expenses of the church and were as follow: In the morning, after a sermon by the Rev. Hugh Stowell, of Stafford, £43 12s. 2d. In the evening, £22 4s. 6d. Total £65 16s. 8d. On the latter occasion the liberal contributions from the free seats deserve grateful remembrance.” (For allotment of pews in 1845 see Appendix III.)

In a conspicuous position in the southern porch of the church is a trebly-locked chest, a receptacle for the alms of the congregation, a relic of bye gone days, when the edifice was maintained by rates, free will offerings were made for the assistance of the poor, and the modern system of weekly collections adopted in some churches was not practised. There is a notification (without date) on the wall, no doubt referring to the chest in question, for it requires the churchwardens to provide a strong chest, with a hole in the upper part thereof, to be provided at the charge of the parish, “having three keys, of which one shall remain in the custody of the parson, vicar or curate, and the other two in the custody of the churchwardens for the time being; which chest they shall set and fasten in the most convenient place, to the intent the parishioners may put into it their alms for their poor neighbours. And the parson, vicar or curate, shall diligently from time to time, and especially when men make their testaments. call

declaring unto them that whereas heretofore they have been diligent to bestow much substance otherwise than God commanded, upon superstitious uses, now they ought at this time to be much more ready to help the poor and needy, knowing that to relieve the poor is a sacrifice which pleaseth God; and that also whatsoever is given for their comfort is given to Christ Himself, and is so accepted of Him that He will mercifully reward the same. The which alms and devotion of the people, the keepers of the keys shall yearly, quarterly, or oftener (as need requireth), take out of the chest, and distribute the same in the presence of most of the parish, or six of the chief of them, to be truly and faithfully delivered to their most poor and needy neighbours."

Near the above named chest is another relic of the past—a strong box, made from a huge piece of solid oak, hollowed out so as to contain the baptismal and other registers. It now lies on the floor of the church porch, with its large hooks and staples, but without lock or key,—no longer the depository of parochial documents, and useful only as showing the rude kind of skill exercised by our forefathers in constructing a "safe" many generations ago.

In the porch is a stone tablet on the wall with the following inscription:—

Underneath lyes y^e Body of Robert Shenton, buried Nov^r. 18th: 1726, aged 73. Besides other legacies he left to y^e poor of Kingsley 10^s. and Cheadle Pa^r. 20^s. yearly for ever.

Povey's charity is thus notified in a frame in the porch:—

By the will of Mary Povey dated the 7th of July 1702, and by a decree in Chancery of 6th February 1770 in a cause Attorney General v Copestake 12th. of 35th. of land at the Fold and an allotment on Freehey Common containing 0th. 2th. 20th. and

wardens and overseers of this parish in trust to receive the rents issues and profits yearly and pay the same unto one poor minister at their discretion to be provided who shall twice in every week that is to say every Wednesday and Friday read prayers according to the Liturgy of the Church of England in this Parish Church as on reference to a copy of the said decree and a particular of the said lands and money copied in the parish order book will more fully appear. Dated this fourth day of April 1849. I. M. Blagg and Chas. Burton churchwardens.

Other benefactors to the poor of the parish of Cheadle are noticed in the same place:—

Ralph Woodward gave four pounds to the poor to be dealt on St. Thomas day. Richard Fowel of Huntley gave two pounds more. Mary Challoner gave 12 pounds more in Mr. Compton's hands. Mr. Simon Fowler of Stafford left five pounds *per annu* to the poor, to be dealt on the first of May, and Simon and Jude; and one pound to the rector for two sermons on the *s^d* days his estate charged for the payment of it. Wid. Savages doal of two pounds *per annu*, in the hands of Tho. Bagnald of Fulford dealt on good fryday and St. Thomas day. William Turners doal in the hands of William Turner being one pound *per annu* to be dealt to widows on the fryday before Whitsontide. Mr Mills doal of thirty five pounds, in the hands of Mr. Thomas Mills of Newport. Mr. Stubbs, late curate, left twenty pounds *per annu* to a schoolmaster for teaching poor children, and Cheddleton heath house for payment. Mr. Thomas Heath left the Old Hill to the use of the poor for ever.

The Grosvenor bequests to the poor are recorded in these terms:—

To the poor of Cheadle parish Frances Grosvenor late of Haleshall wid^o by her will dat^d the 13 of June 1727 charges her farm at Okeymoor late in the holding of David Fisher with 10^s a year for ever payable to the poor of this parish on St. Bartholomew and Shrovetuesday except when it happens to be Leap year and then on the 29th of Feb: insted of Shrovetuesday.

Edward Smith Grosvenor, Esq., formerly of Hales Hall, in this parish, who died on the 19th of December, 1830, by his will, dated the 16th day of February, 1830, bequeathed the interest of £100 for ever, for the benefit of poor persons of this parish, to be selected by the Rector or by the officiating minister for the time being.

executrix; which has been invested in the funds, in the names of Mr. John Sims, and Mr. Richard Fryer Smith, churchwardens of the parish of Cheadle; on trust, that the churchwardens for the time being shall pay and distribute the yearly dividends on Saint Thomas' day in every year; amongst such poor widows of this parish, not exceeding ten in number as the churchwardens shall think fit and proper and most deserving; and the preference shall be given to such poor widows as are above the age of 65 years. Dated this 25th day of March, 1858.

In the church there is a monument to the Woodhead family, whose remains are interred in the churchyard. It is recorded that Edward Leigh, Esq., died December, 1751, aged 52, and Ann his wife in July, 1742, aged 61. Several other members of the family are buried in the same place. The monument was erected in the year 1770 by Edward, fourth son of Edward and Ann Leigh.

On the north wall there is a tablet to the memory of Charlotte Plant, who died May 8th 1869, aged 85. It appears from an inscription that she was the faithful and devoted nurse of the Earl of Belfast, also of his sister the Lady Harriet Ashley, by whom this tablet was erected "in grateful and affectionate remembrance."

Another tablet on the same wall contains a Latin inscription to the memory of Rupert Hurst and Ann his wife, who were born in the parish and whose mortal remains were buried there, "near those of their ancestors." Rupert died June 14th, 1743, aged 45, and Ann on the 25th of April, 1759, aged 63 years. Eight of their children, who were cut off by a premature death, share their grave. As also Robert, their eldest son, "a man the most worthy the best of parents," who died a bachelor March 5th, 1777, aged 55. Thomas Hurst, who erected the tablet, died a

On a brass tablet near the vestry is the following in old English letters with illuminated capitals:—

Erected by the Very Revd. Hugh Ussher Tighe Dean of Derry to the Memory of Elizth Widow of Rich^d Blake Deverell Esq^{re} born 18th August 1774, d. s. p. May 30, 1861, buried at Brighton Also of Anna Marie Moland born Nov^r 2, 1773, d. Aug^t 5th 1825, buried at Leckhampton, Gloucestershire. Also of Letitia Martha Moland born April 21st, 1777, d. June 27, 1849. Also of her twin sister Margaret Lucy, d. Aug^t 8th 1851, and were both buried at Brighton. They were all daughters and co-heiresses of Rich^d Moland, Esq^{re} of Springfield House Warwickshire and of his wife Mary Fisher and were all born at Hales Hall, Staffordshire. "If we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so them also which sleep in Jesus will God bring with him." (Thess. ivth xiv).

The Prayer Book on the reading desk and Holy Bible on the lectern contain inscriptions showing that they were presented to the church by George Mather, Esq., August, 1845.

A memorial card in the vestry contains the following:—

Sacred to the much loved memory of the Reverend Delabere Pritchett, M.A., formerly Fellow of Trinity College, Cambridge, and for 23 years Rector of Cheadle, Staffordshire. Trusting in the alone merit of Christ he faithfully preached His Gospel and loving the flock committed to his charge he devoted his life to its welfare. He died at Morningside Dec. 23, 1838, in his 64th year. They that be wise shall shine as the brightness of the firmament; and they that turn many to righteousness as the stars for ever and ever. Dan. xii. 3. This last tribute of affection is offered by his deeply sorrowing widow.

Before the demolition of the old church there was a footpath through the yard running along the north side of the edifice. By the side of this path and joining the old structure was the vault of the Grosvenor family, descendants of Sir Matthew Hale. When the old church was removed the stone work over the vault was left standing. In 1870 the stone work from some unexplained cause fell in, and the coffins,

a member of that family. The stone work is still in a somewhat neglected condition. The inscriptions on it are interesting and include the following :—

Here lies Archibald Grosvenor, Esq., fifth son of Jonas Grosvenor, Esq., of Bishbury, in this county, by Ann his wife, daughter of John Shelsbury, Esq., of the county of Essex. He was bred up in the Army, and when he retired from it, design'd and finish'd that delightful seat adjacent, in honour of his lady, call'd Hales-hall. When a military officer, he was active, brave and honourable; and when a civil magistrate, just, steady, and impartial. He was a good master, an affectionate husband, a loyal subject, and a generous benefactor, where he found room for compassion. Ob. 26 Sep^r, 1725. Æt.

Here lies Frances granddaughter of that great and learned lawyer S^r Matthew Hale, and wife of Archibald Grosvenor, Esq. She was religious without fanaticism, charitable without vanity, and virtuous without affectation. As y^e sweetness of her temper made her agreeable to her superiors, so for her sincerity, goodness and hospitality she was the darling of her equals and inferiors. She left no issue to inherit a plentiful fortune and y^e many excellent qualities whereof she was mistress. Ob. 20 Nov., 1736. Æt.

Near the south-west corner of the churchyard is a monument to the memory of one of England's most gallant soldiers. Though Thomas Blood never attained high rank his merits were such that he deserved it, and the wonder is that with such great services as he rendered to his country he was not promoted higher than a Lieutenant in the army. The fullest testimony to his great gallantry and devotion to duty is inscribed on the four sides of the monument :—

To the memory of Lieuten^t Thomas Blood of the 16th Lancers. He entered the army in 1793 at the age of 18; and went through the arduous and disastrous campaigns in Flanders, under the Duke of York, and was in the actions of the Cateau Plains, Tournay, and Lisle; where for his gallantry he was appointed Regimental Riding Master. He was next engaged in honorable service in different climes until he was called to share in the glories of the Peninsular war; where his undaunted bravery, his enthusiastic gallantry, his skilful and daring exploits, shone forth with conspicuous lustre. He distinguished himself at Talavera.

distinguished for his skill and gallantry, especially at the capture of Bhurtpore. After unremittingly serving his country for 40 years, with a zeal rarely equalled, and with a courage never surpassed, the increasing pressure of infirmities compelled him to retire from active service. The few remaining years of his life were years of pain. Worn out by the enervating effects of the Eastern climate, he died June 20th, 1840, aged 65 years.

Testimonials as to his services and abilities:—"A better or more gallant soldier is not to be found in the army. I had so many opportunities of witnessing your gallantry, intelligence and conduct in the Peninsula that I am bound to give the strongest testimony in your favour."—Sir F. Ponsonby. "Lieut. Blood has been known to me 33 years, and was for his good conduct and bravery promoted by me corporal, serjeant, and riding master. He was frequently for his gallantry and good services in the Peninsula brought to the notice of the Duke of Wellington. In the East Indies I had many opportunities of witnessing his invaluable services."—Lord Combermere. "I am anxious to testify that the many gallant exploits performed by you in the field; the many recorded instances of your undaunted bravery; the enthusiastic zeal and attachment ever evinced by you in the service, shine forth not only as the deeds of the bravest of the brave, but have received additional lustre from the reputation you have maintained as an officer, whose conduct has been distinguished for candour, integrity and honour."—R. Arnold, Col. 16 Lancers. "His Royal Highness thinks it right to state that Mr. Blood is one of the most meritorious old officers in the King's service."—Duke of York.

A few days after his death, which took place at Tean, testimony was borne in the *Staffordshire Advertiser* to Lieut. Blood's courage and devotion to duty. It appears that he rose through all the intermediate gradations, to the rank of Lieutenant, solely by his own extraordinary merit. He commenced his campaigns in Holland; he was present during the whole of the Peninsular war; he went twice to the East Indies and finished at Waterloo, and perhaps no one in his station ever displayed more determined gallantry or boldness, or so promptly and successfully executed the many hazardous services which, owing to his well known daring and hardihood, he was so frequently selected to perform. In reconnoitering, in conveying secret intelligence from one part of the

in foraging, his coolness in danger and his fearlessness and energy in action were alike conspicuous. Indeed, were all his perils, his adventures, his hair-breadth escapes, his many personal encounters with the enemy and his other deeds of daring written down, it would form a narrative of no common interest. With that modesty which invariably accompanies true heroism, he shrunk from boasting of what he had done, but the highly honourable testimonials which he possessed from all the General officers under whom he served sufficiently show the great estimation in which he was held by those who had witnessed his public actions; and a splendid and valuable cup presented to him by the officers of his regiment bears ample proof of the respect and admiration of those who had the best opportunities of estimating his character as a soldier and as a man.

Until a recent period there was on the east side of the churchyard a row of old and dilapidated cottages. These cottages were purchased in order to effect a public improvement. They were demolished; Paradise street was widened, and the churchyard was slightly extended. Within a few yards of the street is a stone, much defaced by time and the elements, unduly embedded in the earth, and the lettering on the face of it scarcely legible. The epitaph, however, is unique:—

In sixteen hundre-
-d and ninety three
George Wood of
Cheadle Set this
tree which was
Alive but now lies
Dead Up to this

Stone Here ly^s his
Head Be shure you
Haue Account to
Give when you are
Dead how you Did
Live. 1716 Aged 73

since been rooted up, and the stone alone remains to mark the place where it once grew.

On the south side of the church, not far from where the old yew tree once stood, there is a tombstone railed round, which is interesting as containing an epitaph written by Thomas Moore, a friend of the deceased's, namely:—

Joseph Atkinson, Esq^r.
of Melfield, county of Dublin,
died the 7th of July, 1818,
aged 74.

Ευγνωμων Φιλομουσος.

If ever lot was prosperously cast,
If ever life was like the lengthened flow,
Of some sweet music, sweetness to the last,
'Twas his, who, mourn'd by many, sleeps below.
The sunny temper, bright where all is strife,
The simple heart, that mocks at wordly wiles,
Light wit, that plays along the calm of life,
And stirs its languid surface into smiles.
Pure charity, that comes not in a shower,
Sudden and loud, oppressing what it feeds,
But like the dew, with gradual silent power,
Felt in the bloom it leaves along the meads.
The happy grateful spirit, that improves
And brightens every gift by fortune given,
That, wander where it will with those it loves,
Makes ev'ry place a home, and home a heaven.
All these were his: oh thou, who read'st this stone,
When for thyself, thy children, to the sky
Thou humbly prayest, ask this boon alone,
That ye like him may live, like him may die.

THOMAS MOORE.

The Rev. John Pike Jones, of Alton, took an active interest in the affairs of the Cheadle Union till his death. He devoted much time to public duties, yet was not popular with the general public. But that is the fate of men in a higher position than a vicar of Alton and guardian of the poor of Cheadle Union; and nothing uncharitable shall be said of him in these pages; the only fact to be recorded

Cheadle churchyard; that a neat monument was afterwards erected to his memory, of which an engraving is presented, and that the following words are inscribed on the same:—

Underneath lie the remains of the Rev^d. John Pike Jones. M.A. Vicar of Alton, in Staffordshire, and Rector of Butterleigh, in Devonshire, who for many years took an active part in various



REV. JOHN PIKE JONES'S MONUMENT.

public matters connected with this county. He died at Cheadle February 4th, 1857 aged 64 years. A few of his friends united in

this parish, who died 11th December, 1792, aged 77 years; Annie his wife, who died 17th April, 1789; Thomas Ward, solicitor, brother of the said John Ward, who died 8th June, 1790, 62; and Hannah his wife, who died 11th October, 1807, 62, were buried there.

The following are taken from other tombs in the churchyard :—

In memory of the late Martha Brough, who died May the 16th, 1836, at the uncommon age of 101 years. For nearly 70 of them she was a faithful servant to successive persons of one family in this town, by whom she was loved and esteemed. Being economical without meanness she assisted her relatives, was kind to the distressed, yet left behind her a respectable sum compared with her means. These facts are recorded to warn the poor and low in the world that much good may be done and much respect deserved in the humblest station by honest industry and prudence. The poor of this world may be rich in good works, and names little known on earth, if given by faith to the Saviour, will be written in heaven.

Sacred in memory of Jane wife of Samuel Alcock (of this Parish) who died July 17th, 1845, aged 56 years. Also Samuel Alcock, who died March 7th, 1859, aged 71 years.

“ Farewell vain world, we've seen
 enough of thee;
 We care not what thy thoughts
 of us may be,
 Thy smiles we court not, thy frowns
 we do not fear:
 It's all as one to us: our heads lie
 quiet here.”

In memory of Mary wife of the late Joseph Wright of this town, who died March 13th, 1866, aged 97 years.

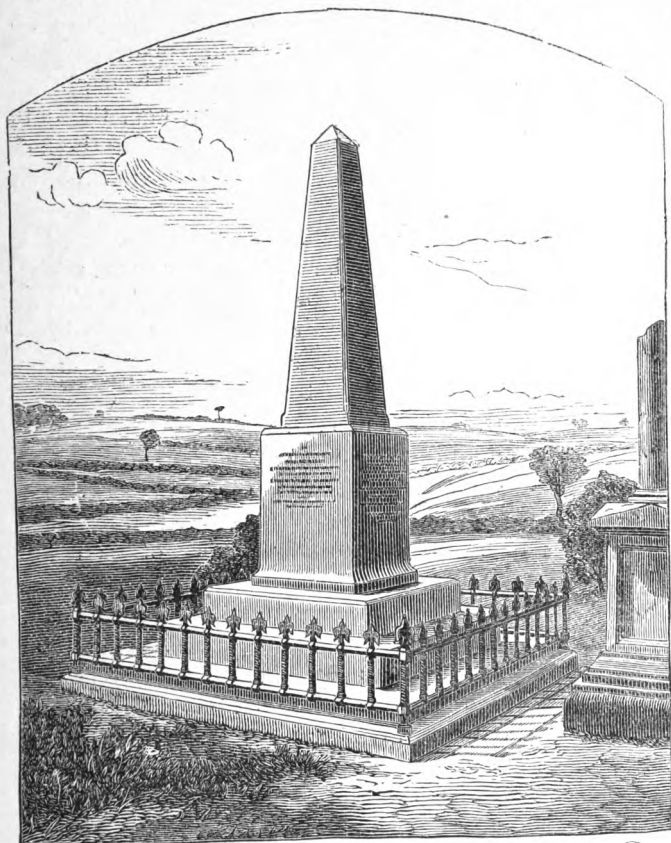
“ A good plain soul, untaught and unrefined,
 But rich as rugged in nature's worth;
 A strong stout heart, untainted and unchilled
 By blight of selfishness or frost of age.

“ Almost a hundred years she toiled and toiled
 And fainted not, nor wearied in good works;
 And after so long labour may her rest
 Be sweet and calm and her reward secure.”

Woodhead Hall, and Miss Shepherd. A good representation of the same is here presented.

On one side the following words are inscribed:—

In affectionate memory of William Allen, of Woodhead Hall, in this parish, who was born at Saltby Oct^r 9th 1789, and who



TOMB OF MR. AND MRS. WM. ALLEN AND MISS SHEPHERD

On another side the following words are given :—

In affectionate memory of Maria Allen wife of William Allen, who was born at Melton Mowbray, May 17th 1790, and who died trusting for salvation in the Lord Jesus Oct 2nd 1870. Aged 80 years. " For I reckon that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us."

At the time these pages are written there is no inscription to denote the last resting place of Miss Shepherd. No doubt ere long words will be engraven on one side of the stone indicating her age, the date of her death, and, it is to be hoped, recording the fact that she was one of the noblest and kindest of women—one of the truest and best of christians.

Before closing this account of the churchyard, it should be noted that the old footway previously referred to as passing through it, ran from a point near the lower end of Paradise street to the western side of the yard. Near the south-west corner stood an old public house called the Portobello. On a certain night, before the introduction of the county constabulary and the compulsory closing of licensed houses at an early hour ; before the old church was pulled down and the footway through the churchyard was stopped, but within the memory of men still living ; an incident occurred with which most of the inhabitants of Cheadle are familiar, but which may, perhaps not inaptly, be mentioned here. One John Barnett passed some hours smoking his pipe and drinking nut brown ale at the old public house. It is often said ale in those days was more potent than it is now. Without either disputing or endeavouring to prove that proposition, it may be recorded that Barnett, on his way home from the Portobello, was crossing the churchyard, and fell into a grave which had been dug and left open on the north side of the

for some minutes, he sat down to rest, to realise his position, and to recover from the temporary fit of terror into which he had fallen. While he was thus engaged a second man proceeded into the churchyard: whether he came from the Portobello or not is uncertain, for his whereabouts before and after the incident was never made known; but he fell into the same grave as Barnett, who, in a solemn tone, and probably with affected indignation, exclaimed "Umph, what a pity it is that a man cannot lie undisturbed in his own grave." The sound of a voice under such circumstances naturally struck terror into the heart of the second unlucky visitor to the grave, and he was prompted to exercise so much agility that he bounded out of the grave and out of the graveyard with wonderful rapidity. Poor Barnett, who was pretty well acquainted with the churchyard, although not accustomed to finding himself in a tomb, after a long rest succeeded in extricating himself from the position in which an unlucky accident had placed him.

Opposite the church, facing High street, is the Rectory House, a neat plain, modern erection of red bricks.

Chedull was valued in the King's Book at £12 9s. 2d., while Checkley was valued at £20 2s. 6d., Caverswall £7 5s. 5d., Draycot £9 6d., Dilhorn £8 13s. 1½d., and Kingsley £16 15s.

The registry dates from the year 1569. The living is a Rectory under the patronage of Trinity College, and according to the Lichfield Diocesan Calendar the value of it is £438 a year. The present Rector is the Rev. Robert Watt, formerly a Fellow

Barbados, and is now Bishop of Trinidad, a Diocese which in 1872 was formed out of the Diocese of Barbados. The Rev. D. Pritchett was Rector from 1815 to 1838. John Ward, A.M., Fellow of Trinity



THE RECTORY.

College, Cantab. was instituted into the Rectory of

Pegge, in an unpublished History of Staffordshire, fixes the date, saying it was "the very day I was collated to my prebendary. This Mr. Ward, who was then curate of Lee, and has, I think, had a small college living near St. Ives, is a very extraordinary person. He is somewhat deaf and almost entirely blind, but takes a good deal of exercise, both by riding and walking, insomuch y^t he is very robust. He performs the service himself, only the parish clerk reads y^e lessons. He has the Psalms and all y^e service by heart, and in y^t manner delivers his sermons. He says it is much easier to him now than when he could see a little. Blindness is owing to a gutta serena, and he seems to me to be a worthy, honest, and learned man, delighting much in books, which are read to him by an amanuensis." The following, in addition to many curates, signed the registers: John Clutton, Rector, 1722, and subsequent years; Richard Bynns, Rector, 1704; Devereux Spencer, Rector, 1664; George Egginton, minister, 1662; Thomas Allsopp, minister, 1648; George Watts, Rector, 1609.

St. Chad's church, Freehay, about a mile south of the town, was built in 1842, for the use of the inhabitants of Huntley, Teanford, Woodhead and other southern parts of the parish. It is in the style which prevailed in the 14th century, and cost about £1,700, raised by the Rev. R. Rawle (formerly Rector of Cheadle) and his friends; the latter of whom presented him with £1,124, in 1847, previous to his departure for Barbados. Before he left England he applied the last named sum towards the endowment of the church, and there has since been added £800 raised by subscriptions and grants and the yearly sum

The east window has three lancet lights filled in with beautiful stained glass. National schools in the same style as the church were built in 1846. The living is in the patronage of the Rector of Cheadle, and is stated in the Diocesan Church Calendar to be worth £160.

The Boys' National School at Cheadle was built in 1839, and, until the building of the Girls' and Infants' Schools, was used for boys, girls, and infants. The National Schools are supported by voluntary contributions and a grant from the Education Department. The average attendance is between three hundred and four hundred. A tablet on the wall of the infants' school states that it was erected and the boys' school adjoining the churchyard was altered in 1845 by voluntary subscriptions, "especially through the active exertions and munificent donations of the Reverend Richard Rawle, the Rector, who, besides a subscription of £400 and upwards, has, by a deed enrolled in Chancery, permanently endowed the schools with two several sums of £800 each, to be hereafter accumulated; subject, as to the first sum of £800, to this condition: that these schools are to derive no benefit from the interest unless the inhabitants and landowners of this parish contribute yearly not less than 95 pounds for the three schools united, and in every year when the subscriptions fall short of that sum, the interest of the £800 is to be paid over to the National School Society, to be applied by them to the general purposes of education throughout England and Wales; and who also in the year 1847 invested for the further endowment of the same schools the sum of £400, which had

neighbours, and presented to him on the occasion of his resigning the living to undertake the office of Principal of Codrington College, in Barbados; thus making the whole permanent endowment contributed by him equal to £2,000, in addition to his subscription to the building fund."

Mr. Griffiths, in his Free Schools and Endowments of Staffordshire, says that Henry Stubbs, by will bearing date 16th October, 1685, gave to Mr. Paul Jenkinson, and his heirs for ever, all that land, estate, and inheritance, at Heath House, in the parish of Cheddleton, then in the possession of Francis Braddock, upon condition that he and his heirs should pay yearly, for ever, to the use of the school at Cheadle, the sum of £20 for the teaching and instructing of six of the poorest children of the parish of Kingsley and six of the poorest children of the parish of Cheadle; and in default of such payment by his heirs or assigns, he ordered the then schoolmaster of Cheadle to enter upon all the above land at Heath House aforesaid. This rent-charge of £20 is received by the master of the school at Cheadle.

A sum of £30 was given by the trustees of Mr. Andrew Newton, of Lichfield, under the discretion vested in them by his will, for the support of this school. It was paid to the master, who placed it in the Cheadle Savings Bank, from which he receives interest for it at the rate of four per cent.

There is a house belonging to the school, which the master inhabits rent free, but which he is bound to keep in repair. It is not known by whom this house was given.

Two schemes have been drawn up for the regulation and management of the school. The first

dated April 2nd, 1867. The old scheme provided that the school should be under the control of trustees appointed for that purpose, consisting of the Rector and churchwardens and four other respectable persons residing in Cheadle. The income arising from the bequest went towards the payment of a master, who in consideration of such payment



MONKHOUSE SCHOOL.

received and educated in the school without fee twelve children of poor but respectable parents—six of Cheadle and six of Kingsley—called “Foundation scholars.” These scholars were appointed by the

After the school had undergone great vicissitudes, owing principally no doubt to the smallness of the endowments, the second scheme was issued, considerably modifying and extending the first. Many old residents in Cheadle speak in terms of gratitude and pleasure of their old school days at Monkhouse, and yet can approve of the second scheme as more adapted to the education of the generation rising up at the present time. Under the new scheme the house and school were repaired by subscription, and the school fee was raised to 20s. per quarter. To the usual English subjects, which are thoroughly taught, are added Latin, French, mathematics, drawing, and other branches of instruction.

The masters who have been appointed under the second scheme are Mr. Thomas Quin and his successor, Mr. Daniel Hancox. The following are the present trustees: Rev. Robert Watt, Rector of Cheadle, chairman; Rev. Thomas Goddard, Rector of Kingsley; the churchwardens of Cheadle, the churchwardens of Kingsley, Mr. C. J. Blagg, Mr. R. Sutton, Mr. Eli Bowers, and Mr. R. F. Smith.

Mr. Griffiths, writing in 1860, said with regard to the school: "No children have been sent to Cheadle from Kingsley for some years. It is said that the parishioners of Cheadle had the liberty of sending six children of their parish to a free school at Kingsley; and that as the places are three miles asunder, it was found for the mutual convenience of the two parishes, and agreed between them, that twelve free children in each school should be taken from the parish where the school was situated,

CHAPTER VII.

TITHES—THE RECTOR AND THE ABBOT OF CROXDEN
 —INSTITUTION OF TITHES—OPPOSITION TO REV.
 D. PRITCHETT—RESISTING HIS CLAIMS—TITHABLE
 LAND—MR. PRITCHETT'S VIEWS OF EXEMPTIONS—
 LAW SUIT BY THE RECTOR AGAINST PARISHIONERS
 —PEW DISPUTE—WALTERS V. KEYS—RELIGIOUS
 FEELING—THE WESLEYAN MINISTER AND THE
 RECTOR—THE CURATE AND THE ROMAN CATHOLIC
 PRIEST.



DISSENSION and question as to the tithes of the parish of Cheadle arose as far back as the fifteenth century, and the matter was "put at rest" in this way: The Rector of Cheadle was to have the tithes of certain portions of the parish enumerated in an agreement between him and the Abbot of Croxden, and to pay twelve pence to the Abbot and his successors on the eve of every Easter, the Abbot to have the tithes of certain other portions and to pay the Rector and his successors one hundred loaves. The agreement was ratified by the Bishop of Lichfield and Coventry, the penalty for the contravention of it to be £10. For a translation of the original deed on the subject see Appendix IV.

Tithes (the tenth part of the produce of the land) were instituted in a very early period for the support

part rather than any other fractional portion of the produce of the earth to be consecrated to such uses. Tithes of three kinds were introduced into England—prædial, mixed, and personal. Prædial tithes are those which arise immediately from the earth itself, as of grain, fruit and herbs. Mixed tithes are those proceeding from things nourished by the earth, as calves, lambs, colts, chickens, milk, cheese, eggs. Personal tithes are those arising from the profits of personal industry, in the pursuit of a trade, profession, or occupation ; but it is commonly held that personal tithes were ordinarily paid in the form of a voluntary offering at Easter or some other portion of the year. From an examination of the old terriers it would appear that in Cheadle the tithes were for the most part prædial and mixed, though there are a few references to Easter offerings. The inconvenience and trouble, as well as the unsettled and variable quantities involved in this mode of payment, led to early attempts to provide other modes of apportioning the result, the particular manner being called technically a *modus decimandi* or simply a *modus*. This was done either by making an agreement to pay a fixed quantity irrespective of actual produce, in each year, or by a money payment settled between the parties ; or by a partial substitution of payment or labour, as when the party contributed a smaller quantity of produce, but free from the expense of harvesting and carriage ; or finally, by a payment of a bulk sum in redemption of the impost either for a time or for ever, as the case might be, in which the land became temporarily or permanently tithe free. In many parishes large tracts of land

The arrangements between the parties for commuting the mode of payment, being voluntary and partial, led to perpetually recurring contests, while the exactions became oppressive when the parties from whom it was claimed did not belong to the Established Church. At the time when the collection of tithes began to be generally resisted (in 1815), the Rev. Delabere Pritchett became Rector of Cheadle. Old terriers of the parish still extant afford ample evidence of the ease with which, at such a time, a misunderstanding might be created between a rigid enforcer and a reluctant contributor of tithes. Soon after Mr. Pritchett's appearance in the parish disputes arose, and an organised opposition to the Rector's claims was created.

A vestry meeting was held in the first week in October, 1817, when a handbill was drawn up and ordered to be printed in these words:—"Notice is hereby given, that a meeting will be held in the vestry room in the parish workhouse of Cheadle, on Tuesday, the 14th inst., at eleven o'clock in the forenoon, in order to consider the unusual claims made by the present Rector of Cheadle, in attempting to enforce tithe on potatoes, turnips, etc., contrary to the custom and usage of former Rectors and terriers of the said parish, and to determine on the best and most effective means of resisting such pretended claims." Another handbill in similar terms was also issued, and the Rector was asked to read the same in the church on the Sunday preceding the day of meeting. The wording was considered by the Rector and the acting churchwarden to be offensive, and a

The meeting was held according to announcement, and a resolution was adopted for resisting the Rector's claims, and it was decided "that an agreement be prepared under the direction of the committee hereinafter named for defraying the expenses thereof according to the amount of property of each person to be estimated according to the poor assessment." The following gentlemen were named as the committee, seven to form a quorum, to act on behalf of the parishioners, who considered they were subject to unjust claims: "Thomas Honeybone, Esq., James Beech, Esq., Thomas Turner, Esq., Clement Sneyd, Esq., John Leigh, Esq., John Philips, Esq., Mr. Blagg, Mr. J. Ingleby, Mr. Bourne, Mr. Alcock, Mr. Brandon, and Mr. Harvey." From a record in the Rector's own handwriting, it appears that Messrs. Honeybone, Beech, and Leigh called upon him on the 20th of October, 1817. "After some common place observations upon the hardship of the times, the value of my living, and the nature of tithes, Mr. Beech said their only object was to be conciliated. I replied 'If that were your only object, you would make some offer.' Mr. Leigh answered 'That would be conceding the claim.' I rejoined 'Oh, if you dispute the claim, I will litigate it to the last. Therefore we had better say no more about it.' Thus we parted; I repeating the words 'If you dispute the claim I will litigate to the last.'" On their return to the committee the following entry was made in the order book kept at the Cheadle workhouse at the time: "20th October, 1817. At a meeting of the committee held this day at the workhouse, a deputation consisting of Thomas

to prevail on him to give up or delay his claims to the tithe of potatoes, turnips, and cabbages, and to settle the present disputes amicably, when Mr. Pritchett declared to the above gentlemen his determination not to give up any of his claims, and that he would litigate with the parties to the last day of his life. Signed Thomas Honeybone, James Beech, John Leigh, John Philips, Thomas Alcock, Wm. Bourne, Thomas Harvey, Thomas Brandon, J. Blagg."

From a ms. in the Salt Library it appears that Mr. Pritchett drew up the following statement of the land which he considered tithable and tithe free in Cheadle when he became Rector:—

Old enclosures in the parish of Cheadle subject to corn tithes, except a few moduses, near the town	a. r. p.
Woodlands, hedges, ditches, and buildings which produce no corn tithe	4804 1 4
	400 0 0

Lands said to be tithe free.

Trustees of the late John Holiday, Esq.,	a.	r.	p.	
Cheadle Park	292	0	22	
do. Park Hall	135	3	30	
Mr. Thomas Hall, for Mr. Jonas Bates	14	3	36	
Late Mr. Thomas Reed, for ditto	14	3	1	
S. and W. Williamson	12	1	39	
Robert Hams, Leyfields	3	1	39	576 3 11
Edward Eardley, Adderley Farm	34	1	22	
Allen and Curtis, Parson's Flat	1	3	38	
Miss Child (Mrs. Mackenzie), Freehay	17	0	17	
Joseph Bainbridge, Esq., do.	27	0	30	
John Malbon, do.	18	3	37	
Ralph Falkner, do.	3	1	20	
Common land lately enclosed of which not more than one third will at present be brought into a state of cultivation				
				1056 3 13
				6837 3 28

For extracts from old parish terriers see Appendix V.

streets; when, the tower of the old church being under repair, a placard was stuck on the church declaring "It is no wonder that the church and steeple are falling, for the pastors are become brutish. They have not sought the Lord: therefore all the flock shall be scattered abroad;"—and when pictures caricaturing the Rector were to be met with all over the town. It is not surprising that in such a state of circumstances all efforts at conciliation failed.

In some "Observations on the real or pretended exemptions," mentioned in various terriers of the parish, Mr. Pritchett set forth his views. Many years before Mr. Pritchett's time the occupiers of property had made fixed money payments, or proportion of such payments for such parts of the fields as were mown. Mr. Pritchett's contention was that there were several fields which paid no hay tithe and yet paid no modus. "There is," wrote he, "a vulgar notion that no fields are liable to pay tithe of hay but those over which the town wash runs.
* * * Cheadle Common, enclosed by private agreement used to pay tithe of lamb and wool. Ought they not then to pay tithe of hay? Ringeway [Rakeway?] Common of three hundred acres was enclosed by private agreement amongst the owners of certain freehold estates in the said common, bearing date Nov. 18th, 1807. Payment of corn tithe has been resisted by one of the proprietors in the years 1814-15-16-17. The rule he attempts to set up is this—that each separate piece of land is to be exempt for the first seven years from its being broken up. The Rector and his rights were in no way mentioned in

consideration of his legal adviser whether it would be advisable to claim tithes of clover hay, clover seed, turnips, agistment, and milk; whether a modus of 1d. for a barren cow would preclude agistment; whether a modus of 1½d. for a cow and calf precluded tithe of milk; and many other questions of similar import, which, however unfamiliar to the present generation, claimed consideration in this and many hundred other parishes in Mr. Pritchett's days.

The dispute between the Rector and his parishioners reached a climax in 1826, when it formed the subject of argument which occupied the Court of Exchequer five days in Easter term in that year. It was not till December in the same year that the judgment of the Court was delivered by the Lord Chief Baron. A report issued at the time shows that the Rector instituted a suit against nine of his parishioners, and the bill claimed all tithes, generally, of every kind. Most of the defendants pleaded the regular payment of corn and some other tithes; and amongst them insisted upon twelve different farm moduses, ten of them for hay, grass and agistment, and the other two for all tithes whatsoever; and they insisted upon four parochial moduses, namely, four pence for colts, one penny for agistment of barren cows, two pence for gardens attached to houses, and three halfpence for milk and calves under seven, and two shillings and fourpence if seven, and for every ten after. The Lord Chief Baron decided in favour of nine of the twelve moduses, including two of them set up as in lieu of all tithes, and overruled the other three; and he decided in favour of all the

he directed the plaintiff's bill to be dismissed. He decreed an account of hay tithe for part of the lands of the two defendants who had not set up moduses, and an account of the tithe of underwood from a defendant who had claimed an exemption *ratione ordinis*. The plaintiff's bill charged one of the defendants with having fraudently removed his sheep into another parish to avoid the payment of lamb and wool tithe in Cheadle; and he claimed from the same defendant the tithe of potatoes grown on his farm by a number of labourers and other persons, to whom he had let small portions of the land for the purpose, instead of looking for it to the persons themselves, and both these points were decided in the defendant's favour, the plaintiff's bill, as to them, being dismissed. The hitherto prevailing custom of tithing pigs, lambs, wool, and geese by one at seven, two if seventeen, and so on; and another for every ten, but nothing if under seven, and nothing for odd numbers between seven and seventeen, seventeen and twenty-seven and so on; and the old fashioned custom of tithing eggs and poultry by one egg for a hen, and two for a cock were overruled. The objection set up for some newly enclosed common allotments, in virtue of the moduses covering the farms in respect whereof they were allotted were overruled. It appeared that many of the defendants had grown potatoes and turnips, for which they could set up no defence; and their counsel at the onset, admitted their liability to pay tithe for them and that they must account for them accordingly. As to the costs, the Lord Chief Baron stated that he had not so favourable a view of the case of the Rector of Cheadle

without much examination of what the case was against them, in order to see how many might fall, and take his chance. The decree was that the plaintiff should pay costs in respect of those matters which were decided in favour of the defendants, and that with respect to those matters that they were to account for he meant to make the costs depend upon the state of the account.

The accuracy of the foregoing representation of what took place in the Court of Exchequer was questioned by Mr. Robert Lys, the solicitor for the plaintiff, upon whom, he alleged, "undeserved reflections" were cast. The correspondence took in January, 1827. Mr. Lys said "This suit arose entirely from the parishioners of Cheadle refusing to pay any tithes for potatoes and turnips, which were extensively grown in the parish of Cheadle, and besides the offensive conduct which was practised towards the Rector, personally, for making these just claims, a powerful combination was formed to resist him, and the parties even went so far as to enter upon the parish vestry books a resolution to support each other to the utmost, against these specific claims, and to defray the expenses in proportion to the poors' rate upon their property. Under such circumstances the Rector was driven to an investigation of the terriers and other documents relating to the Rectory; and having submitted the whole to counsel, he was advised to file a bill, not only as to the potatoes and turnips, but also for various other tithable articles, for which doubtful moduses and exemptions were set up; and in this respect he, of course, placed himself wholly in the hands of his counsel. So far, however, from firing a shot

fall,' only nine cases were acted on out of more than thirty: a fact which did not, and indeed could not, appear before the Chief Baron, but which, with the particular circumstances which produced the litigation, may yet be brought before his Lordship.

* * * The following statement will show to what extent the plaintiff has completely succeeded:

1. He has set aside three farm moduses for hay.
2. He has established his right to full tithes of potatoes and turnips, against which indeed the defendants never had a shadow of defence, though they put the plaintiff to the necessity of suing for them.
3. To full tithes of lamb's wool, pigs, geese and other poultry, and eggs, instead of being partially yielded as the defendants contended.
4. To full tithes of wood and underwood over extensive tracts of woodlands, which were entirely refused.
5. To tithe of hay of various meadows which was also refused.
6. To tithes generally from the allotments on the commons in the parish, extending over, I believe, more than a thousand acres, and, with the exception of corn tithes, withheld.
7. That even in the case of the parochial moduses for milk and calves, they do not cover the milk of cows having dropped their calves before they come into the parish, or the milk of cows not having calves within the year, to both of which the Lord Chief Baron expressly declared the moduses did not extend. It was also decided that market gardens not attached to nor used for the supply of a house were not covered by an alleged modus for house and garden. In conclusion, it is to be observed, that an account of some tithable matters has been decreed against every one of the defendants, except one; and that in all the cases in which the moduses

only conditional, the Rector being at liberty to take issues upon them if he thinks fit, and try their validity at law, and which step is now under the consideration of his legal advisers."

The solicitors for the defendants published a reply to Mr. Lys's letter, maintaining the absolute accuracy of the account of the proceedings which precedes that letter. The only "reflection" on the plaintiff, they considered, was contained in the remarks as to the costs, which came from the Lord Chief Baron. They proceeded to say:—"The fact is that the resolutions and 'powerful combination' complained of, as to the tithe of potatoes and turnips, were entered into five years before the commencement of this suit, and long before some of the defendants came to reside in the plaintiff's parish, in the first ebullition of angry feeling occasioned by a new Rector's innovating upon the claim of his predecessors—and that combination was completely dissolved, and their agreement cancelled, and a communication made to the plaintiff's agent, that the inhabitants were willing to pay the tithe of potatoes and turnips, and one of the defendants actually tendered the tithe before the filing of the plaintiff's bill—and none of them put any defence upon their answers as to this tithe, except one who has established a *modus in lieu* of all tithes. And in bringing forward these vestry resolutions Mr. Lys has omitted to state that it is recorded in them that on a deputation of gentlemen waiting on the plaintiff with a view to an amicable adjustment of their differences, he declared his determination not to give up any of his claims, and that he would 'litigate with them to the last day of his life.' The inhabitants also consented to pay the plaintiff a specific annual sum,

present income, on condition that he would continue to receive the ancient moduses as all his predecessors had done, and accept the annual payment as a composition for all tithable matters not covered by moduses; but this condition he declined to accede to, declaring that he would never receive anyone of the moduses, as he considered them all to be bad. Two of the parochial moduses having since been admitted to be indisputably good by his own counsel, and the other two held so by the Chief Baron, as well as nine out of twelve of the weakest farm moduses in the parish, the public will be able to judge whether the plaintiff was more blameable in commencing or the defendants in resisting this suit. The whole of the seven advantages gained by the plaintiff, as enumerated in Mr. Lys's letter, will be found distinctly stated in the report complained of, although he insinuates that the defendants' advantages are therein more prominently brought before the public. As to one or two of these points, it may be necessary to make one or two observations: As to the sixth item—the tithe of the allotments on the commons. The letter alluded to would convey the idea that the plaintiff had gained the right to tithes over one thousand acres of land which he had never before been in receipt of. In fact, the only point decided is, that such parts as have been allotted in right of farms covered by hay moduses are not exempted from such tithe. The value of this point will be duly appreciated by those who can judge of the probability of making meadow land upon the Cheadle Commons, and particularly by the proprietors implicated in this point, who, having established hay moduses, must

the plaintiff's right has never been disputed. As to the seventh point: the modus for milk and calves. This qualification is in accordance with the defendants' answers, and as they expected it to be established. The modus for gardens is expressly reported to be for gardens 'attached to houses.' It is apprehended that it will be found, when the account comes to be taken, that more than one of the defendants will have nothing to account for; and the majority of them little or nothing but potatoes and turnips, which, as before stated, they were willing to pay for without suit, and made no defence in their answers. The question in this suit was, in substance and effect, the validity of the twelve farm moduses and four parochial moduses. All the other points were unavoidably hooked in by the sweeping effect of the plaintiff's bill, claiming every description of tithe that ever was heard of, down to apples and pears. If he would have admitted the moduses now held good, the suit might have been adjusted at any time without difficulty. In conclusion, it may be stated that as to several of the points determined against the defendants, it is under the consideration of counsel how far they ought to acquiesce in the decision. And it will now be for the public (to whom the plaintiff's solicitor has thought fit to appeal) to judge between the parties; and in case anything unpleasant to the plaintiff or his solicitor should be found in this statement, the latter gentleman has to thank himself only for it, as he first threw down the gauntlet. 9th January, 1827."

The Rector disavowed the assertion imputed to

threatened to lay affidavits before the Chief Baron, which would in effect have been re-opening the suit.

A dispute of a somewhat different character was brought to an issue in an action which was tried before Mr. Justice Parker at the Assizes for the county, held at Stafford in March, 1817. The action was brought by a Mr. Walters against a Mr. Keys, and related to a pew in the parish church. The case, as reported in the *Staffordshire Advertiser* at the time, was as follows :—The plaintiff had some time before purchased the Wheat Sheaf Inn, at Cheadle, and claimed a pew in the church as an appurtenance thereto, which was proved by witnesses to have been used by the occupiers of that house from the year 1750. The defendant's counsel admitted such usage down to 1783. The occupiers of the inn had generally been owners—namely, Howard Brown, William Moreton, Joseph Parker, Mark Brian, Samuel Wigan, George Bolton, and the then owner and occupier, Mr. Walters. The house descended from William Moreton to his son, Howard Moreton, who was a surgeon at Cheadle, and who, by lease in 1783, let the house to Joseph Parker with one seat in the pew in question, after which time Howard Moreton and his mother frequently sat in the pew. Howard Moreton by his will devised the Wheat Sheaf to his brother-in-law, Lowton Tipper, and Mr. Rupert Lea, in trust for sale, the moneys realised by the sale to be paid among the children of his cousin, Edward Dolphin; and subject to the payments of his debts, etc., he gave all his other messuages, etc., to the children of Lowton Tipper and — Harrison. Lowton Tipper sat in the pew while he lived; but

and a half a year for it. Mr. Justice Parker summed up the evidence and pointed out that the case was in favour of the plaintiff, for whom a verdict was given. The settlement of this case allayed much ill feeling which had long existed in the town on the pew question.

The following epigram, by Mr. Bakewell, in his "Moorland Bard," previously quoted, has a local interest. It is on "A congregation quarrelling, and one part of them establishing another place of worship with expressions of much rancour :"—

In days of yore, and superstition's sway,
Men aw'd by fear, were urg'd to praise or pray.
In later times, more skill'd in things above,
Men prais'd or pray'd, urg'd on by sacred love.
But wiser grown, more learned and polite,
They pray for anger, envy, and mere spite.

A few years after the opening of the new parish church religious feeling ran high in the town and pamphleteering was practised by more than one religious zealot. On the 3rd of May, 1843, the conduct of one of the clergy drew forth "An Address to the Wesleyan Society in Cheadle, on the refusal of the Rev. R. Rawle to bury a child baptised by one of their ministers." The address was signed "W. Brailey." The purport of the "Address" is explained in the opening sentences; and without any desire to revive religious feuds, but merely as a reminiscence of the past, a reflex of the spirit of the times, those sentences are transferred to these pages. Mr. Brailey wrote: "I cannot refrain on the present occasion from thus publicly expressing my sympathy for you. You have been long reviled as schismatical

feelings have been wounded by one of your children being insultingly hurried into the grave without those rites which the most profligate drunkard or the most profane person is not denied, provided he dies without being guilty of the unpardonable sin of attending a dissenting place of worship. The reason for this refusal was that the child had been baptised by one of your ministers, who are all denounced as intruders into the sacred office and their ministrations of no value; whilst those who thus revile them claim to be 'the true and only successors of the Apostles.' To prevent you being deceived by these high sounding words and lofty claims I have felt it my duty to exhibit the emptiness of those pretensions." The writer went on to contend that the true apostolic succession "standeth in purity of doctrine, of life, and of usefulness." Before closing his pamphlet Mr. Brailey referred to the persecuting spirit of Puseyism and quoted a few lines from D'Aubigne: "Should Puseyism gain ground in the English Church in a few years it will have dried up all the sources of her life. The feverish excitement which has caused the disease will soon give place to languor. The blood will congeal, the muscles will stiffen, and the church be nothing but a dead body, a prey to the eagles, which will be gathered to batten on it."

About the same time the Rev. Walter Blount, assistant curate of Cheadle, was lecturing on "The English Church and Romish heresy." A letter controverting some of his statements was issued by the Rev. Father Henry Winton, the "Romish chaplain to the Earl of Shrewsbury," as he was termed by Mr. Blount in a pamphlet of 83 pages written in reply to his letter. Mr. Blount's pamphlet

to his parishioners. He commenced by saying "I have this morning received by post a printed paper entitled 'A letter to the Protestant Curate of Cheadle, by courtesy, the Rev. W. Blount,' and signed 'Henry Winter, St. Peter's, Alton, Friday in Easter week, 1843.'" Mr. Blount went on to say—"I do not feel myself called upon to answer every silly and vulgar production which ignorant and misled individuals may happen to address to me; and I do not suppose there are many among you who, having read the paper in question, will think me unreasonable in declining to hold correspondence, either public or private, with the writer. I make not this resolve, however, from any unkind feelings toward that unhappy individual; but simply from a conviction that any controversy with a person in his position, and one who is not only grossly ill-informed, but who could spend the Friday in Easter week in writing such a letter, could be productive of no good, and would in the estimation of many be degrading to the office which I bear. I should therefore feel it my duty to take no notice at all of the paper before me if you were *all* accustomed to attend to your parish church and were all moderately well-informed upon theological matters; but as (I grieve to say it) this is not the case, and as Mr. Winter's letter, though addressed to me, is evidently intended for your reading, and has already been spread widely among you, I feel myself bound by my ordination vows to lay before you some remarks upon its contents." Mr. Winter had been replying to Mr. Blount's lectures on "the Errors of Romanism," and he (Mr. Winter) had been labouring to show

CHAPTER VIII.

THE CATHOLIC CHURCH—DESCRIPTION OF IT—
THE CONSECRATION—OPENING SERVICES—DISTINGUISHED VISITORS—BETHEL CHAPEL—WESLEYAN CHAPEL AND SCHOOL—NEW CONNEXION CHAPEL—PRIMITIVE METHODIST CHAPEL—MISS BOURNE'S BEQUEST—BOOK SOCIETY—MECHANICS' INSTITUTION—GAS WORKS—WATERWORKS—CHEADLE HERALD—FREEMASONRY—THE CONSECRATION OF ST. GILES'S LODGE.



CHEADLE Catholic Church, a truly magnificent structure, erected at the sole charge of the Earl of Shrewsbury, does infinite honour to its architect, Mr. A. Welby Pugin. The style of architecture is the decorated Gothic; and, certainly, neither labour nor expense was spared to produce so perfect a specimen of the revival of mediæval art as St. Giles's presents.

The church consists of a western tower, of (including the cross) nearly 200 feet in height above the churchyard; a nave, having north and south aisles, with corresponding porches; a chancel, with sacristies, and an organ loft on its northern side; a chapel of the Blessed Sacrament attached to the south aisle, and a Lady Chapel.

The church has a most imposing appearance.

windows of the spire produce a most picturesque display of light and shade.

Entering the garth, or churchyard, by the western lich gate, the chief entrance, or west door, arrests



VIEW OF THE CATHOLIC CHURCH.

the eye by its peculiar appearance. The doors are of English oak, strongly braced, their surfaces painted red, and bordered with engrailing of iron, gilt; and

gilded, nearly covering the whole door, and, in fact, being the ironwork of the hinges, and forming the heraldic achievements of the Talbots. The doorway is deeply moulded with a square label, and is decorated in the mouldings with lions' heads and oak branches, well sculptured; and in the 'spandrils' of the arch are Talbot shields and foliage. In the tower buttresses, on either side of the door, are niches, having canopies, and in them are placed stone statues of St. Peter and St. Paul—the nimbus over the heads of the figures being of metal, gilded. Over the door is a window of three lights, the jambs and arch being enriched with foliage, and in the story above this are the small windows of the ringing chamber, and then rise the gracefully-formed windows of the belfry, which, eight in number, are divided by a mullion into two lights, having quatre-foils in the heads of the arches; perforated leadwork fills up the spaces between the mullions.

The bells, six in number, are borne by a strongly braced oak framing, which springs from stone projections in the walls of the ringing chamber. They were cast by Messrs. Mears, of Whitechapel.

The spire is octagonal, and springing from eight talbots at its base are crocketed ribs, which gradually diminish in size and projection till, at several feet from the apex, they terminate in gablets with bosses. Resting on the stone weatherings and at the angles of the spire are four gablets, and above these are as many niches, having beautifully wrought canopies and pinnacles. Within the niches are stone images of the Latin Doctors, the size of life, sitting

the pinnacles, and four very small near the top of the spire. A cross of iron and copper, partially gilded, having a cock at its summit, is securely fastened to and terminates the spire.

In the buttresses at the south-west angle of the tower two niches are made, having floriated mouldings and sculptured corbels. In the southern niche stands an image of St. Giles, and in the western is a kneeling figure of the Earl of Shrewsbury holding a model of the church, as founder of it, which he is supposed to be offering to St. Giles; St. John the Baptist, the patron Saint of the Earl, is represented standing beside him. On the corbel under St. Giles a hind is sculptured, and on that under the figure of the Earl the arms of the Talbot family, with the proper supporters. The south porch is of most exquisite design. The angle buttresses are very solid and massive in appearance. The label of the arch is crocketted, and is finished by a corbel bearing an image of our Blessed Lady, with our Lord, under a canopy of beautiful workmanship, and in quatrefoils, on either side, are angels with thuribles. The interior of the porch is groined with intersecting ribs rising from six engaged pillars, and adorned with foliage and bosses. On either side of the inner doorway are stoups for holy water. The pavement of the porch is of encaustic tiles having rich devices, and the following scripture in lines of tiles: "We will go into the house of the Lord with gladness." The external roof of the porch is of stone, the vertical joints being covered by ribs, terminated by gablet above the string course. At the east end of the south aisle the Chapel of the Blessed Sacrament

junction of the aisle and chapel is placed an image of the Resurrection of our Lord. The roof of this chapel is ridged with a beautiful cresting, having crosses, gilded, at intervals.

The east end of the nave, which rises several feet above the chancel, is terminated by a small belfry, having pinnaced buttresses at its angles supporting a small spire, with intermediate gables, etc. The sanctus bell is hung in this belfry, and round it these words are cast: "Sanctus x Sanctus x Sanctus x" This bell is rung at the beginning of the canon.

The eastern end of the chancel has two large angle buttresses, having at their angles of junction floriated niches containing images of St. John the Baptist and St. John the Evangelist, and immediately over the great window, in a niche, is a figure of our Lady with our Lord, and under the sill of the window, within three quartrefoils, angels are sculptured bearing holy emblems. A richly floriated cross of stone terminates the gable, and a similar one is on the gable of the Chapel of the Blessed Sacrament.

The external view of the church from either side has the most picturesque appearance. Its lofty spire towering in rich and beautiful outline above the nave, aisles, and chancel; the details of the eastern end and Chapel of the Sacrament; the high pitched roofs, surmounted by elegant cresting, with gilded crosses at intervals, the sanctus belfry, the south porch, and the stone cross in the churchyard near it, produce a charming composition of graceful forms and varied ornaments.

On the north side of the chancel are the sacristies

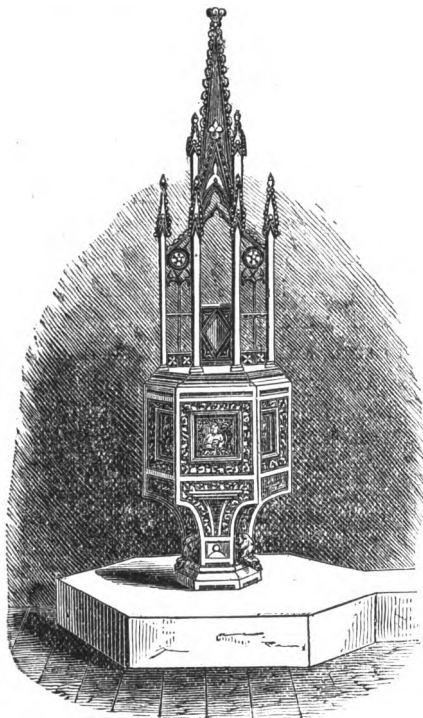
The north porch is of much plainer design than the south, though in size it is similar. Like that, the roof, externally and internally, is of stone, but is merely ribbed on the interior. The floor is laid with encaustic tiles and this scripture, "I was glad when they said unto me we will go into the house of the Lord." In the niche over the external arch is an image of our Lord in the act of benediction.

The interior of the church is in the highest degree magnificent and impressive, for the pillars, walls, and roof are enriched and fretted in every part with colour and gilding; to the gorgeous effect of which the "storied windows, richly dight," add their many coloured charms, and, by diminishing the brilliancy of the daylight in the church, destroy that tendency to glare which so much decoration would otherwise produce, and render the whole exquisitely picturesque and beautiful. Probably so perfect a church was never erected in England before, as there is a completeness in the building which defies words to express, or representations to give an idea of. In the architectural portion of the building, the proportions and arrangements are most exact and skilful, whilst the decorative portion is equally to be admired, each symbol and enrichment having its peculiar reference to the portion of the church for which it was designed.

The nave is divided from the aisles by eight pillars, four on each side supporting, with four engaged pillars, ten arches. The capitals of the pillars are exquisitely foliated, all differing in design, and richly gilded. The pillars are octagonal, and each painted in different patterns, the ground colours

colouring is visible. The mouldings of the arches also are most elaborately painted, and the walls above the arches are coloured blue and enriched with minute ornaments. Above every arch are two circles of copper, on which are painted copies from ancient Italian frescoes of heads of prophets. The roof is an open one, framed, of English oak, and all the beams, rafters, etc., are carved, moulded, and decorated with colours and rich patterns; each principal is supported by a stone corbel, gilded, representing an angel playing on a musical instrument, and the ceiling is painted blue, and splangled with gilded stars. The floor is laid with encaustic tiles of a rich pattern, in yellow on a red ground, and stone alleys, with borderings of inscription tiles containing sentences from the office for the consecration of a church. The seats are open, but quite plain, without poppy heads or any other decoration, being simply paneled. They are made of elm, and the warm tint of the wood is extremely pleasing in its general effect, harmonising with the colours of the walls most admirably. The tower, which is open to the nave to the height of the floor of the ringing chamber by a large arch of several feet in depth, profusely ornamented in its moulding, is separated from it by a wrought iron screen of good design having large gates. A poor box is placed on each side of the great arch. The floor of the tower is laid with tiles having the armorial bearings of the Talbot and Comyn families thereon, intersected by borders. Four sexfoil-shaped coronæ of iron and brass, painted and partly gilded, are suspended from the roof by

single lights. The following scripture is painted round each corona: "X Domine da nobis lucem." The walls of the south aisle are painted red and ornamented with crosses, surrounded by floriated circles of elegant design; the ceiling is blue and



THE FONT

starred, to correspond to that of the nave, the rafters, beams, etc., having a rich continuous pattern painted along them. The western end, or bay, of this aisle

font, which is octagonal in plan, is made of alabaster, and is fixed upon a step in the centre of the baptistery. The sides of the bowl have quatrefoils, in deeply-recessed panels, surrounded by a floral moulding, containing emblems of the Evangelists and angels bearing crowns. From under the pedestal, at the corners, four monsters are represented as escaping, emblematic of original sin being washed away by baptism. The font cover is of oak, and consists of a canopy, supported by eight flying buttresses, with pinnacles, quatrefoils, etc., terminating in a finial, to which are affixed the chain and weight for raising and lowering it. The wood work is all richly painted and gilded, and most of the ornamental work in the alabaster is gilded likewise. The annexed engraving of the font shows its general form and ornamentation. The stained glass window of the baptistery is divided by mullions into three lights; the centre one having a representation of St. John the Baptist holding the Lamb; above the Holy Spirit is descending, surrounded by rays and seven stars. Three praying stools are placed in the aisle, and on the one opposite the Chapel of the Sacrament this inscription is carved: "X Adoremus in æternum sanctissimum sacramentum."

The Chapel of the Blessed Sacrament is divided from the south aisle by a stone arch and a screen of brass, and on the wall, over the arch, is painted an extremely rich and beautiful cross, surrounded by angels as in adoration, and the inscription: "X Adoremus in æternum sanctissimum sacramentum." On the pavement in front of the arch are these words: "Domine non sum dignus," and on the risers of the steps to the chapel: "X Domine

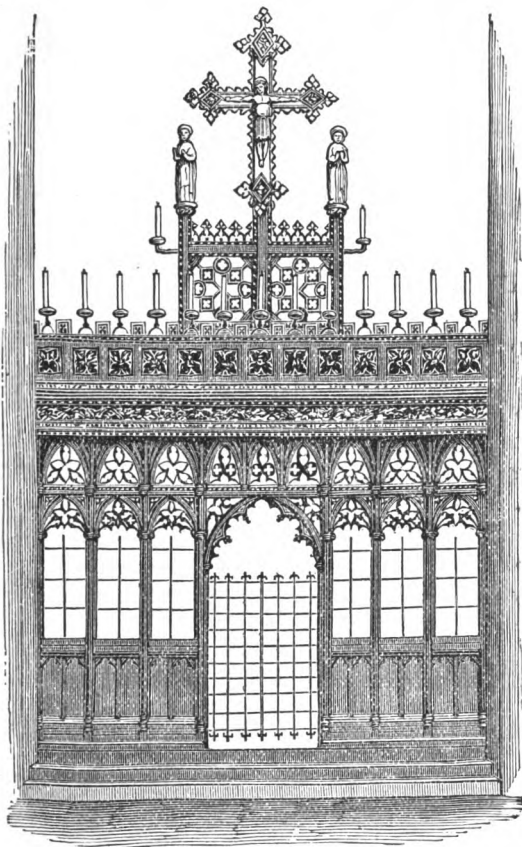
cœlo dedit eis." The open screen of wrought brass is one of the most sumptuous pieces of workmanship it is possible to imagine. It consists of four arches springing from shafts, and the openings filled with smaller shafts supporting crosses, terminated with fleurs-de-lis, enshrouded in an arched formed framework, rising from the shaft below, and joining it again above the cross. The top of the screen is an open cresting, exquisitely wrought into fleurs-de-lis and crosses, and over the principal shafts are crowns for tapers. The lower panels are filled with perforated circlits, having quatrefoils within them also of open work, encircling chalices with the Blessed Sacrament and the Lamb alternately. This screen was nearly two years in hand, and is most wonderfully wrought, the workmanship being so elaborately and highly finished. The interior of the chapel is marvellously decorated and gilded. The groining of the roof, which is of stone, is diapered with elegant enrichments, the spandrels being filled with passion flowers and foliage, and circles containing lambs, bordered with a flowing pattern; the bosses represent vine leaves and grapes. A pattern of vine leaves decorates the lower portion of the walls, whilst the upper part is adorned with crowns, surrounded by rays alternating with crosses. The floor is laid with tiles having appropriate symbols upon them, as the Lamb and Cross, and the word "Sanctus" within a border.

The altar is of alabaster, and winged cherubim fill the compartments into which it is divided; the sculptured work and cherubim are relieved with gilding. The reredos, or back of the altar, is of tiles, made of the finest porcelain. exquisitely

window is divided into three lights by two mullions, and is filled with stained glass, the centre light having an image of our Lord under a lofty canopy, terminated by a cross; under the feet of our Lord is this scripture, "× Amen, amen, dico, vobis, ego sum panis vivus qui de cœlo descendit." Figures of the Evangelists occupy the other portions of the window. The stained glass in the side windows represents cherubim holding labels with texts in honour of the Blessed Eucharist, surrounded by a pattern of vine leaves. The coronal is divided into six parts, and is inscribed, "× Virtus × honor × sapientia × charitas × benedictis × fortitudo," symbolic of the attributes of God. The candlesticks and other furniture of the altar are of the richest description, and ornamented with appropriate symbols.

A lofty and wide arch divides the chancel from the nave, in its mouldings and thickness covered with painted ornaments; and above the arch, filling the wall to the roof, is a noble painting, executed by Hauser, at Rome, of the Doom or Last Judgment. It is crowded with figures, and, in its effect, admirably adapted to the place it fills. Extending across the chancel arch is a beautiful rood loft, made of oak, and profusely decorated with colour and gilding. It consists of a centre doorway, a richly decorated arch, the spandrils filled with tracery, with three arched compartments on each side, separated by shafts, whence rises beautiful groining, which overhangs, as in some old examples, still remaining. The spandrils of the groining are painted blue, and spangled with stars, whilst the

portions of the compartments are paneled with trefoil-headed arches. The bressumer is most exquisitely carved, having foliage, grapes, etc., and



THE ROOD LOFT.

this scripture, "X Christus, factus est obediens usque Google

est super omne nomen." Thirteen pierced quatrefoils protect the sides of the loft, and above them are as many candlesticks for holding wax lights, and between these latter are pierced battlements. The great rood, or crucifix, rises from the centre of the loft; the cross is crocketed at the sides, and at its extremities are the emblems of the Evangelists in floriated quatrefoils. Images of the Virgin and St. John are placed on pedestals, which are joined by exceedingly rich tracery to the foot of the crucifix, and at the sides of the pedestals are sconces and wax lights. The gates of the rood loft are of iron, painted blue.

The chancel, nearly as wide as the nave, but not so lofty, is more elaborately and splendidly decorated than any other portion of the Church, its walls being wholly gilded, and its roof, arched and divided into panels by moulded ribs, is profusely adorned with gilding also; angels holding scrolls, with scriptures from the Te Deum, Benedictus, etc., encircled with garlands, are painted at intervals on the walls, connected by quatrefoils and foliage; and in the panels of the roof are monograms of the Holy name, having radiating borders; gilded stars likewise add their richness to the roof. Immediately under the ceiling, a stone string course runs on each side of the chancel, having angels sculptured on it, and gilded and painted. In the south wall is a large arch, having gates which open into the Chapel of the Blessed Sacrament, and, nearer the altar, are the sedilia, on the three steps leading to the platform of the altar. These are surmounted by beautiful

moulded and recessed arch, most exquisitely ornamented; under which is the sepulchre for the Easter service, and a nicely executed picture of the Entombment adds to its decorations. A small doorway by its side leads into the sacristies.

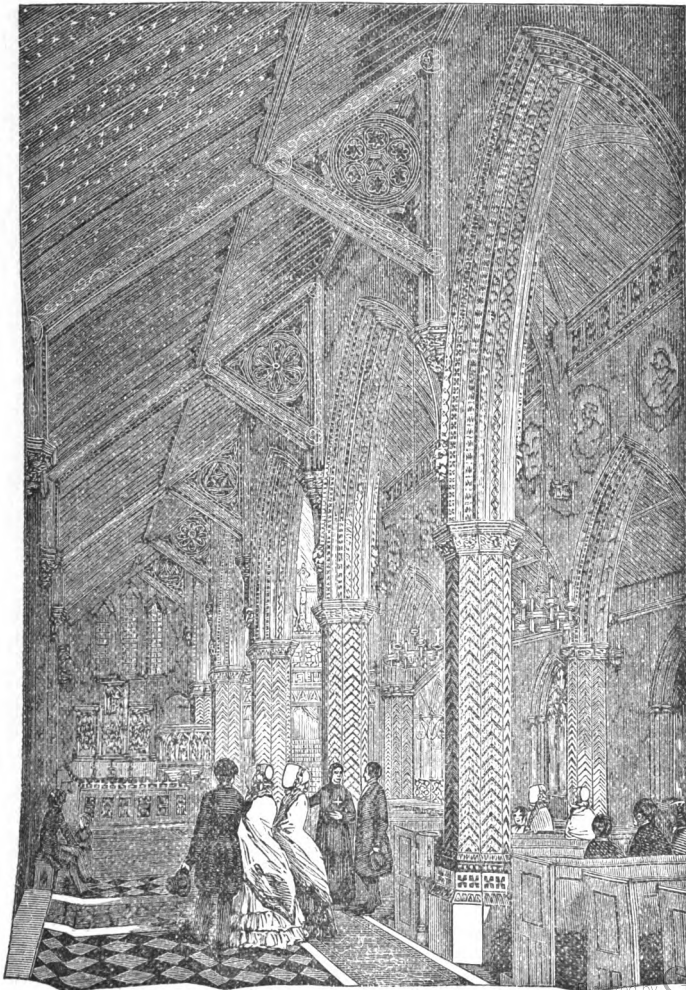
The high altar is made of alabaster, its front adorned with rich tabernacle work, under which are sculptured angels, seated on thrones, playing on musical instruments, the whole being enriched with colour and gilding. The reredos of the altar is most elaborate, its centre compartment having a sculptured representation of the Coronation of our Blessed Lady, whilst in three niches, on either side, are angels with tapers and thuribles. Above these is a string course, with angels, crowned with a pierced brattishing level with the sill of the east window; metal brackets at the ends of the string course, projecting from the wall, sustain tapestry curtains, having cyphers worked on them.

The east window, the tracery of which is of excellent design, is filled with stained glass, representing the genealogy of our Lord. In canopied niches on each side of the window are images of St. Giles, the patron saint of the church, and St. Chad, the patron saint of the diocese. An ancient corona of wrought iron, most exquisite in design and execution, hangs in the centre of the chancel. This corona was brought from Flanders.

The walls of the north aisle are painted blue, with the letter M, enriched by a floriated border, diapered upon it. The floor is, like the nave and south aisle, laid with encaustic tiles, and along the side and end walls of both aisles a stone seat is built, and to the height of about four feet five inches

The Lady Chapel is in the eastern bay of the north aisle, and is divided from it and the nave by a low screen of oak, paneled, with quatrefoils painted in them and crested with iron wrought into fleurs-de-lis and gilded. The floor of this chapel is laid with encaustic tiles, having roses and lilies on them emblematic of our Lady. The altar, of alabaster, is divided into five niches, three in front and two at the angles, each enshrining an angel carrying an emblem, and the whole is richly painted and gilded. Over the altar is fixed the centre of an ancient triptych carved in oak, of most elaborate and skilful workmanship. It is a Flemish work of art of the fifteenth century. The subject represented in it is the Passion of our Lord. Immediately above the triptych are three arches of the organ loft, and at its side is the doorway into the pulpit, whence a staircase communicates with the sacristies. The pulpit, which is affixed to the east wall and adjoining both the nave and Lady Chapel, is octagonal, and is of stone richly sculptured and gilded. In five of the niches which adorn it, the subject of St. John the Baptist Preaching in the Wilderness is represented; St. John occupying one niche and the listeners the others. In the niches towards the Lady Chapel are images of Saints Francis, Dominic, and Bernardin, the three great Friar preachers. In the south aisle are three praying stools, to correspond to those in the north; on the one next the Lady Chapel is this inscription: “+ Vigilate et orate.” The side window of the chapel represents, in the centre light, our Lady holding our Lord; and in the side lights the

In the representation given of the interior of



INTERIOR OF THE CHURCH.

north aisle are embraced ; and in the spaces between the pillars the rood loft and coronæ of the nave may be seen, as also a part of the gorgeous screen of the Chapel of the Sacrament. The general effect of the rich diapering on the pillars and arches is indicated, as well as the ornamental details of other parts of the church. The praying stools have been omitted, to show more clearly the screen of the Lady Chapel.

The organ loft, which is over the sacristy, and opens into the chancel by three arches, and also, as mentioned above, into the Lady Chapel by three arches, contains a fine toned organ.

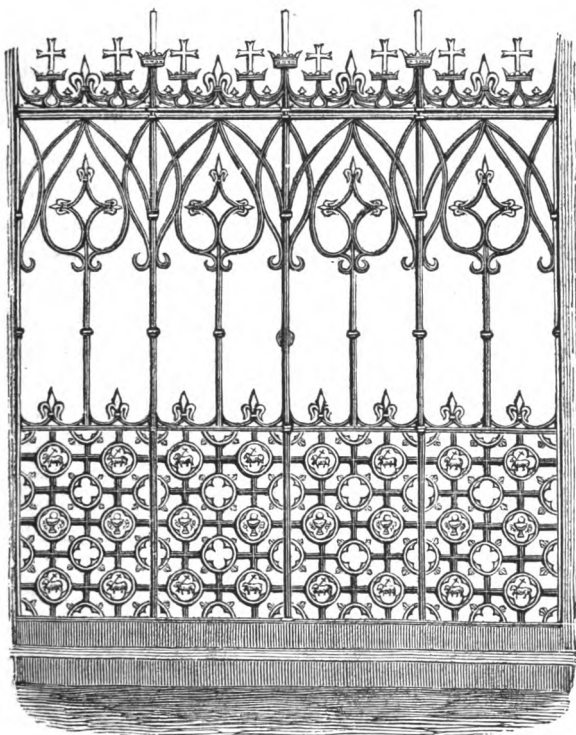
The stained glass windows of the aisles represent the Virtues—such as Humility, Charity, Mercy, etc., personified by females overcoming contrary vices, portrayed by animals.

When the church is lighted up for evening service the effect is gorgeous in the extreme ; the gilded and diapered walls of the chancel glowing in the flood of yellow light of the tapers at the altar ; the glistening gilded ceiling, forming a rich background to the lofty rood, with its pierced and elaborately-traceried screen ; the coronæ in the nave lighting up the painted and gilded pillars, their soft light fading away in the deep blue roof, whence the gilded stars sparkle with exquisite richness—form a picture, once seen, not easily forgotten. (*Illustrated London News.*)

In the spacious churchyard, near the south porch, is a beautiful stone cross, of which a representation is given. It consists of a flight of steps, on which the base is raised, which is embattled, and at the angles having emblems of the Evangelists. At

tall floriated shaft supports a crucifix, under a canopy; and on either side are images of St. Mary and St. John, on branches which spring from the shaft. (See page 135.)

The church, cross, lich gates, and churchyard wall, are built of a red sandstone, quarried on the



BRASS SCREEN TO THE CHAPEL OF THE SACRAMENT.

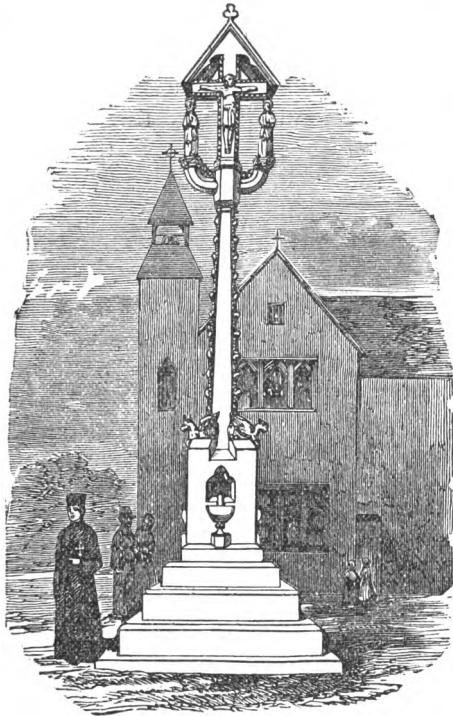
Earl's estates near Cheadle, and the wood used in its construction was also from his estates.

All the encaustic tiles were made, from Mr.

and do infinite credit to the artisans employed by them.

The church was consecrated on September 1st, 1846. A writer in the *Morning Post*, referring to the proceedings, said "It is not easy to convey by words any idea of the general effect. Bright and glittering colours, gorgeous decorations, beautiful paintings, meet the eye on every side, till the senses become dazzled; and perhaps if there be a fault, it is that the eye seeks in vain for repose from the splendour with which it is surrounded." The splendidly elaborate painting, pencilling, and gilding of the interior, the beautiful proportions and the sumptuous fittings, combined towards an effect which the writer above quoted described as "unequalled in any religious edifice of the present time." The consecration ceremony occupied four hours. On the following day the church was opened. Both the consecration and the opening services were attended by a numerous and influential body of people, amongst the visitors to the Earl and Countess of Shrewsbury at Alton Towers being the Austrian Ambassador and his Countess, the Sardinian Minister, the Archbishops of Damascus and Sydney, Bishops Walsh, Wiseman, Griffiths, Briggs, Gillis, Riddle, Wareing, Sharples, Morris, Brown (of Wales), Brown (of Lancashire), Ullathorne, Lord and Lady Dormer, Lord and Lady Camoys and the Hon. Miss Stonor, Lord Vaux, etc. A Catholic authority wrote of the ceremonies "Many highly respected clergymen of the English church, and various members of other dissents, watched with profound attention a spectacle of which it were difficult to say, in these days of the revival of ancient piety—in these days of the fast decline of

typical ceremonies, the beauty of the building—Pugin's masterpiece—the concourse of personages, illustrious for rank or character, or both—the great and impressive eloquence of the preachers, or the presage of future ecclesiastical triumphs in the same



STONE CROSS.

scene—were more indicative of the life, the strength, the immortality, the unchangeable hope, the inspired faith, the more than maternal charity, as well as the

speaking of the occasion, wrote, " We do not think it an exaggeration to say that during the three centuries which have elapsed since England abandoned the Catholic church, and casting loose from the centre of unity, suddenly erected for herself an insular dissent, a provincial faith, and an Anglican communion, calling them the great, universal, ancient, and unchangeable religion, established by Christ, not for this or that particular country, but for 'all men and for every nation'—during those three centuries, no ecclesiastical event has happened in the British Isles so touching or so sublime as the recent opening of Lord Shrewsbury's church at Cheadle. Everything increased and glorified the beauty, the majesty, and the importance of the occasion. Our entire English hierarchy with the exception of two Bishops, whom illness kept away, were present, with great and solemn jubilee; and not our English hierarchy alone, but the very ends of the earth seemed to rejoice at the scene in the persons of those two illustrious archbishops, one of whom rules over a diocese in which the fruits of summer bloom on Christmas day, and the other sways the ancient and venerable crozier of Damascus. The Catholic church seemed to stand bodily out before the gaze of men, crowned with all her antiquity, arrayed in all her universality; she had risen in her majesty and in her might, she had put on her brightest glories to honour the memorable and historic act of a man who bears a memorable and historic name." Anyone visiting the magnificent edifice at the present time cannot fail to see that this "revival of ancient piety" has not been maintained so far as Cheadle is concerned, and it is a melancholy fact that a building of so much splendour and built

falling into decay. It is now easy to find more than one spot in the interior of the structure on which the eye can "repose from the splendour with which it is surrounded."

The Independents or Congregationalists, who worship in Bethel chapel, commenced their religious services in Cheadle in a cottage about the year 1797, and for some years afterwards they were chiefly "supplied" by itinerant ministers from the Tabernacle at Hanley. The old chapel was erected in 1799. The Rev. Thomas Pritchard was the first ordained minister, and he held the office of pastor for several years. On his retirement, the Rev. James Clark, of Brigg, Lincolnshire, received a "call" to Cheadle, which he accepted; and under his ministry in 1819 the chapel was enlarged. In 1837 the congregation built school rooms, the Rev. Dr. Raffles, of Liverpool, preaching the opening sermons in the Wesleyan chapel, which was kindly lent for the occasion. Mr. Clark held the pastorate for twenty three years, and his remains now lie in the graveyard near the chapel. He was a faithful and devoted servant of God. The Rev. Thomas James, of Leafields, near Cheadle, was the next minister, and, on his retirement, he was succeeded by the Rev. H. J. Hulme, of Hanley, who laboured very earnestly amongst the people, as well as in the Sabbath school, in addition to faithfully performing his duties in the pulpit. He was cut off in a very solemn manner. On a Sunday evening in April, 1842, immediately after giving out his text—"For God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life"—he fell dead in the pulpit. His sudden death was much

Robinson, of Westhoughton, Lancashire, was the next minister, and it was chiefly through his exertions that the new chapel was built. The old school rooms were pulled down and incorporated in the new chapel, which is a very neat structure in the Gothic style of architecture and capable of seating 350 people. It was opened June 24th, 1851, by the Rev. Dr. Raffles, of Liverpool. Mr. John Holmes was the architect of the building, and also the contractor for the work, the cost of the chapel being £1,700. The old chapel is now used as a school. Mr. Robinson died a few days after the opening of the new chapel, and since that time there have been several ministers, the congregation having sometimes to rely on itinerant preachers from the Potteries.

John Wesley, in the course of the great evangelistic work which he carried on in England, halted at Cheadle on his way from Derby and Ashbourne to Newcastle-under-Lyme. This was in 1785, forty five years after he separated himself from the Moravians and began to exert himself indefatigably in organising Methodism. Wesley delivered one of his clear and argumentative discourses from a horse block under the shadow of a tree (of which many were then standing in High street) opposite the Royal Oak Hotel. "Give to the winds thy fears" were characteristically said and sung by him on that occasion.

John Wesley and his followers met with rough treatment in South Staffordshire. Wesley himself was dragged through the streets of Walsall amidst cries from the maddened crowd of "Knock his brains out," "Down with him," and "Kill him at once." A few days later the constable at Tipton was

had received information "That several disorderly persons, styling themselves Methodist preachers, go about raising routs and riots, to the great damage of his Majesty's liege people, and against the peace of our Sovereign Lord the King." Methodism made its way in the south of the county, notwithstanding popular fury was for a time directed against it in its early days. In the north of the county, and particularly at Cheadle, its course was comparatively smooth. John Wesley preached here with much fervour and made many converts. Charles Wesley preached about the same time in the neighbourhood of Dilhorne. The Wesleyan Methodist community, both in and around Cheadle, is now respectable as to numbers and influence. At first the Methodists held their thinly-attended meetings in cottages; but as years passed by they gained strength, and in 1812 the Wesleyan Methodists of Cheadle reared a chapel in what was then called Smithy lane and is now named Chapel street, to accommodate three hundred persons. A commodious school was erected in Charles street in the year 1872, towards the cost of which large contributions were made by the late Miss Shepherd, who became a resident in Cheadle in 1870, and whose influence for good was soon felt amongst the poor of the town. She was constantly desirous of doing something for the cause of God. She learned the lesson that true religion consisted not only in prayer, the study of the scriptures, and attendance on the public worship of God, but also in works of charity and mercy. (Memoir of Miss Shepherd.) In 1871 the Rev. Edward Smith was appointed by the Wesleyan Methodist Conference to labour in the Cheadle

revival of religion broke out in the town and other parts of the circuit, and he was supported by a noble band of men and women. The congregations increased and the schoolroom became too small to accommodate the numbers of children who attended on Sunday. Miss Shepherd felt a deep interest in the welfare of the young people, and she started and very liberally supported a scheme for building a new schoolroom. The school is a neat building, and cost upwards of £1500, of which sum Miss Shepherd contributed nearly £1000. A white marble tablet at the south end of the school-room contains the following inscription:—"The Trustees of these schools gratefully acknowledge their indebtedness to Miss Shepherd, by whom the foundation stone was laid on the 4th of April, 1872, and through whose great liberality they have been enabled to commence and complete the erection."

Zion Methodist New Connexion Chapel was built in 1820, at a cost of £600, and will accommodate about three hundred worshippers. It was connected with the Hanley circuit till the year 1822, when that circuit was divided, Cheadle being one of the societies constituting the Longton circuit. The schoolrooms were built in 1839 and enlarged in 1875.

The Primitive Methodists commenced preaching in Cheadle about the year 1820, their first preaching place being the residence of Isaac Hammond at Town End. After worshipping there for several years the little congregation held their meetings and services at the house of George Mellor, near Cheadle Mill,

notwithstanding its name, the young society was making, and in his zeal for the cause he offered £100 towards the erection of a chapel. Others gave according to their means, for the little congregation received small sympathy and no support outside their own denomination, and eventually in 1848, a chapel was reared for the accommodation of three hundred persons. Schools were added in 1859. For some years Cheadle was in the Ramsor circuit, but it is now the head of a circuit itself.

Miss Bourne, sister of the late Mr. John Bourne, surgeon, who died in October, 1877, bequeathed £2,000 towards the establishment of a dispensary for the poor, to be conducted on the principle of many of those charitable institutions spread about the country which have been erected and are "supported by voluntary contributions." To the same lady Cheadle is indebted for a bequest of £500 with which to provide the town with a public drinking fountain on a site and in a style to be determined by trustees appointed for that purpose. Both these objects have been accomplished. The dispensary was opened in the early part of 1879, and provides medical advice and attendance for the families of the working classes of the town who are not receiving parish relief. Mr. J. W. H. Mackenzie is the medical officer. A handsome drinking fountain has also been erected at the top of High street, opposite the parish church yard.

In 1839 an institution was established which was called the Cheadle New Book Society, and Messrs. Hyde and Crewe were appointed treasurers. The second rule set forth "Each member shall pay on

fourth rule was "Every member residing in or within a mile of the town of Cheadle shall attend eight monthly meetings every year; and each member residing at a greater distance four monthly meetings, or forfeit 6d. for each meeting omitted." There were stringent regulations as to the damaging of books and lending to non-subscribers. The thirteenth rule read as follows: "Any member who proposes a book above the price of £4 4s. shall take the same at two-thirds of the price unless an advance on such price shall be made." The fifteenth rule exhibited the happy combination of business and pleasure (dining) arrangements characteristic of Englishmen of the present and more than one of the past generations: "On the last Tuesday in May, yearly, each member shall meet and dine at the house of Miss Munton, the Royal Oak Inn, in Cheadle, under the forfeiture of 2s.6d. to Miss Munton towards the expense of providing dinner. The members to meet at twelve o'clock for the transaction of business and for the sale of books, which will take place before dinner."

The Book Society was the forerunner of the Mechanics' Institution, which, as at present constituted, was established in January, 1851. The Institution has had many fluctuations of good and ill fortune, but has risen in the estimation of all classes in the town. It is conducted on principles perfectly free from sectarian or party peculiarities, and numbers amongst its members persons of every religious denomination and political creed, the object of the promoters and supporters of the institution being to create in the minds of the

The Cheadle Gas Company was formed in 1842. The inhabitants in public meeting assembled at the Royal Oak Hotel, had the year previously affirmed that it was desirable that gas should be introduced to the town, and as the capital required was not large the amount was soon subscribed. The original promoters were Mr. Catlow, solicitor, and Mr. Hardy, surveyor. A suitable site was purchased near the Brook House, and the capital of the company was subsequently increased to £4,000. Mr. Richard Sutton has been chairman of the directors since the formation of the company.

The Cheadle Waterworks Company was formed in 1853-4. The late Francis Hardy and John Reynolds Catlow were the original promoters of the company, and caused the same to be duly registered. The amount of capital raised was £4000 in 400 shares of £10 each. Even this comparatively small capital was not raised without much difficulty. Mr. Hardy was the secretary from the commencement up to the time of his death. Messrs. Catlow and Daniel were the solicitors, and Mr. Edward L. Gisborne was the engineer for carrying out the works. The original capital was insufficient to enable the promoters to bring the project to a practical issue, and a further sum of £2,000 was raised, making the capital of the company £6,000. The works are situate on Monkhouse Hill, an abundant supply of water having been found at a depth of 60 yards, the sinking being through the sand and conglomerate to the Bibley rock, just overlying the coal measure. The water, which is

of Directors is Mr. Richard Fryer Smith, and the Secretary to the Company is Mr. Benjamin Thacker.

Almost simultaneously with the final determination of the inhabitants to have a railway, one of the townsmen (Mr. Machin) commenced the publication of a newspaper. Number one appeared September 6th, 1877, and was introduced to the public with the following modest prospectus: "The *Cheadle Herald* is intended to supply a want which has been felt for a long time in Cheadle and district. Its columns will be open for the free discussion of the views and opinions of all classes and parties. No abusive or scurrilous language will be permitted. The proprietor respectfully invites the public to co-operate with him in his endeavour to make it a first-class country journal."

Amongst the social institutions introduced into Cheadle is a lodge of "ancient, free, and accepted masons." It is impossible to fix the date of the origin of freemasonry and not easy to account for the continued existence of the institution. There is no doubt, however, that it has flourished through many centuries; that for several generations past in England at least it has been conducted on the principles of "morality and virtue;" that it is now essentially a social fraternity whose members are united together for charitable purposes in the best sense of the term; and that though there may be some amongst them who do not always practice what they profess, who are not a credit to the craft, the same remark applies to the members of all associations on whatever foundations they may be

statutes having been passed prior to that date "allowing Freemasons to practice their craft in any town in England, though not free of that town." Henry VI. countenanced Freemasonry by becoming a member and Henry VII. became the Grand Master of the fraternity. Charles II. and William III. were masons. In 1742 the Duke of Cumberland was elected Grand Master, and was succeeded in that office on his death by the Prince of Wales, afterwards George IV. The present Prince of Wales is the Grand Master, and other members of the Royal Family belong to the fraternity. Popes, too, according to Aubrey's Natural History of Wiltshire, countenanced Freemasonry:—"Sir William Dugdale told me many years since that about Henry the Third's time the Pope gave a bull or patents to a company of Italian Freemasons to travel up and down all Europe to build churches. * * * They are known to one another by certain signs and watchwords: it continues to this day. They have several counties for their reception, and when any of them fall into decay, the brotherhood is to relieve him, etc. The manner of their adoption is very formal, and with an oath of secrecy."

Freemasonry abounds to a large extent in Staffordshire at the present time, and many members of the order in Cheadle and the neighbourhood a few years ago, being almost isolated from association with other towns, either belonged to lodges which they could seldom attend, or remained unaffiliated. They decided upon petitioning for a warrant to constitute a lodge of their own, and the petition having the support of the late Earl of Shrewsbury, the Right Worshipful Provincial Grand Master of

charter was granted by the Earl of Carnarvon as pro Grand Master, and bears date December 18th, 1875. It authorised the formation of a lodge to be named St. Giles and numbered 1587. The warrant was signed by Lord Skelmersdale as Deputy Grand Master, the principal officers named in the petition being Henry Wardell, W.M.; Robert Plant, S.W.; and Harry Wilson, J.W. The Lodge was consecrated in May, 1876, by the late Earl of Shrewsbury, in the presence of upwards of eighty brethren. Brother Charles Lee, the Provincial Grand Chaplain, delivered an eloquent oration to the members present, on the principles of Freemasonry, which made a deep impression on many of those who heard it. Having observed that the consecration of a lodge exhibited the spread and progress of the craft, he spoke of the universality of Freemasonry, and said it bade its members regard all mankind as brethren. He urged them to discharge their masonic duties "with fervency and zeal;" to act outside the lodge as they were taught within it; to discharge their duties to their Creator, their brethren, and themselves on all occasions; and to continue to let charity be their distinguishing characteristic as the best means of silencing foolish and uninstructed men who said Freemasonry existed only for selfish conviviality and self-indulgence. After the consecration ceremony, the installation of the W.M. and investiture of the officers took place, the following receiving appointments besides the W.M. and Wardens already mentioned: Bros. Benjamin Thacker, Treasurer; James Williamson, Secretary; S. Collis, S.D.; W. Vernon, J.D.; J. P. Hall, D.C.; J. W.

CHAPTER IX.

HIGH SHUT TREE — HALES HALL — SIR J. BANKS
— WOODHEAD HALL — MISS SHEPHERD — J. M.
BLAGG — GREENHILL.



ABOUT a mile due east of Cheadle, on an elevated piece of barren land called High Shut, stands a dark fir tree. In days gone by, when the population of the surrounding neighbourhood was less numerous than now, and roads were less frequented, the fir tree at High Shut stood a guide to the wayfarer for many miles. Though exposed to the tempest for three centuries, it still stands erect and in full foliage, occupying a spot from which may be seen the churches of Cheadle, Kingsley, Ipstones, Foxt, and the stately mansion of the Earl of Shrewsbury at Alton. Tradition says that in the days of superstition, not many generations ago, the people of the neighbourhood heard strange sounds if they walked round the tree a given number of times. And even at the present day, some of the Moorland villagers, on their way to and from Cheadle, avoid the footpath which runs close by the tree, and firmly believe that a walk

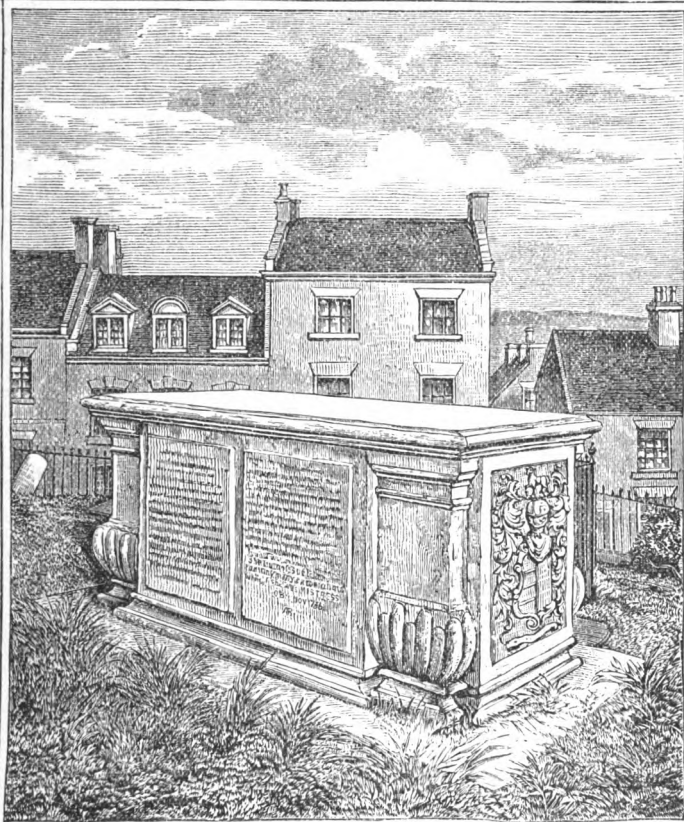
Midway between High Shut tree and the town of Cheadle is Hales Hall, which derives its name from Sir Matthew Hale, Lord Chief Justice of England in the reign of Charles II. Bishop Burnet



HIGH SHUT TREE.

has left an interesting Life of Hale, who it appears, when a young man, came under the notice of Seldon, the great antiquary, to whom this property then

his death in 1654, bequeathed this property to Hale, who died in 1676. It is uncertain whether at that date there was then a residence here or not; but the existing house was built in 1712 by Archibald

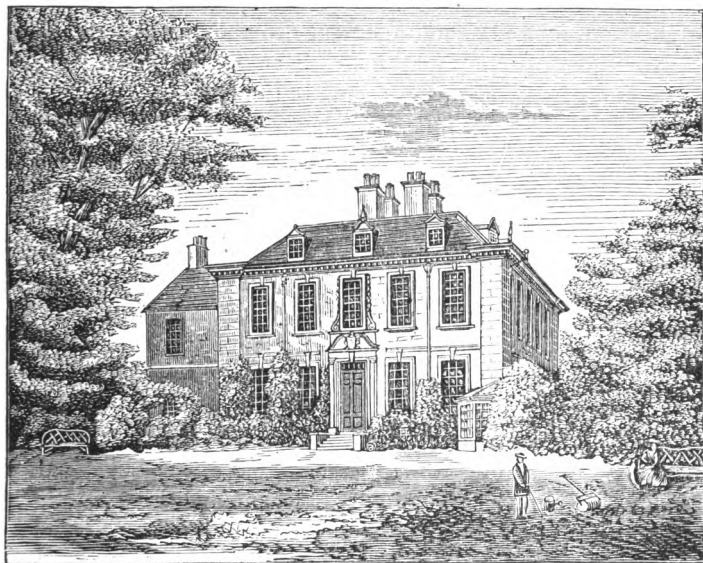


TOMB OF THE GROSVENOR FAMILY.

in the churchyard at Cheadle (See page 83). In the chancel of Bushbury church the arms of "Byhsbury and Grosvenor" are conspicuous; and a brass plate, recently put up in Cheadle Church, shows that Hales Hall was inhabited by Richard Moland, of "Bishbury." There is also evidence that Edward Grosvenor resided there in 1787. It is probable therefore that the Molands of Bushbury were friends or perhaps relations of the Grosvenor family.

Sir Matthew Hale was a very learned man, a sound lawyer, and an exemplary christian. Illustrations of the inflexible integrity with which he acted as judge have been recorded. A noted peer went to his chambers and told him that having a suit at law to be tried before him he was there to acquaint him with it, that he might the better understand it when it should come to be tried in the court. The Lord Chief Justice interrupted him, saying he did not deal fairly to come to his chambers about such affairs; for he received information of such causes but in open court, where both parties were to be heard alike. His Grace (for it was a Duke) went away not a little dissatisfied, and complained of it to the King as a rudeness that was not to be endured. But his Majesty bid him content himself that he was used no worse; and said that he verily believed Hale would have used him no better if he had gone to solicit him in any of his own suits. Another remarkable incident happened in one of his circuits. A gentleman who had a trial at the assizes had sent him a buck for his table. When Judge Hale heard his name, he asked if he was not the same person

gentleman answered that he never sold his venison, and that he had done nothing to him which he did not do to every judge who went that circuit. This was confirmed by several gentlemen present. The Judge, however, would not allow the trial to proceed until he had paid for the present; upon which the gentleman withdrew the record.



HALES HALL.

The illustrious Chief Justice left an injunction or advice to his grandchildren in the following terms: "I will not have you pledge any health, for it is become one of the greatest artifices of drinking and occasions of quarreling in the kingdom. If you pledge one health, you oblige yourself to pledge another, and a third, and so onwards; and if you

debauched and drunk. If they will needs know the reason of your refusal, it is a fair answer 'That your grandfather that brought you up, from whom, under God, you have the estate you enjoy or expect, left this in command with you, that you should never begin or pledge a health.' "

Sir Matthew Hale might well condemn health drinking, for in his days it was used, or rather abused, for the encouragement of excess at which all virtuous people must have been appalled. The custom has, however, a foundation and a sanction in the social feelings, and consequently, though it has had many up and downs, it has always hitherto, in one form or another, maintained its ground. It is no part of the object of this history to pursue the question, but it may be mentioned that the practice which was repugnant to Sir Matthew was anathematised by others before and after his death. Charles the Second issued a royal proclamation setting forth "Our dislike of those who, under pretence of affection to us and our service, assume to themselves a liberty of reviling, threatening, and reproaching of others. There are likewise another sort of men, of whom we have heard much, and are sufficiently ashamed, who spend their time in taverns, tipling houses, and debauches, giving no other evidence of their affection for us, but in *Drinking* our HEALTH."

For many years, when men were more superstitious and women more timid than they are in these days, Hales Hall, like many other old mansions, was shunned as a haunted house, and continued to be so up to a comparatively recent period. The story still told (and believed in by many) is to the effect

of terror in the minds of the people followed the perpetration of a horrible murder; that a mock funeral was celebrated, the funeral procession going from Hales Hall to Cheadle churchyard; that a coffin of unusual shape was deposited in a grave in that burial ground; and popular belief connects this coffin with the deformity discovered in the Grosvenor vault exposed in 1870. (See page 82). However, for two generations Hales Hall has been owned and occupied by the family of Whieldon.

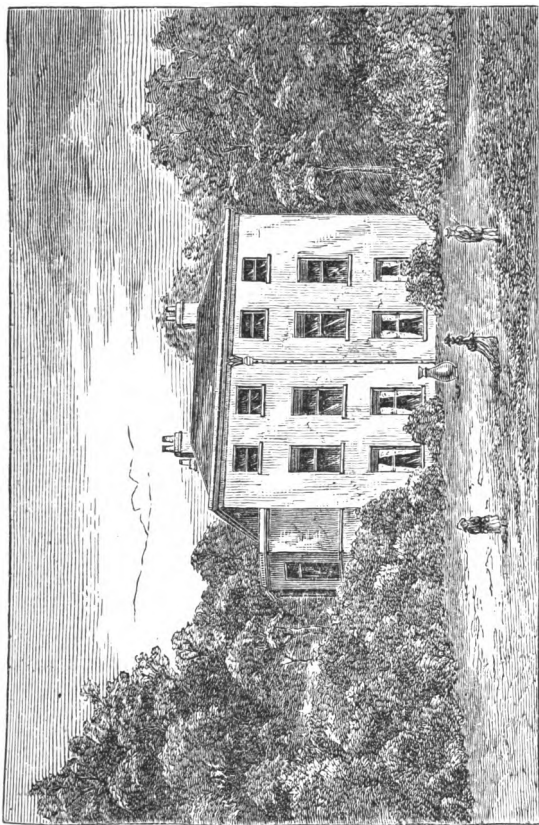
The present occupier is the Rev. Edward Whieldon, the vicar of Bradley-le-Moors, a parish of 661 acres, containing in 1871, a population of 42. According to the Diocesan Calendar that living is worth £60 a year; the church will accommodate 90 and eight of the sittings are free. Mr. Whieldon is also vicar of Croxden, the population of which in 1871 was 187. The church accommodates 110, and has thirty free sittings. The living is worth £98.

Sir Joseph Banks, the naturalist and fellow voyager with Cook, had property at Cheadle and once resided there. He made a voyage to Newfoundland and Labrador collecting plants; and from 1768 to 1771 he sailed with Cook round the world in the capacity of naturalist, and wrote the botanical descriptions for the first voyages. In 1772 he visited the Hebrides and Iceland, whence he brought back a rich treasure of specimens for his studies in natural history. In 1777 he was elected President of the Royal Society, an office which he held for forty-two years; and in 1781 he was created

bread fruit tree was transferred from Otaheite to the West Indies, and the Mango from Bengal, as well as many of the fruits of Ceylon and Persia. Many naturalists and travellers were indebted to him for zealous and disinterested assistance in their labours. During the French War, Sir Joseph Banks did much to alleviate the sufferings of all men of science, used his influence with government to procure the restoration of their papers. No man of science appealed to him in vain for pecuniary assistance; and his splendid library of natural history was at the service of those who desired to consult it. With the exception of articles in magazines, and contributions to the publications of learned societies, especially to the "Philosophical Transactions," Sir Joseph has written nothing but two small works—"A short account of the Causes of the Diseases in Corn, called Blight, Mildew, and Rust," which was printed for his friends in 1803, and for the public in 1805; and "Circumstances Relative to Merino Sheep," published in 1809. Besides a valuable library, he left a rich collection of specimens in natural history, both of which he bequeathed to the British Museum. Sir Joseph Banks was born in January, 1743, and died June 19th, 1820.

Perhaps Woodhead Hall is more noticeable for its associations of the 19th than for those of the 18th century. The old Hall was built by Mr. Lea in 1719, on a site which was well chosen, though the surrounding scenery was then much less attractive than at the present time, the whole face of that part of the county having since completely changed. The distant hill sides have been planted with trees, and the neighbourhood is extremely picturesque. The

who in his turn sold it to Mr. I. Thompson. In 1841 it was purchased by Mr. William Allen, who died April 1st, 1871, and it was inherited by his son, Mr. William Shepherd Allen, M.P. for Newcastle-under-



WOODHEAD OLD HALL.

Lyme, the present possessor of the Woodhead estate. The late Mr. Allen, a successful merchant, resided at Woodhead Hall for upwards of a quarter of a

benevolent spirit was felt by the inhabitants of Cheadle, by whom his memory is revered. Mr. W. S. Allen has since his father's death demolished the old hall, and built a new one almost upon its site on a more extensive scale.

No History of Cheadle would be complete which failed to mention some of the good deeds done by Mary Shepherd. Miss Shepherd was a native of Melton Mowbray, having been born there on the 29th of December, 1798. Some years afterwards her family removed to Manchester, and at her mother's death in 1848 she removed to Kingsley, about a mile from Woodhead Hall, where Mrs. Allen, her sister, at that time resided. At Kingsley her active mind found plenty of work to do. In a memoir of Miss Shepherd by the Rev. Buckley Yates, it is related that "In former years Kingsley was noted for its great wickedness and immorality, for its drunkenness and other demoralising habits, for its cock fighting, bull baiting, pigeon shooting, rabbit coursing, dog fighting, and other games of the same character. All the sin, misery, wretchedness, and poverty that inseparably attend such games were prevalent in Kingsley. The games brought some of the very worst roughs and vagabonds of Staffordshire to witness the scenes. On one occasion a bear got loose and caused a terrible panic in the place before it could be secured." The church, the Wesleyan chapel, and the Primitive Methodist chapel (Mr. Yates acknowledges) had already effected an improvement before Miss Shepherd arrived at Kingsley, but the village was still in a deplorable condition ;

Society, a Band of Hope, and Bible classes, and originated the scheme for the Kingsley Temperance Hall, in connection with which there is a library. Her influence for good has been felt in the village to the present day.

Miss Shepherd removed from Kingsley to Cheadle in 1870, and continued her active interest in the welfare of those by whom she was surrounded. She employed a missionary to labour in the town. She engaged him on the undenominational principle to visit the sick, distribute tracts, and hold cottage meetings separate and apart from any section of the church, and continued to support him for some years. She believed that a town missionary, working on unsectarian principles, and not connected with any church, would be more successful and be a greater blessing to the town than any man could be that joined a church. In this she was disappointed. In order to provide a counter attraction to the public house in Cheadle, Miss Shepherd established and maintained at her own expense a British Workman Public House, and supplied it with daily papers and other interesting periodicals. It did not accomplish the object she had in view, and after a few years it had to be abandoned. Her interest in the Wesleyan Sunday school has already been noticed. Miss Shepherd died on the 3rd of January, 1876.

The gentleman whose features are portrayed as the frontispiece to this work, John Michael Blagg, was honourably associated with Cheadle for a period considerably longer than the average life of man. Mr. Blagg's name was placed on the rolls as a solicitor in 1816. He was extensively known throughout the county of Stafford as a solicitor of

fought the registration and election battles for the Liberal party in North Staffordshire with great energy and success before and after the Reform Bill of 1832. He was also distinguished as a cautious and successful practitioner in the law courts; but it was in his capacity of conveyancer and family solicitor that he chiefly excelled, and it is said that during a professional career of over sixty years he never accepted a faulty title or caused any of his clients to regret having resorted to him for advice. Mr. Blagg retired from active practice about the year 1873, but he retained his name on the roll of solicitors and occasionally assisted his son and partner some time longer. He died on the 25th of March, 1878, at the advanced age of eighty four years.

In private life Mr. Blagg was well known as a man of kindly and affectionate disposition, and of simple unostentatious habits. Until prevented for the last few years of his life by the infirmities of age he took an active part in all public and charitable business in the town and neighbourhood.

Mr. Blagg occupied some of the leisure hours of the last years of his long life in writing to his working class neighbours a letter on the importance of thrift and industry. Various causes prevented the publication of this letter during his lifetime, but his family have carried out his intention "by printing these last words, in the hope that many who might not have paid much heed to his advice while living may yet regard with interest and attention this voice from the grave." Mr. Blagg points out very forcibly the misery which waste-

apt quotations from Mr. Smiles's books and by illustrative anecdotes from various sources shows how the opposites of those evil habits have led to wealth and great distinction many who sprang from the humblest ranks of society.

Mr. Blagg warmly approved the projected History of Cheadle, and readily gave permission for the same to be dedicated to him. As unfortunately he did not live to see the issue of the work, the dedication is to his memory. Every one who knew John Michael Blagg will, on opening the book, appreciate the lines of Cowper :—

I venerate the man whose heart is warm,
Whose hands are pure, whose actions and whose life
Coincident, exhibit lucid proof,
That he is honest in the noble cause.
To such I render more than mere respect,
Whose actions say that they respect themselves.

The earliest deed extant relating to Green Hill, one of the finest residences near Cheadle, is a marriage settlement dated in the year 1767. The house is therein described as a "new erected capital messuage or tenement called Green Hill." It was then the property of Mr. Edward Leigh, who married Elizabeth Hodgson, daughter of Mr. Bryan Hodgson, of Ashbourne, and on their marriage in 1767 Green Hill was settled by Mr. Leigh in favour of his wife and their children.

In the year 1806 Mr. and Mrs. Leigh and their eldest son, the Rev. Thomas Leigh, sold the property to the late Mr. Thomas Griffin, from whom it passed to his two single daughters in the year 1819, and who lived there for the rest of their lives.

On the death of the last Miss Griffin in 1849 it was sold to Mr. Paddock, and by him it was sold to

CHAPTER X.

CHARLES ASKIN—ELECTRO-PLATING—DR. LOWE—
LONGEVITY—THOMAS FISHER—JOHN ROGERS—
ANN SPILSBURY—ECCENTRIC PEOPLE—MR.
GIBBONS—MR. HOLMES.



ANY great discoverers and benefactors of the human race have had their doings chronicled in history and enshrined in literature. But there have been other men, equally deserving of fame, whose praiseworthy doings have been left unchronicled, and whose memories are, as yet, "unhonoured and unsung." One of these was a native of Cheadle, Charles Askin by name, the following notice of whom is condensed from an article in the *Birmingham Daily Mail*, December, 1878.

To form some idea of the extent to which the present generation is indebted to modern discoverers and inventors, mentally contrast a modern dinner table with an ancient banquetting board. The appointments of the latter were as rude as the uncultivated tastes of the people, who cut the flesh from the joints with the pocket-knives they carried, some of which, may be, on the same day had disembowelled a stag, or let out the life-blood of a

personages as Henry VIII., and his great Chancellor, Cardinal Wolsey—had to feed themselves with their fingers.

Queen Elizabeth was the first English Sovereign who used a fork. Her nobles and people thought it a piece of affectation on her part, and her example was only scantily followed. Even so late as the reign of George I. they were so little known that few inns provided them for the use of guests, so that "it was customary for gentlemen, in travelling, to carry with them a portable knife and fork in a shagreen case." Forks were at first invariably made of steel, and they had but two prongs. Silver forks were brought into England soon after the opening up of the Continent to travellers after the fall of Napoleon in 1814. For years after this time, however, they were only seen in the houses of the higher classes, and even there only on specially festive occasions.

At that time plated goods were little known, their use being circumscribed by the difficulties in the processes of manufacture. The only method of plating then in use was that which is still adopted in making reflectors and similar articles. It may shortly be described as veneering sheets of copper with a coating of silver, the latter varying in thickness according to the intended use.

About the middle of the last century the workers in the Royal silver mines of Saxony found some ores which they had not before met with. They were very dense, and their fracture showed surfaces which were bright, whitish, and very glossy. They were so hard that there was the greatest difficulty in working

presence of the troublesome ores to the malevolence of demons, by which they supposed the mines to be haunted. They called one variety "Nykker," from their name for the devil, or "old Nick." The other they called "Kobold," the North-German name for goblin. From these strange origins arose the two modern names—Nickel and Cobalt. Large quantities of cobalt, after having been roasted to expel the arsenic it contained, were exported to the Staffordshire Potteries, where a number of colour makers still further manipulated the ore, extracting therefrom an impure preparation of cobalt, which they sold to the earthenware manufacturers under the name of Zaffre-blue. The nickel which the ore contained they could do nothing with, and it was thrown on one side as useless.

Eventually, in 1827, a German named Guitner, by making a mixture of copper, spelter, and nickel obtained a compound greatly resembling the Chinese metal in colour and appearance, but it was very hard. It was capable of being cast into various shapes, but being neither ductile nor malleable the scope of its utility was very limited. Some spoons and forks were, however, cast from it, and were sold under the name of Argentan. Such was the position of affairs when the genius of Charles Askin, a veterinary surgeon, was brought to bear upon the subject, and he—a self-taught metallurgist—set to work to investigate the properties of the strange metal.

Charles Askin was the son of a linen draper at Cheadle. He was born in the year 1788, and was brought up to his father's business. He disliked the

and acquaintances even in early age he was known as "the schemer," and on several occasions he nearly frightened his parents out of their senses by explosions in his little laboratory. One of these explosions was of so serious a nature that its report caused the greatest consternation in the town. At his father's death the drapery business fell to him, and he immediately sold it. He went to London, where he entered upon the study of veterinary surgery, meanwhile attending such scientific classes as were within his reach. Having passed the requisite examinations, he went to Birmingham in the year 1827, and commenced practice as a veterinary surgeon. He was tolerably successful, but the practice of his profession did not satisfy his scientific cravings. Every moment he could spare he devoted to chemical investigation, principally in reference to metallurgy. At that time the bottom of his premises abutted upon the end of a garden belonging to a Mr. Evans. Mr. Evans had several sons who were fond of metallurgical pursuits. With these young men Mr. Askin became very intimate. Soon afterwards two of the Evans's took some ironworks in Poland and removed to Warsaw. While on a visit to his friends at Warsaw, he saw in a shop some spoons and forks of a new metal, as he thought, some of which he purchased. He was told that they were made of "Argentan." Accidentally letting one fall, it broke in two, exhibiting a dull gray fracture, in which his practised eye enabled him to see imperfections and impurities, all of which he thought were caused by the faulty nature of the nickel, which

brother offered him the use of a laboratory at the Leamington gasworks, and there he set to work. He obtained a quantity of the refuse ore from the Potteries, and commenced an elaborate series of experiments extending over some six months. At length he succeeded in producing a specimen of Argentan or German silver, which was certainly soft and pure.

A partnership was formed between Mr. Askin and the brothers Henry and Theophilus Merry, under the firm of Merry and Co., and the process of making soft and pure German silver was commenced; the waste ore from the blue manufactories in the Potteries being bought for the purpose at three halfpence per pound. The trade was an immediate success, but for some reason the partnership arrangements were unsatisfactory, and Mr. Askin at the end of thirteen months retired from the firm, taking with him as his share of the profits for that period no less than £1,500.

Mr. Askin was once more "thrown upon the world." Brook Evans, seeing that Askin's discovery had all the elements of a great success, came forward with ample means and the necessary business qualifications, and the firm of Evans and Askin was formed. They started a business which, after more than forty years of opposition and competition, is still the largest in the kingdom, if not in the world, in the nickel and German silver trades.

The demand for the new metal became so large that the stock of crude nickel "speiss" which had accumulated in the Potteries was soon exhausted, and no other supply being known to be available,

to what was to be done, for it seemed as though the German silver trade must die for want of nickel.

Their anxiety as to the future supply was intensified by the fact that just at that time a new and most important outlet had been discovered, which was likely to create an extraordinary demand. This was the discovery of the electro-plating process. For some years the attention of scientific men had been directed to the subject of depositing the precious metals upon bases of inferior value. In 1840, Messrs. Elkington, in conjunction with some of their employés, had made some valuable discoveries in this direction, which they were about to patent, when a Birmingham surgeon, named Wright, found by using the cyanides of gold or silver he could obtain solutions of those metals which were easily deposited in the metallic form upon other metals by magnetic or galvanic action. This discovery was, by arrangement, included in the patent which was being taken out, and the processes of electro-plating were secured to Messrs. Elkington's firm.

Messrs. Elkington had, at first, many difficulties to contend against. The most serious was the failure of the supply of nickel. The stock of "speiss" in the Potteries, as has been shown, was exhausted, and it seemed as though the great discovery of electro-plating was to become useless through the scarcity of the chief material upon which its value depended. Mr. Brook Evans came to the rescue. He started off to the Continent on an exploring expedition. After many fruitless enquiries for nickel ores, he went to Dobshau in the Carpathian Mountains. At this place he found a mine of the metal he was in search of, and bought all the ore his means would allow.

that the difficulties of the firm of Evans and Askin were at an end.

But they had only just begun. The ore, when received, was found to be entirely different from that which they had previously used, and the processes hitherto adopted were useless in the manipulation of the new ore. It was found on analysis to contain nearly equal quantities of nickel and cobalt, besides copper, bismuth, iron, arsenic, and other admixtures. Samples having been sent to the Potteries, it was found that the colour makers there could make nothing of it, and such was its stubbornness to treatment that Messrs. Evans and Askin were almost in despair, and success seemed as far off as before.

Mr. Askin prepared for further experiments, and when the time arrived to apply a new re-agent he found, to his great annoyance, that his stock of the chemical was only one-half of the quantity he proposed to use. In sheer desperation he emptied the bottle into the solution, and, as he expected, only half the proper amount of precipitate was thrown down. Upon filtering it and examining the precipitate he found, to his intense surprise and delight, that it was pure oxide of cobalt, not a particle of nickel being present. He then tried another precipitant upon the remaining solution, the result of which was a deposit of oxide as free from impurity as the cobalt.

The victory was won. The work of his life was accomplished. The dream of years had become a realisation. From that day Charles Askin was entitled to be classed with those who patiently and

everlasting honour as benefactors of the human race.

But for this opportune discovery the business of electro-plating must have been very limited, and its benefits to mankind would have been comparatively unknown.

Nothing has yet been said as to the other discovery—the pure oxide of cobalt. This has created a complete revolution in the ornamentation of ceramic wares.

Nor is this all. A gigantic industry has sprung up. In England, France, America, and indeed all over the world, thousands of artisans are employed in carrying into daily use the fruits of Charles Askin's insight and industry. Truly he may be said to be worthy of all honour wherever his works are benefiting mankind.

Mr. Askin and his partners established a very large business and accumulated ample fortunes. Mr. Askin was not destined to enjoy for many years the competency he had secured. He was about to retire from business, and had made arrangements to do so. At the request of Mr. Brook Evans he consented, before doing so, to visit Norway, in which country Mr. Evans had purchased a nickel mine in the romantic mountain village of Gusdal. He was accompanied by Mr. Forbes, a gentleman connected with the firm, and they stayed at the house of the pastor of the village. On the 25th of August, 1847, Mr. Forbes playfully suggested that he and his friend should stand back-to-back to ascertain which was the taller. As they stood up to do so Mr. Askin sunk upon the floor a corpse.

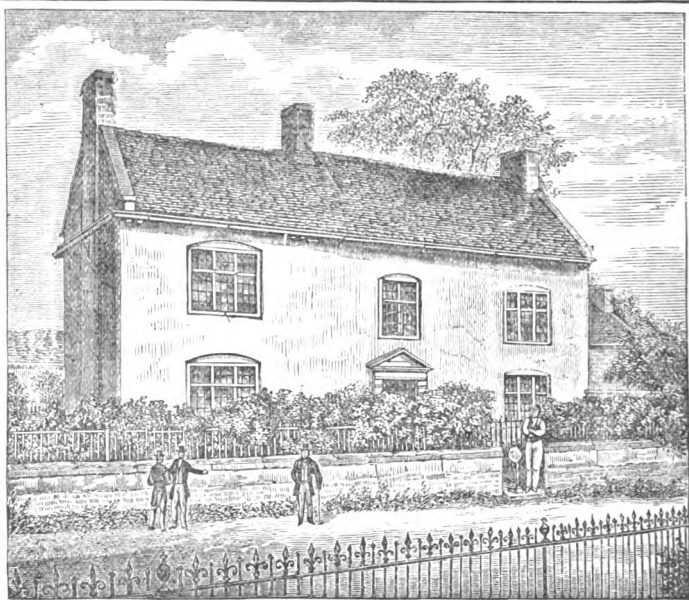
As his life had been eventful, so his death was not unattended by romantic incident. He was buried in

country, however, desired that his remains should rest in England, and directed that his body should be exhumed and sent home. In pursuance of these instructions the body was brought to Christiania, but on arriving there the winter had so far advanced that the navigation was closed by ice. The coffin was then buried a second time in the cemetery of the city. In the spring it was again exhumed, but owing to the superstition of the sailors, who refused to sail in a vessel containing a corpse, there was considerable difficulty. This at length was overcome by extra payment. Strange to say, the vessel met with a fearful storm in the German Ocean, and had to be abandoned. It was, however, brought into Yarmouth as a derelict, and eventually the body found a resting place in the churchyard at Edgbaston, where it lies in close proximity to those of his faithful friends and partners, Alfred and Brook Evans.

Dr. Lowe, father of the celebrated physician of that name who attended the Prince of Wales in his long and severe attack of typhoid fever, was a native of Cheadle, and a good representation of the house in which he lived and died is here given. The late Dr. Lowe was a successful practitioner in Cheadle, where he was much esteemed, notwithstanding his occasional eccentricities, which sometimes caused him to be ridiculed by his townsmen, and which led to his being satirised by the "Moorland Bard," Thomas Bakewell, in an impromptu couplet, which, however, is scarcely worth reproducing.

The following are instances of longevity:—On December 10th, 1803, at the poor house in Cheadle, Thomas Fisher died in his 99th year. He was one

in taking Cape Brereton and Louisberg; and he particularly distinguished himself at the memorable battle of Quebec. More recently, namely, in November, 1877, another old warrior died in the Cheadle workhouse. His name was John Rogers. He was born in 1795, and entered the 45th Regiment



DR. LOWE'S HOUSE.

of Foot in June, 1812. He served under the Duke of Wellington during a portion of the Peninsula campaign, and was severely wounded at Vittoria, where he was taken prisoner. He was released from

CHAPTER XI.

THE CHEADLE RAILWAY SCHEMES—THE CHEADLE
COLLIERY COMPANY.

RELATIVELY, Cheadle was of much more importance in the first half of the present century than it is now. At the former period it was known as a market town, whose inhabitants witnessed the daily arrival and departure of coaches, which gave them the same facilities for travelling that the people of most other places possessed. In these days of rapid travelling its whereabouts is sometimes ascertained by the process of expensive experience. Not more than three or four years since a public inquiry, directed by the Local Government Board, was to have been held at Cheadle workhouse. The Guardians and others interested assembled from various parts of the union at the appointed time, and learned by telegraph that the Government Inspector engaged to hold the inquiry had just previously arrived at a village in Cheshire where there is a railway station, so that the proceedings had to be adjourned till another day. Many commercial travellers starting on their first journey have made similar mistakes. The effect of its complete isolation from the railway system of the country has been that the town has not increased in population to any appreciable extent, nor has the industry of the place been developed to a title of its

with almost marvellous rapidity in population, industry, wealth, and all that aids in constituting the greatness of the nation. Railway accommodation has long been felt to be needed to convey rapidly and cheaply the goods already manufactured in Cheadle and the neighbourhood to distant places; to export coal and ironstone to other districts, the yield of minerals being largely in excess of the local demand; and to expedite business operations of every description.

It is perhaps difficult to understand all the influences brought to bear upon the engineering arrangements in the early days of the North Staffordshire Railway Company.* Between Uttoxeter

*Something of the spirit of railway promoters in those days may be gleaned from a ballad by old Gervase Forester, who turned his attention to the composing and singing of such pieces after he had failed in business as a maltster, his bankruptcy occurring in 1838. The North Staffordshire Railway Company was formed in 1845, and in the following year the ballad in question was published by Old Forester. It was entitled "The Rival Railway Bubbles; or, Which is the most Feasible Line? A new song to the old tune of the Cork Leg. By old Gervase Forester, of Cellarhead, the balladmonger." There was a chorus. "Ritooral, etc.," after each of the following five verses:—

Oh dear ! oh dear ! now what shall I do,
For Law is so flat and my clients so few ?
Sure the world is quite full of vexations and troubles,
And nought now is heard of but new schemes and bubbles.

My professional *brother* outrivals a few,
With his feasible scheme of "Buxton and Screwe;"
I'll oppose him—that's flat—'tis sure to pay well,
Like the Jew with his razors, I'll make one to sell.

A flaming prospectus shall forthwith come out,
'Twill be swallowed instant, I haven't a doubt,
In great meetings be called, resolutions debated
By a batch of new squires who have just been created.

We'll talk most immensely of coal and of lime,
Of plans and of sections and of saving of time ;
We'll puzzle the natives with much show of sense ;
It signifies nothing if we get the pence.

You've a *Sharpe* and you've also a sharper than *he*,
But they are dust in the balance when pitted with *me*—
A superlative lawyer (I'll not boast at all)
Though one's *Sharpe* and one's sharper, I'm sharper of all.

and Stoke a line of railway runs, with its nearest station four miles from Cheadle on one side; and between Uttoxeter and Leek a line runs almost an equal distance on the other side of the town. Thus two lines are made through thinly-populated portions of North Staffordshire, while a more populous mining, manufacturing, and agricultural centre has been left without railway accommodation. Cheadle has consequently not only been prevented from growing as it might otherwise have done, but it has been cut off from the prospect of remedying the inconvenience, except by the formation of a new company and obtaining Parliamentary sanction to the construction of a line of railway which, when carried out, will be a great feeder to the North Staffordshire Company, who run no risk in the enterprise. The line from Uttoxeter to Stoke was opened in August, 1848, and from Uttoxeter to North Rode in July, 1849; and since that time there has been a desire to connect the town with one of those lines, decided preference having always been given to a line on the Blyth Bridge or Cresswell side, rather than to connection with the Churnet Valley. In 1867 and in 1869 schemes were projected, but collapsed for want of support; and from the latter date until quite recently no earnest movement has been made to procure what is desired by all who live at or have business relations with Cheadle.

In the autumn of 1876 the railway question was revived, and a "Memorandum" was issued by Mr. Robert Plant, in December of that year, stating that the cost of cartage for mineral and other

than 7s. 6d. per ton for the cartage of general merchandize. The time had at length arrived through the development of the Cheadle coalfield, and the more recent important discovery of coal at the Park Hall and Birches Collieries, that some serious steps should be taken to promote the construction of a line of railway. Speaking of the value of the Cheadle coalfield, and taking figures as read at a meeting of the South Staffordshire Institute of Mining Engineers, there was not less than 176,000,000 tons of coal in that field; and the recent discoveries would very largely add to that estimate. It had therefore been proposed to apply to Parliament as soon as practicable for power to construct a line of railway to connect the town of Cheadle with the North Staffordshire Railway. Surveys had been made at various times, and the following schemes had been suggested for consideration:—

No. 1. A line commencing at or near Charles street or Major's Barn, Cheadle, *viâ* Huntley, Tenford Mill, Totmanslow, to a point of junction with the North Staffordshire Railway near to Newton Crossing, a mile south of Cresswell Station, with a branch mineral line or extension from Major's Barn, *viâ* Brookhouse and Park Hall collieries, in all a distance of about four miles.

No. 2. A railway commencing at a point of junction with the North Staffordshire Railway near to Oakamoor, Churnet Valley Line, *viâ* Old Furnace, Lightwood, to Charles street, Cheadle, with an extension *viâ* Brookhouse to Park Hall collieries, a distance of a little over five miles.

No. 3. From Charles street or Major's Barn, Cheadle, *viâ* Brookhouse, Park Hall, Godley Brook, Dilhorne, Caverswall, forming a junction with the North Staffordshire Railway at or near the Meir Level crossing, about a mile north of Blyth Bridge Station, a distance of a little over six miles.

Mr. Plant, in his "memorandum," examined the merits of the several schemes, and pronounced in favour of No. 1 scheme.

On the 10th of January, 1877, an influential

under the presidency of Mr. C. J. Blagg, for the purpose of appointing a committee to carry out a scheme for providing the accommodation which all parties regarded as necessary. The merits of the projects described in the foregoing "memorandum" were discussed. It was taken for granted that the principal traffic would be rather on the Potteries side than in the direction of the Churnet Valley, and the Oakamoor route was not much dwelt upon. The question which gave rise to argument was which of the other two routes was more practicable under all circumstances than the other. A communication was received from Mr. C. M. Campbell, Chairman of the North Staffordshire Railway Company, expressing approval of the movement, and adding—"Whatever may be the result of your meeting, I can confidently assure you of the desire of the North Staffordshire Railway Company to further the interests of Cheadle and to assist, as far as practicable, in any scheme which may open out the district." A resolution in the following terms was carried:—"That this meeting expresses its opinion in favour of No. 3 route, terminating at Blyth Bridge, subject to an investigation by a competent engineer, who shall report to another meeting before asking the public to subscribe the necessary capital." A committee was appointed to consider the question.

On the 13th of July another public meeting was held. The committee had in the meantime engaged Mr. Olebar, C.E., Westminster, who had surveyed two routes—one by Godley Brook and Dilhorne, and the other by a shorter and straighter route by

near the Stallington lane crossing. Mr. Olebar was in favour of the Godley Brook and Dilhorne route on account of the cost of construction and the cost of future working, as well as the prospects of picking up traffic on the way. The engineer suggested a station near Charles street and another at Godley Brook. The committee had consulted the North Staffordshire Railway directors, who were favourable to the undertaking, and were willing to work the line for 60 per cent. of the gross receipts. It was proposed to raise a share capital of £45,000 in 4,500 of £10 each. A resolution was adopted to the following effect:—"That this meeting, approving of the line to Blyth Bridge *via* Dilhorne, as shown by the plan prepared by Mr. Olebar, and recommended by the committee, pledges itself to support the undertaking, and will at once proceed to obtain subscriptions with a view to carrying out the Blyth Bridge line."

Parliamentary sanction to the undertaking was obtained in the session of 1878, the amount of capital subscribed up to that time having been £23,000. The capital of the company was fixed at £55,000, with borrowing powers to the extent of £16,000. Since "The Cheadle Railway Company" has been formed Messrs. W. Y. Craig, M.P., W. S. Allen, M.P., A. S. Bolton, J. Mann, and R. Plant have been named as the Board of Directors. Differences of opinion have arisen as to the route to be taken, No. 3 of those suggested in Mr. Plant's memorandum having at length been agreed upon in the main—namely, from a station at Charles street or Major's Barn, Cheadle, *via* Brookhouse, Park Hall, Godley Brook,

CHAPTER XII.

DRAYCOT—CHECKLEY—TEAN—ROCESTER—DENSTONE
 —ALTON—OAKAMoor—FROGHALL—CAULDON LOW
 —KINGSLEY—IPSTONES—CHEDDLETON—CAVERS-
 WALL—WESTON COYNEY—DILHORNE—BLYTH
 BRIDGE.



HAVING dealt with matters more particularly relating to the town, the attention of the reader will in this chapter be directed to those neighbouring places which are in the Cheadle Union, and whose interests are more or less bound up with those of the town; some of them, in fact, being wholly or partly in the parish of Cheadle. It is this close association of interests which, having regard to the title page of this work, renders somewhat copious notices of adjacent places necessary.



DRAYCOT, denominated Draycot-en-le-Moors in Ecton's Thesaurus and other old books, "the first parish in journeying from the south into the moorland part of Staffordshire," is 3,700 acres in extent, the greater portion of which belongs to Sir E. Vavasour, Bart., Lord of the Manor. The village

The church is situated on a hill in a pleasant rural spot near the village. It is dedicated to St. Peter, and is a Rectory. It is a neat structure of stone. The tower and the body of the church are modern, and the principal entrance is adorned with two Doric columns and a pediment ; but the chancel is Gothic. The nave of the church was rebuilt in 1727, and restored in 1849-50, when the chancel was rebuilt and the whole fabric thoroughly repaired.

The manor of Draycot was held after the Conquest, of the King, by Nicholas de Ferres, and soon afterwards by Nicholas de Draycot, who was the son of Philip, brother of William first Baron Malbank. In the time of Henry the III. Richard de Draycot was Justice of Chester. Of this member of the family of Draycot Erdeswicke writes that he, " Being a justice of Chester at the same time that John Scott was Earl thereof, forsook the coat of his father, and imitating his lord, bare, Gold, three pales, or piles (which you will, for all is one: for if they be made in a coat-armour or banner they must be made square at both ends, but if they be made in a shield they are usually made sharp at the lower end, as the shield is) and over all a bend ermine for his difference, to show he was a lawyer; and so it is made in Cheadle church, and his name written over it, which I doubt not was set up in Edward the First's time; but after his death his son Philip reassumed the *fretté cauton* and cross." Erdeswicke traces the lineage of the Draycot family for many generations before and after the time of Henry III., carefully noting their births, deaths, and marriages, and their occasional change of their coat of arms; but no great

end of the eighteenth century, living without any great mutations of fortune through troublous times, enjoying themselves as became their rank and wealth in times of peace, respected by their neighbours and friends.

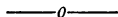
Painsley Hall, of which the moated site remained until a short time ago (Natural History of Staffordshire) was the family seat of the Draycots. The resting place of the family at the church is interesting. The most ancient monument is that of a crusader, in reference to which Mr. C. Lynam (Sepulchral Monuments of Staffordshire) says—"This is one of the earliest and finest examples of this class of monument. Within a recess formed in the thickness of the wall, the Knight lies just raised above the level of the floor, on a plinth truly characteristic of the period. His head rests on a simple pillow, and his feet on the body of a dog. He is clothed in mail from head to foot; that covering the hands is not divided for the fingers, which is a mark of early work. He wears a sleeveless surcoat, the folds of which reach to a little below the knee. His left arm bears a heater-shaped shield suspended by a guige from the left shoulder. His right hand clasps the hilt of a massive sword, which is carried by a belt across the loins. Altogether this is a monument which for breadth of design and dignified treatment is hardly to be surpassed." Another is a raised monument having thereon a portraiture of a knight in armour and his lady in the habit of the times she lived in, with this inscription :—

Heere lyeth the body o Sir Phillippe Draicote, Knight, and Dame Elizabeth his wife, one of the daughters and heires of John Fitzherbert of Northbury Esquire, which Sir Phillippe

At the top of the monument are a cross and the arms of Sir Phillippe Draicote. On the front of the tomb is first a man in armour; next, five boys in gowns, and lastly, six daughters. There are other monuments of the Draycot family. Several of them are of beautiful workmanship, and the hands, faces, and plate armour of the figures are delicately sculptured.

The Rectory is in the patronage of Sir E. Vavasour, Bart. It is worth £500, according to the Diocesan Calendar, and is held by the Rev. G. D. Bland, M.A. The National school, a spacious building, is near the church. The following are the names of some of the former Rectors: John Sherratt was inducted October 12th, 1678; Richard Jackson, January 19th, 1772; John Bill, August 15th, 1751; Robert Porter, June 8th, 1806; E. C. Sneyd Kynnersley, August 18th, 1838; C. W. Stocker, May 20th, 1841.

On a tombstone in the Draycot churchyard it is stated that Hannah, the wife of Thomas Barnes, of Draycott-in-the-Moors, died 17th December, 1777, aged 100 years, and on a stone in the same churchyard it is recorded that Mary Davenport, of Kingsley, died, aged 97 years.



CHECKLEY is a large and populous parish. The soil in most parts of the parish is good, particularly near the banks of the little river Tean, which runs through it.

The most conspicuous and interesting object in

with certainty. More than one writer has fixed the date as early as 1190; and one Beeke, a Norman Knight, endowed it, an entry on the subject being as follows:—" *Johes Beeke clicus admissus fuit ad Eccliam de Checkley ad puttacon* (or presentation) *Domni Nichi Beeke militi veri patroni* 1353." Erdeswicke, who commenced his Survey of Staffordshire in 1590, wrote, "20 Conq, Otha held Cedla [Checkley] of the King: it afterwards came, about King John's time, to be parcel of Ferrer's barony, but the means I know not. Now, the parson is the best man in the town, for he hath both a good tithe and a fair house, and a good deal of glebe land, and is lord of the town, and yet Beeke and his heirs were ever patrons of the church. In the church, being a goodly country church, is a fair monument of the Beekes, which the tenants of Taine seek to deface and suppress, by reason they would conceal a parcel of the tithes due for Beeke's lands, which, I think, was his demesne. There be also, in glass, divers fair monuments of the St. Mauves and others." In 1316 Henry St. Mauve was Lord of Fole, a part of Madeley Holme liberty (Diocesan Calendar, 1875). Afterwards it became the property of the Lord Windsors. In the church is a recumbent figure of a Knight in armour, no doubt representing a redoubtable warrior, unsheathing his sword, and, from his legs crossed, a crusader. The nave of four bays, and two aisles, is square on plan, about 50 feet. Six well tuned bells recast 1761 by the Rudhalls, of Gloucester, out of the four original bells, have on them the following inscriptions:—Treble; "Peace, good neighbourhood. 1761." Second: "God save the King and his Royal Consort. 1761." Third: "God preserve our Church and State. 1761." Fourth:

Fifth: "Henry Heneacks and Thomas Litely, churchwardens. 1761." Tenor: "To the church the living call, and to the grave do summons all. 1761."

In 1624 the sloping roofs were changed into a clerestory, and the upper part of the late Norman tower was also rebuilt. The tower arch agrees in date with the arches of the nave and is a great ornament to the church. The chancel with a continuous impost of Early English date, has bold and graceful mouldings. Three steps lead into the chancel, about 50ft. by 22ft., with four Early Geometrical windows of three lights on each side, having deep and bold mouldings, and at the intersection of the mullions joined by a rose, or the rising sun. The eastern window, about 30 feet high and 18 wide, has five lights filled with stained glass, contemporary with the celebrated windows in Merton College, Oxford, A.D. 1284, in geometrical leadings, with beautiful borders, on which appear the fleur-de-lis and castle, the cognizance of Eleanor of Castile, the Consort of Edward I., and other interesting ornaments. Amongst the subjects depicted is the murder of Archbishop Thomas à Becket in Canterbury Cathedral, 1170. An alabaster slab, 1554, is said to cover the remains of Thomas Chawner, the last Abbot of Croxden, and adjoining is an alabaster tomb, once gorgeously ornamented, on which is an inscription:—"Hic jacent corpora Godfridi Foljambe et Margaret uxoris sui qui quidem Godfridus obiit xx die junii, Anno Domini, 1560, et predicta Margareta obiit 1586, quorum animas propitietur Dominus." On the east end of the tomb is a rebus in a iamb and a coronet:

the aforesaid Geoffry Foljambe, of Walton, Derbyshire. On the stalls on each side of the chancel, linen pattern, 1445, are the initials, A.D., together with the crest and arms of the Draycots, which also appear in the upper lights of the east window, together with the arms of St. Maur and other families, and the probability is that the chancel was rebuilt by the Draycots, of Draycot, about 1300. Restorations of Checkley church, besides the warming and ventilating, were made in 1624, when the clerestory was built. Inscribed on a marble stone, south of the high altar, are the following lines:—

Heere lyeth the body of Iames Whitehall, late Rector of this place 20 and 2 yeares, who departed this life the 2^d day of March, 1644.

White as his name and whiter than this stone,
In hope of joyful resurrecoun,
Heere lyes that orthodox and grave divine,
In whom true virtue did so clearly shine.
One that could live and dye as he hath done,
Suffer'd not death, but a translation.
But out of charity Ile speak no more.
Lest his friends pine with sighs, with teares the poore.

On a gravestone laid before the high altar is recorded the death of John Taylor, minister of Checkley, which took place September 10th, 1659.

A singular coincidence in relation to two Rectors of Checkley may be briefly recorded. The Rev. Samuel Langley died on Sunday, the 10th of February, 1838. The Rev. W. Hutchinson, who succeeded Mr. Langley as Rector, died on Sunday, the 10th of February, 1879. Each of them finished his labours as village pastor by burying a corpse, and both of them died about the same hour of the day.

In 1835 new aisle roofs were covered with lead,

Hopton stone and Manx marble in pattern. In 1874 the whole of the inward fittings were removed and the organ enlarged, and placed in the eastern bay of the north aisle. The floors throughout were laid with Hopton stone and Welsh slate in pattern on concrete. Carved oak benches and carved bench seats for the clergy and choir, together with very valuable gifts of a stone pulpit and its fittings, an eagle lectern of oak, handsome service books, altar candlesticks, and oak screen for the vestry, have been presented by private liberality, and the whole work done "to the honour and glory of God." The living is a Rectory, under the patronage of the Rev. Edward Philips, and according to the Lichfield Diocesan Calendar it is worth £658 a year. It is now (1880) held by the Rev. Edward Philips.

At the end of the first register of Checkley parish one Thomas Woode signed a note acknowledging that he had committed a breach of the discipline of the church as then enforced. He made his submission in the following terms:—"I Thomas Woode doe humbly confess and acknowledge that I have grievously offended God in contemning his Ma^{ties} Godly and lawfull Governm^t and authoritie by absenting myself from church and from hearing divine service contrary to the goodly lawes and statutes of this realm, and in using and frequenting dissolved and unlawfull conventicles and assemblies under pretence and colour of exercise of religion, and I am hartely sorie in my conscience; that noe other person hath or ought to have any power over his Ma^{ties}. And I promise and protest without any dissimulation or any colour or meanes of any

statutes in repaying to church and hearing Divine Service and doe my uttermost endeavour to maintaine and defend the same." This was dated 28th April, 1632, and signed Ja. Whitehall, Rec. and Ffra. Thorley. Thomas Woode made his mark to the record, the attesting witnesses to the mark being Richard Rawlins and Anthonie Witherings, churchwardens.

Pitt says the inhabitants of Checkley and the neighbourhood have "a tradition of a battle that was fought a quarter of a mile east of their parish church in a place called Naked Fields, from the bodies of three bishops slain in battle lying there for some time after the fight: three tall pyramidal stones stand close together in the churchyard as a monument to these bishops." Another writer has stated that the battle in which the bishops fell is supposed to have been between the Danes and the English. Others, including the late Rev. William Hutchinson, have held the opinion that the stones were originally designed to commemorate some holy purpose other than perpetuating the memory of those who were slain in battle. Old inhabitants of Checkley at the present day readily recount circumstances which have been related to them by their grandfathers, and in which they have evidently as firm a belief as they have of their own existence. They say in effect that some time long since passed away a battle was fought on land now farmed by Mr. Stubbs, called Naked Fields; that the place was so called from the fact that soldiers of one army were taken by surprise while undressed and reposing; that the Deadman's Green farm, occupied by Mr. Gallimore, is so named from the fact that those who were slain on the neighbouring farm were buried there: that Checkley

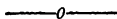
is so called from the "check" there sustained by the previously successful invaders; and that Tean was so named when the invaders were "ta'en" or completely overthrown there.

Mr. Redfern, the historian of Uttoxeter, referring to the stones mentioned above and the tradition connected therewith, says it is not improbable that a battle has taken place at Checkley; but it is doubtful whether the stones have any connection, in any way, with it, notwithstanding such is the popular belief. He is of opinion that the three stones were originally one monument (most likely the churchyard cross), which might perhaps be proved if the earth were removed from their base, although some portions where the fractures occurred may be lost. In support of this view, it is stated that if they were all made at one time for the purpose named (and they are all of one age, one kind of ornamentation, and all of red sandstone) it might be supposed they would all be of one size. But they are not. On the contrary, they are of three gradations, and, if put together, would make one uniform tapering stone about fifteen feet high, more or less, according to the length in the ground, and varying from one foot nine inches at the base to about a foot wide at the upper termination. There are defaced figures on two of the stones. The stone without figures, which does not seem to have sustained any fracture at the top, doubtless formed the terminal part. The ornamentation is evidently of Saxon type, but it would be difficult to decipher all the figures. One side of the widest part, or of the widest monument, speaking of the three parts as

defaced, scarcely any conjecture can be formed, but on both stones, the cross, interlaced, is perceptible in several places. The work has evidently been of a very elaborate description.

Dr. Whittaker, in his History of Whalley, in speaking of the divisions of the Northumbrian and Mercian Kingdoms, has an interesting note, in which he contends that the Calclinth, which was under the control of Offa, King of Mercia, was held at Checkley, and not at Culcheth, near Manchester, hitherto generally believed. In so doing he explains to some extent the old and singular traditions of the village, without proving the original object of placing the stones in the churchyard. It is strange, observes the doctor, that the attention of no antiquary has been directed to Checkley, in Staffordshire, as the real scene of this quarrelsome and opprobrious assembly. But upon every hypothesis Checkley was far within the limits of Mercia; and it is highly improbable that a Council in the decrees of which so powerful and spirited a monarch as Offa had so near an interest, would be permitted to assemble anywhere but in his own territories. Consider on what grounds the evidence in favour of Checkley rests. First, the initial "C" in Saxon was pronounced as ch in church. Calclinth then would be pronounced as Chalclinth, and the last consonants very indistinctly. Transpose the letters c and l in the middle of the word and the word became Chacii, or Checkley. Dr. Whittaker, in supporting this hypothesis, as bearing upon the traditions of the village about the battle, and the bishops, and the memorials in the churchyard, proceeds—"Compare these circumstances with the character of that Council, which is called in the

in the Lancashire dialect, which would be, literally translated, 'flitting') and the violence with which it is known to have been conducted, and there can be no doubt that the tradition is an exaggerated account of that event, whence it must follow that Calclinth is Checkley." The Saxon word appears to be in these letters "Gefhtfullic," and translated as above would imply that the Council (in this instance of a very violent character) was not always held at one particular place, but occurred periodically at different places.



TEAN is a large and pleasant division of Checkley parish, including the hamlet of Lower Tean and the large village of Upper Tean, both on the right bank of the little river of that name. The latter is noted for the extensive tape manufactory of Messrs. Philips and Co., who employ a large number of men, women, and children, both here and at Cheadle, as noticed in a previous page.

Tean has several places of worship. The church is a plain stone structure, in the Early English style, and was erected in 1843 by subscriptions and grants. The living, a vicarage, held by the Rev. G. T. Ryves, is in the patronage of the Rector of Checkley, and is worth £180. The Independents, Wesleyans, and Primitive Methodists have places of worship at Tean.

The following are the Checkley parish benefactions: The poor's land purchased in 1706 with

others, consists of three closes, comprising ten acres. The poor have also a field of four acres, called Stoney Low, purchased in 1727, with £71, given by Matthew Wright and others; and three acres of land near Checkley Bank, in the parish of Leigh, left by Elizabeth Whitehall. They have likewise £7 7s. yearly as the interest of £147, arising from the sale of timber, etc. Mr. John Philips, of Heath House, in 1810, gave to his nephews and executors a sufficient sum to purchase £3,000 three per cent. consols, upon trust, to apply the dividends thereof towards "the relief and support of such poor and distressed weavers as had been, or should be, employed in the tape manufactories at Tean and Cheadle." He also left £300, and directed the interest to be divided among the poor of Upper Tean. His widow, Catherine Philips, of Tean Hall, left £1,000 for the benefit of the poor of Upper Tean. This legacy was vested in the purchase of £904 6s. 3d. new four per cents. Francis Philips, in 1648, bequeathed to the poor of Upper and Lower Tean an annuity of 15s., charged on Tean Leys and Milwich fields. The poor of Lower Tean have 24s. yearly as the rent of Spencer Croft, left to them by a Mr. Spencer, and those of Upper Tean have 6s. yearly left by William Turner.

Mr. Francis Redfern, who has made a surface inspection of the district, has certified that no Celtic or Roman remains exist nearer Cheadle than Tean. A large barrow was opened at Lower Tean on the 29th of July, 1876, under the direction of Mr. Redfern. The floor of the barrow produced evidence of combustion having taken place upon it; and

covered. These include a ring in jet and six worked flints. On a subsequent day the opening in the barrow was much enlarged and a more thorough examination was made. Some more worked flints were met with, one being part of a flint saw, but there was no trace of human remains, except a tooth. The portion of jet ring was found near the surface, and the flints lay in the soil as if they had been scattered in it as the tumulus was in course of construction. Several fragments of pottery were also dug out, and, although vitrified, it was thought they were of the Roman period. Still, according to Mr. Redfern's views, the number of flints discovered affords conclusive evidence of the barrow being of Celtic origin.

Major Ashley discovered what he considered to be a Roman urn at Tean in 1728. It was at a place on the west side of the river some distance south of the tape mill, and which, at the time referred to, formed part of Major Ashley's garden. The urn was probably Celtic and not Roman.

ROCESTER, a parish situated near the Dove, was the demesne of Algar Earl of Mercia, in Edward the Confessor's time. He left it to his son Edwin, who forfeited by rebellion to the Conqueror, who gave it to Robert de Stafford, one of his followers. A monastery of Canons regular of St. Augustine was founded and endowed with large possessions and liberties at Rocester by Richard Bacun, nephew of Ranulph Earl of Chester, who confirmed them all to the Canons "to hold in pure

were confirmed to the monks by Henry III., in the 38th year of his reign, 1246. Some of the Stafford of Sandon family, who settled here, were great benefactors to the monastery, and in that part of the old parish church which formerly belonged to the monastery, there were monuments remaining of the Staffords. The site of the house and demesne was not only pleasant but profitable, being situated between the Dove and the Churnet. At the time of the dissolution of Abbeys this house was valued at £100 2s. 10½d. per annum. Thomas Trentham, a favourite of Henry III., obtained it of that Prince, and made it his residence. It was held by his descendants in the 17th century, when it was in a flourishing condition.

The old church at Rocester was an ancient structure dating from the time of the Normans, but its style of architecture was of a nondescript character. The position of the church is at no great distance from the site of the old monastery, and the foundation of the cloisters may yet be traced. The graveyard adjoining the church is very extensive, and several of the tombs date from the 17th century. In 1823 the church underwent a "restoration," but it was not such as to improve the by no means prepossessing appearance of the building. After this alteration it consisted of a nave, aisle, chancel, and west gallery, with a square tower. In 1871 it was resolved that the church should be almost entirely rebuilt. Towards the rebuilding fund Mr. C. M. Campbell put down his name for £1,000 (which by no means represented the full extent of his munificence), and many other noble subscriptions were

the tower, and this has been capped by a spire, the battlements and base being also renewed. The structure consists of tower, nave, south aisle, chantry, and vestry. The style is a mixture of Norman and Early English, and the building presents, internally and externally, an exceedingly neat appearance. The chantry is divided from the vestry and the nave from the south aisle by four arches, the pillars of which are of Devonshire marble, with foliated capitals. The roof of the church is open timbered. The pews are in the modern style, and will seat about 420 persons. The flooring is of encaustic tiles, those in the porch bearing the appropriate inscription "I will enter His gates with thanksgiving." At the time of the rebuilding of the edifice, Mr. Campbell, besides other gifts, presented land as an addition to the churchyard, and laid out and fenced the same at his own expense.

The parish register of Rocester commenced in 1565, and the date is recorded in these words: "xix Januaire A Dni. 1565, w^{ch} was y^e ffirst daie of my serving y^e cure in y^e church of Rocester. Rob. Smyth." The death of John Hill "miistre of Rocester" is recorded in the register under date May 16th, 1647. Another entry is "Mem. That I Geo. Lindley preach'd my first sermon at Rocester upon Trinity Sunday, being y^e (sic) anno Dni 1699." Another states "Richard Nash was put in to be Clark of Rocester Church 30th May, 1703, by Mr. Brian Harding, minister there 1703, who died in 1714."

In a paper read by Mr. Francis Redfern to the North Staffordshire Naturalists' Field Club in April,

DENSTONE ecclesiastical parish was constituted by Her Majesty in Council under the direction of the Ecclesiastical Commissioners, and was formed from the townships and places of Denstone-in-Alton, Denstone-in-Rocester, Prestwich, and Quickshill. Shortly afterwards the new church of All Saints, Denstone, was built, and it was consecrated by the late Bishop Lonsdale on the 24th of July, 1862. The new school house and parsonage for the use of the parish were erected by the liberality of Mr. (now Sir) T. P. Heywood, of Dove Leys, who also endowed the church with £150 a year. The church consists of nave, chancel, chancel aisle, bell tower, vestry on the north side of the chancel, and south porch. The church is built of Hollington stone. The chancel is apsidal, and in order to gain ample height for the eastern windows the walls are considerably higher than those of the nave. This makes the external proportions of the building of a rather unusual type. The ritual arrangements are very complete. A low screen of stone, inlaid with marble, spans the chancel arch. There are carved oak stalls for the clergy and choir; and the altar, raised six steps above the nave, stands forward in the centre of the apse, and has behind it a reredos of alabaster and marble, sculptured with the Crucifixion, St. Mary, St. John, and St. Mary Magdalene, and richly picked out with colours. The chancel walls are furnished with arcades, sedilia, piscina, and credence. A Scudamore organ stands in the chancel

angle of the nave. An inscription cut into the wall near the door announces that the seats are all free. The font is large, of alabaster and marble, and its bowl is sculptured with four figures representing the four rivers of Paradise. The floor of the church is of Minton's tiles, which, in the chancel, are largely mixed with Derbyshire and other marbles. The whole of the windows are filled with stained glass, executed by Messrs. Clayton and Bell, and are remarkably good. On the south of the church is the churchyard cross. The church stands midway between the parsonage and the school, all three being in the same style and of the most solid construction.

It will thus be seen that so far as the religious requirements of the inhabitants of this pleasant village are concerned ample provision has been made. But Denstone has been made much more widely known by reason of the establishment there of St. Chad's College, which forms a portion of a large educational institution for the Midland counties. It is conducted on the principles of the Church of England "as set forth in the Book of Common Prayer and administration of the sacraments and other rites and ceremonies of the church," and is in federal connection with St. Nicolas' College, Lancing, founded by the Rev. Canon Woodard. According to a circular issued by the local committee, in November, 1866, Sir T. Percival Heyward, Bart., gave £1,500 and a site in the parish of Denstone. At that time St. Nicolas' College being in possession of a fund available only for the extension of its work, the gift of Sir Percival Heyward was accepted, and it was

Hurstpierpoint. It is now thirty years since a society was established in the south of England to which the name of St. Nicolas College applies. It has established three great schools in Sussex—one at Lancing, where the sons of gentlemen are educated and boarded at a cost of from £55 to £85 per annum; one at Hurstpierpoint, where the charge is from twenty seven to thirty guineas; and one at Shoreham, where the annual charge is only fourteen guineas. It is a feature of the scheme that surplus funds accumulated by the successful working of the higher schools are devoted to extending the system elsewhere: hence a large contribution was made by the society towards the Denstone school, the total cost of which when fully completed will be £50,000.

The site given by Sir Percival Heywood is known as Moss Moor, and is part of a farm of 46 acres, the remainder of which has been purchased on most reasonable terms. It is high and healthy, commanding a magnificent view of the valleys of the Churnet and the Dove, with the woods of Alton Towers and Wootton, backed by the Weaver Hills, on one side, and the expanse of Staffordshire towards Cannock Chase on the other. In front is a level field of six acres admirably suited for a cricket ground. It is about a mile and a half from Rocester Railway Junction, whence there is direct access to all parts of Staffordshire as well as to the surrounding counties.

Mr. W. Slater and Mr. Herbert Carpenter, London, are the architects whose plans were selected. When the general plan is completed the building will take the form of the letter H, there being two quadrangles opening, the one to the east and the other to the west, the other three sides of

quadrangle looking towards the west was the first commenced, and is called the "Lonsdale quadrangle," and over the entrance doorway is a figure of the late Bishop of that name. The style of architecture adopted is a rather severe type of Early Pointed Gothic. The inside dimensions of the Lonsdale quadrangle are 211 feet long and 160 feet wide. The central cross block of buildings includes the great schoolroom 100 feet long and 35 feet wide. It has a lofty open timber roof and the height from floor to ridge is 62 feet. This room is entered at the northern end and at the other end are class rooms. Under the school room are boys' day room, with other rooms and a cloister ten feet wide to connect the two wings. The chief entrance is in the centre of this building, and over the outer doorway is a figure of the patron saint, St. Chad.

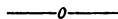
The first stone was laid by the Rev. Canon Lonsdale, son of the late Bishop, in the absence of the Marquis of Salisbury, who was to have performed that duty. The stone was laid upon another, on which was placed a brass plate bearing the following inscription:—

Ad Sanctissimæ et Individuæ Trinitatis gloriam
 et in honorem Sancti Ceaddæ Confessoris,
 olim ecclesiæ Lichfeldiensis Episcopi,
 hujus collegii,
 a Societate Beatæ Mariæ Virginis et Sancti Nicolai
 mediî ordinis civium gratia constituti,
 lapidem primarium posnit
 princeps nobillissimus
 Robertus Arturus Talbot Gascoigne Cecil,
 Dominus Marchio Salisburiensis
 regiæ majestati a secretoribus
 Præposito et Sociis supra dictæ societatis assistentibus.
 Regnante Victoria.
 George Augusto Selwyn, S.T.P., Episcopo,
 Lichfeldiensi Visitatore.

The central buildings, the north wing and headmaster's house and the kitchen offices and laundries, were completed in August, 1872, and on the 8th of that month luncheon was served in the great hall to about two hundred visitors. Her Royal Highness the Duchess of Cambridge, who was then a guest at Alton Towers, visited the college the same day. The Lonsdale quadrangle was opened July 29th, 1875.

In December, 1878, Sir T. P. Heywood, as treasurer to the Building Committee, issued a statement showing that to that date the payments had amounted to £46,840 13s. 6d., which had been received from the following sources:—Donations, £39,168 7s. 11d.; grant from St. Nicolas' College, £2,850; grant from St. Chad's College, £1,287 3s. 4d.; offertories, £3,535 2s. 3d. The total amount subscribed to that date had been £47,000.

On the 29th of July, 1879, Sir T. P. Heywood laid the foundation stone of the chapel, so that the final stage in the erection of the college will soon be completed.



ALTON, formerly spelt Alveton, is an extensive parish, and the village of that name is built on very uneven ground in a most romantic and attractive situation near the river Churnet. It is remarkable as the site of an ancient castle, now in ruins, built and inhabited by Bertram de Verdon or Verdun, the founder of Croxden Abbey. The situation of the castle is very commanding and naturally strong, being built on a rocky precipice on the south bank

and it was strongly fortified on the side next the church. The ruins consist of two towers, the most perfect of which is overgrown with ivy, with a small vane in the centre. The other is partly fallen in. A covered archway and fragments of the thick outer wall also remain. After the lapse of several years from the time of erection this castle devolved by marriage to the Furnivals. It continued two successions in this family, when, falling to Joan, the only heir, who married Thomas Neville, brother to the Earl of Westmoreland, he was in her right created Lord Furnival. He left by her only one daughter, Joan, who, having married to John Talbot, afterwards Earl of Shrewsbury, she brought the manor and castle of Alton into his family, and it still continues the property of the Earl of Shrewsbury. John, the 16th Earl, about thirty years ago, removed a portion of the ancient walls of the castle on the brow of the precipice, and erected thereon a handsome mansion, which has an elegant Roman Catholic chapel at the east end and forms a fine object in the view from Alton Towers, and from various parts of the valley. Adjoining are also a presbytery for the priest and a school erected by the same Earl.

The parish church, dedicated to St. Peter, was erected in the 12th century, by Bertram de Verdon, who gave it to the monks of Croxden. In 1830 it was enlarged and partly rebuilt at the cost of £1,200, but the ancient tower still remains, and has five bells. The church will accommodate about 500. Near the church are national schools, which were built in 1845. The patron of the living is the Earl of Shrewsbury, and the vicarage, which is valued at £230, was held by the Rev. Dr. Frazer for several

26th, 1877. An obituary notice of Dr. Frazer in the Diocesan Calendar states—"The work of the parish demanded great and continuous labour. Its area is extensive, and the bulk of the population is concentrated at points nearly six miles apart. The chapelry of Cotton, an important mission school chapel at Cauldon Low, and for a part of the year the chapel attached to Alton Towers, are all dependent upon the vicar of Alton. Add to this when Dr. Frazer was inducted to the living [July 3rd, 1858] the bulk of the parish of Denstone was a portion of his charge. One of his first works was to open a mission church, and to facilitate the formation of a new parish in this direction, to which was subsequently joined part of Rocester and Ellaston parishes."

The Independents, Wesleyans, and Primitive Methodists have chapels at Alton.

Having thus briefly indicated the leading features in connection with the village of Alton, attention must be directed to the other side of the Churnet Valley, where the Lord of the Manor resides one portion of the year. It may not be uninteresting first to give some particulars respecting the ancestry of the present Earl of Shrewsbury and Talbot, and the long and expensive legal proceedings by which the grandfather of the present Earl established his claim to the Shrewsbury estates. The account here given was gathered from "Burke's Peerage," and other reliable sources, and a portion of it was published in the *Staffordshire Advertiser*, in April, 1860.

The family of Talbot is one of ancient celebrity and of almost unequalled historic interest. It

the Conquest; but Richard de Talbot, who came over to England with William I., may be considered its founder. From him the Shrewsbury branch in England and the Talbots of Malahide, in Ireland, as well as the untitled but elder branch of Talbots, of Bashall, Yorkshire (now extinct in the direct male line), can trace their pedigree by direct descent through nearly eight centuries. From his second son Hugh, governor of the Castle of Plessy, in Essex, who afterwards assumed the monastic habit, like so many warriors of his time, six generations bring the lineage down to Sir George Talbot, Lord Chamberlain to King Edward III., by whom he was summoned to Parliament as a baron, A.D. 1331. His son, Richard, Lord of Goderich Castle, and second baron, distinguished himself in the French wars of Edward III., and became great grandfather of Sir John Talbot, sixth baron, summoned to Parliament in 1409 as Lord Talbot de Furnivall. In 1412 the latter illustrious warrior was appointed Lord Justice of Ireland, of which he became Lieutenant A.D. 1414. He subsequently rendered good service to his country in the French wars of Henry V., but his highest renown was gained under Henry VI., upon the same field under the Regent Plantagenet Duke of Bedford. It is said that his character became far and wide so formidable to the French, owing to the constant success which attended his expeditions, that mothers used to hush their children into silence by pronouncing the name of the "great Dogge Talbot." He was attacked, however, by Joan of Arc, the Maid of Orleans, at Patzy, in 1429, when his army was

Shrewsbury by King Edward IV., in 1442. Again resuming the Lord Lieutenancy of Ireland, which at that time was rather a military than a civil post, and having been appointed Lord High Steward of that country, he was raised to the Earldom of Wexford and Waterford A.D. 1446, and thus became premier earl in the Irish as well as the English peerage. Again engaging in foreign warfare, though in the 81st year of his age, the earl advanced with a British force to the relief of the Castle of Châtillon in France, beneath the walls of which he was mortally wounded, and died July 20th, 1453, with the reputation of having been victorious in above forty different battles. "He was the terror of France: his name put armies to flight. He had been victorious in forty severe and dangerous skirmishes; at length he was slain. * * * And with him perished the good fortune of the English during that unhappy reign." (Pennant.) His younger son, Lord Lisle, fell dead on the same field. John, the second Earl of Shrewsbury, K.G., Lord Treasurer, first of Ireland and afterwards of England, was killed at the battle of Northampton, in A.D. 1460, while fighting under the Red Rose. He was succeeded by his eldest son, from whom the title descended regularly to the fifth earl, the most consistent statesman of Queen Mary's reign, and the only nobleman, except Viscount Montague, who, on Elizabeth's accession, opposed the repeal of the Act of Submission of the Houses of Lords and Commons to the authority of the See of Rome, which had been carried into effect in the preceding reign. Though thus strongly attached to the religion of his forefathers, Queen Elizabeth retained him in

council. His son, the sixth earl, is known to history as the most wealthy and powerful peer of the realm, and the guardian to whose custody the person of Mary Queen of Scots was entrusted by Elizabeth. On the death of the eighth earl, in 1617, the title reverted to a distant cousin, Mr. George Talbot, of Grafton, as great-great-grandson of the second earl; and from him it descended regularly to Charles, twelfth earl, who, having conformed to the Established Church, became a prominent statesman in the reigns of William III., Mary, Anne, and George I., under whom he held the highest offices, and by whom he was rewarded with the Dukedom of Shrewsbury, the Marquisate of Alton, and the Knighthood of the Garter. At his death in 1717 the dukedom and marquisate expired, and it is not a little singular that from that day the earldom has not passed from father to son till it descended to the father of the present youthful peer. The thirteenth earl, being a Jesuit, of course did not assume the title, which accordingly passed to the son of his brother George, as fourteenth earl, and the last of his male descendants has long since been deceased. The pedigree from the fourteenth earl exhibits a series of nephews and cousins inheriting in succession. The son and the nephew of John, sixteenth earl, having died during their minority, Bertram Arthur Talbot, in 1846, became heir presumptive to the Shrewsbury title and estates, to which he succeeded as seventeenth earl towards the close of the year 1852. His lordship was the only son of the late Lieut.-Colonel Charles Thomas Talbot, nephew of Charles, fifteenth earl, by Julia, third daughter of Sir Henry Tichborne, Bart. He was

The kindred of the eighteenth Earl of Shrewsbury and Talbot to Bertram the seventeenth Earl of Shrewsbury consists in his lineal descent from the famous Sir Gilbert Talbot, of Grafton (third son of the second Earl of Shrewsbury), who was High Sheriff of Shropshire in the time of King Richard III., but a staunch adherent to the Earl of Richmond, the right wing of whose army he commanded at the battle of Bosworth. The victorious prince showed his gratitude by bestowing upon Gilbert the honour of knighthood, with the grant of the manor of Grafton, in Worcestershire, and other lands. Two years afterwards Sir Gilbert had a command at the battle of Stoke, when the Earl of Lincoln and Lambert Simnel were defeated, and for this service he was made a knight-banneret. The most notable member of this branch of the Talbot family was Charles Talbot, who was bred to the bar, attained to the summit of his profession, and established the highest legal reputation. On the 31st of May, 1717, Mr. Talbot was appointed Solicitor General to the Prince of Wales, which office he continued to hold until 1733, when he was constituted Lord High Chancellor of England, sworn of the Privy Council, and elevated to the peerage December 5th, by the title of Baron Talbot of Hensol, Glamorganshire. His Lordship married Cecil, daughter and heiress of Charles Matthews, of Castley-Menich, Glamorganshire, and was at his death (February 14th, 1736) succeeded by his eldest son, William, who was appointed Lord Steward of the Household, sworn of the Privy Council in 1761, and advanced to the earldom as Earl Talbot, March 10th, in the same

had been conferred upon him with special remainder to his daughter and her male issue), descended as limited, and the Barony of Talbot of Hensol reverted to his nephew John Chetwynd-Talbot, who was advanced to the viscounty and earldom July 3rd, 1784, by the titles of Viscount Ingestre and Earl Talbot. He died May 19th, 1793, and was succeeded by his son Charles Chetwynd-Talbot, who was constituted viceroy of Ireland, on the retirement of the late Duke of Richmond, and executed the duties of that important government until the appointment of the Marquis Wellesley, in 1821. His Lordship was also Lord Lieutenant of the county of Stafford. At his death he was succeeded by his second son, Henry John Chetwynd-Talbot, who afterwards became eighteenth Earl of Shrewsbury as well as third Earl Talbot.

As has been stated, it was in 1856 that Bertram Arthur, the seventeenth Earl Shrewsbury, died, but it was not until a protracted and memorable struggle, terminating in June, 1858, that the eighteenth earl succeeded in uniting in his own person both titles. On the 18th of August, 1856, Viscount Ingestre (subsequently nineteenth earl) on behalf of his father, accompanied by Mr. Hand, his solicitor, formally demanded at Alton Towers possession of that mansion and the estates, alleging that Earl Talbot was the legal heir. Lord Ingestre was informed that the trustees under the will of the deceased earl had taken possession, and he was refused admission into the house. Earl Talbot resolved upon appealing to the highest tribunal in the land to decide the title to the premier earldom of

that day the petition of his lordship to her Majesty, praying her Majesty that the title, dignity, and peerage or honours of the Earl of Shrewsbury might be declared and adjudged to belong to him, together with her Majesty's reference thereof to the House, and the report of the Attorney-General thereon was presented, by command, to the House. The petition, reference, and report were read, and were subsequently referred to the Committee of Privileges to consider and report thereupon. The opponents to his lordship's claim were three in number—first, the Duke of Norfolk, as guardian of the interests of his infant son, Lord Edward Howard, to whom the late earl bequeathed his magnificent property at Alton Towers; secondly, the Princess Doria Pamphili, of Rome, as only surviving child of John sixteenth earl; and, thirdly, Major Talbot, of Castle Talbot, county of Wexford, who traced his pedigree up to William, fourth son of George, fourth earl, who was made a Knight of the Garter for his valiant conduct at the battle of Stoke, June 16th, 1487. The Committee of Privileges met for the first time on the 13th of July, 1857, when it was admitted by Serjeant Byles, counsel for Lord Edward Howard, that the determination of the claim to the title determined the claim to the estates. It would of course be tedious to follow the legal contest in its various stages by which Earl Talbot sought to become Earl Shrewsbury also. On the 1st of July, 1858, the final sitting of the Committee of Privileges was held. Lord Cranworth addressed the committee, and after going over the leading points of the case submitted on behalf of Earl Talbot, concluded by moving that

to the clear and satisfactory conclusion that the claimant's title admitted of no doubt," seconded the motion. Lord Wensleydale and Lord Brougham also expressed themselves to the same effect, after which Lord Redesdale, chairman of the committee, put the question whether the claimant had made out his title, and it was unanimously decided in the affirmative. The journals of the day state that the galleries of the House were crowded whenever their lordships met, and that the Earl and Countess of Shrewsbury and Talbot were warmly congratulated by a large number of their friends immediately after their lordships had come to the above resolution.

The premier earldom of England having been thus adjudged to belong by right to Earl Talbot, his lordship delayed not in asserting his claim to those vast estates which even his antagonists had admitted would legitimately pass to the successful competitor for the title of the deceased earl. These estates, the annual value of which is upwards of £40,000, lie in the counties of Stafford, Salop, Chester, Oxford, Berks, and Worcester. The Oxfordshire estate comprises the site and ruins of a magnificent seat called Heythrop, burnt down in the time of Earl Charles, and the Worcestershire estate, an old family manor house at Grafton, the remains of a mansion which is supposed to have been one of more than ordinary size and magnificence in the time of Sir Gilbert Talbot, of Grafton, K.G. (knighted for his valour in the field), who died in 1517. The estates are all old family properties; the Oxfordshire, Berkshire, and Worcestershire, belonged to Sir Gilbert, while the Cheshire estates came into the family on the marriage of Mr

estate comprises nearly all the township of Oxton, near Birkenhead. The greatest interest attaches, however, to the Staffordshire estates, chiefly on account of the magnificent mansion, which the fifteenth earl erected at Alton, and which has from that time been the principal seat of the house of Talbot.

Earl Bertram by his will bequeathed all his personalty to Lord Edward Howard, and by the auctioneer's hammer all the artistic and literary treasures collected by Earl Bertram and his ancestors were irrecoverably dispersed. Since that time the lofty halls of Alton Towers have presented an almost mournful contrast to their former grandeur, and a long period of time must necessarily elapse before they are restored to anything approaching their previously superb state.

The history of Alton Towers may be briefly related. Sixty years ago the site was one of the wildest and most desolate of moorland hills in North Staffordshire. The approaches to it were bad and difficult in summer, and in winter there was no approaching it at all. The land was poor, almost destitute of wood and water, and a large farm house, called Alton Lodge, in the centre of an extensive rabbit warren, occupied the spot on which the far-famed seat now rears its lofty towers. The country mansion of the Earls of Shrewsbury was at that time Heythrop Castle, in Oxfordshire, a grand old feudal residence, which, with the whole of its contents, was unfortunately destroyed by fire about a quarter of a century ago. Their estates in Staffordshire were seldom visited by the successive earls, who, on the rare occasions when they did inspect them, limited

to forget the discomforts of their visit in the luxury of Heythrop or Grafton Hall. In truth, they had some reason to avoid the place, for beyond the farm house mentioned and Alton Castle (a mutilated stone remnant of feudal times, which had been battered and blown up by Cromwell), no decent house was within miles of the neighbourhood. It was not till 1812 that Charles, the fifteenth earl, who keenly appreciated the beauties of nature, visited Alton Lodge, and, struck with the rough grandeur of the scenery around and the unrivalled facilities it would afford to a man of taste, determined to erect a villa there. When he commenced his design, in 1814, his plan was only to improve and beautify the farm house then existing, but the natural capabilities of the place gradually led to an extension of his views, and after going to some expense he at length decided to rear an edifice worthy of his rank and great possessions. To this object he devoted himself exclusively, and, as a Roman Catholic could not then take part in the political movements of the day, he was enabled to pursue his darling object undisturbed by the demands of party warfare. He obtained an Enclosure Act, and planted and enclosed the hills and commons round the edifice, formed a park, and planned the gardens, which for rich and picturesque beauty, leave Chatsworth and Trentham far behind. He was still labouring at the works at the time of his death in 1827, when he left the care of perfecting and completing this great plan to John, the sixteenth earl. He followed in the footsteps of his predecessor and even added to and improved

It is situated on a lofty eminence above the valley of the Churnet, one of the steep commanding hills which form the base of Derbyshire Peak. The house overlooks a steep and very narrow ravine which stretches southward for about a mile and a half, terminating in a wild, dark-looking gorge, like one of the mountain outlets in South Wales. The approach to the Towers now winds from the railway station at Alton up the steep ascent, which is so thickly wooded as to almost exclude the rays of the sun, and give a sombre, melancholy aspect to the scene. The house stands on the edge of the ravine, down either side of which are the terraced gardens, tier below tier, till the bottomest parterres are almost undistinguishable save for their brilliant colours. The Towers themselves form a noble Gothic pile of vast extent, with a whole crowd of turrets and pinnacles stretching high into the air, and visible for miles around. There is a wild and picturesque irregularity about the structure which gives it an appearance of antiquity far beyond its real age. The principal entrance is under a massive square tower of Gothic type, the broad steps up which are flanked with the armorial bearings of the family. Over the high Norman doorway the emblazonments of the old families from which the Talbots spring are deeply cut in stone, the shields of the Furnivals and De Verdons, whose names are foremost in the Doomsday Book, with the martlet of the great house of Neville, whose last heir, Warwick, the Kingmaker, fell at the field of Barnet. From the drawing room of the Doria rooms an almost unequalled prospect is gained over the series of terraced gardens, fountains, roseries, alcoves, and temples which lie beneath in

the mansion. From the vicinity of the music room a grand conservatory, every groined arch in the roof of which is draped with flowering creepers and rich exotics, leads out into the private gardens filling the large space enclosed by the buildings. These are beautifully laid out in the Italian style, and so as to bring the parterres up to the windows of all the chief ground floor apartments. Here are also the roseries, a series of paths walled and closed in above with trellis work, and over which are trained every known variety of the rose tree. A private terrace leads from these gardens to a battlemented walk on the summit of the high wall which flanks one side of the mansion. The view from this over the extensive range of grounds and gardens beneath is one of the most beautiful and picturesque that can possibly be conceived. No merely verbal description will convey an adequate idea of the rare beauty of the pleasure grounds. Though they are little more than fifty acres in extent, yet the paths through them are so winding and so diversified as to appear almost endless. Both sides of the steep ravine down which they extend are divided into a series of terraces, each of which is named and distinguished for some surpassing natural or architectural beauty. Grottoes, fountains, temples, statues, refuges, conservatories, and pagodas are disclosed by every winding path, or stand out boldly on little eminences overlooking the deep ravine. The conservatories are a noble range of buildings, ornamented in front with massive columns, and surmounted by seven large gilded domes, which seem from the opposite side of the ravine to impart to the

size, with a portico in the centre, and two large gilded domes at either end. Amid the parterres in front of the great conservatory is erected a fac simile copy, in marble, of the Choragic monument of Lysicrates at Athens, containing a bust of Earl Charles, with the appropriate motto "He made the desert smile." Above the upper conservatory is a terrace, decorated with double rows of marble statues and vases; and above this again is a terrace for the reservoirs filled with aquatic plants; and on the uppermost plateau of all, a large imitation of Stonehenge has been erected. Lower down the ravine is the great screw fountain, the path from which leads up to the Gothic temple—a handsome solid structure from the summit of which is the finest view over the grounds and towers beyond. Golden gates lead from the gardens to the rockwalk, which, winding for more than a mile, terminates at a rough mass of stone called Ina's rock, in memory of a great battle fought on the spot between the Kings of Mercia and Wessex, —Coelred and Ina. In the gorge of the ravine is a tall Chinese pagoda, which has been converted into a fountain, and pours into the air all day a lofty spire of water. Such is a cursory notice of the principal objects in the gardens, which have been described by Loudon as "the finest combination of garden building with garden scenery anywhere existing in Europe."

Those who anticipated—if any such there were—from the admission of Serjeant Byles in the opening of the case in the House of Lords with respect to the title, that the right to the estates of the deceased earl would be quietly conceded to the successful claimant for the title were undeceived at the earliest possible

Shrewsbury *v.* Hope Scott and others first came on for hearing. The action was to recover the mansion house of Alton Towers and the annexed estate, and the defendants, who represented the infant son of the Duke of Norfolk, defended as to all the property claimed. It was not until the 18th of February, 1860, that the claim to the Alton estate was finally settled in favour of the Earl of Shrewsbury and Talbot.

Roman Catholics were dismayed by the loss of patronage of their religion which the decision portended; but the majority of the people of the county rejoiced at this accession to Protestant influence. The earl was brave, generous, open-hearted, and popular. He took formal possession of Alton Towers on the 13th of April, 1860, amid the acclamations of assembled thousands. The earl lived only a few short years after that date to enjoy his possessions.

The eighteenth earl was born in November, 1803. He entered the navy in his early youth, and he attained the rank of retired Admiral, having been made post captain on the occasion of his bringing home the despatches relating to the battle of Navarino, in 1827, in which action he commanded the brig *Philomel*. He entered Parliament in 1832 as member for Hertford; afterwards sat for the City of Dublin, and was elected one of the members for South Staffordshire, in 1837, retaining that seat till 1849, in which year—his elder brother, Viscount Ingestre, having died in 1826—he succeeded, on the death of his father, to the Earldom of Talbot. The Earl was a Conservative in politics, and a staunch friend of the agricultural interest. He was a frequent resident at Ingestre Hall, near Stafford, and

in Staffordshire. He married in 1828 Sarah Elizabeth, daughter of the second Marquis of Waterford, by whom he had a family of ten children, eight of whom survived him. His death took place at Newbattle, near Dalkeith, on the 5th of June, 1868.

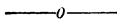
Charles John Talbot, Viscount Ingestre, who became nineteenth Earl of Shrewsbury and Talbot, on the death of his father, was born April 13th, 1830. He was educated at Eton and at Merton College, Oxford, and served in the 1st Life Guards from 1851 to 1855. In 1857 he entered public life as a Conservative member of Parliament for Stafford, which borough he represented until 1859, when he was returned for the more important constituency of North Staffordshire, retaining his seat until the general election of 1865, when he was successfully opposed by Mr. (now Sir) Edward Buller. He again entered Parliament in 1868 for Stamford, but in June of that year was called to the House of Peers. The property of the late earl's father was in a very unsatisfactory condition when it came into his possession, but steps were immediately taken to restore it. The work, commenced by the eighteenth earl, was ably continued by the nineteenth earl, who, to use the words of one who knew him thoroughly, was always anxious to discharge well the duties of his responsible position. He more fully developed the liberal spirit manifested by his father in allowing the public to visit the magnificent gardens at Alton Towers, extending the privilege to all who wished to witness that charming spot. After the death of his father in 1868, the late earl was appointed Lord High Steward of the borough of Stafford. Ingestre Hall and Alton Towers have repeatedly

Royal Family and other illustrious persons, and on those occasions the late earl entertained his distinguished guests in princely style, and with that geniality which was one of his most striking characteristics. In 1872, the Princess Mary of Cambridge visited Alton Towers; in 1873, Prince and Princess Christian were the guests of his lordship at Ingestre, on which occasion the Royal party visited Stafford; and in 1875 the Prince and Princess of Teck were entertained at the same mansion. But it was not only in Stafford and the neighbourhood that his lordship was well known and respected. In almost all great county movements he took an active part. He was a warm supporter of St. Chad's College, at Denstone, and was a Fellow of St. Nicolas College, with which St. Chad's and other kindred institutions are affiliated. His lordship was an ardent Freemason, and in 1871, the then most Worshipful Grand Master of England, the Earl of Ripon, recognized his zeal and energy by appointing him Provincial Grand Master of Staffordshire. In this onerous position the late earl soon distinguished himself, presiding on several occasions at the annual festivals of the masonic institutions. During his Mastership of the Province the Staffordshire Charitable Association was formed, and has resulted in a great increase in the number of life-governors of one or other of the masonic institutions. His lordship also started a local fund, having for its object the education of children of brethren within the Province. The late earl was a Deputy-Lieutenant of Staffordshire; a magistrate of the county and also

Corps of Gentlemen-at-Arms, and was sworn in a member of the Privy Council. He died very suddenly at his town residence in Dover street on the 11th of May, 1877. His lordship was married in 1855 to Anne Theresa, daughter of Commander Richard Howe Cockerell, R.N., and had issue Charles Henry John Viscount Ingestre, who has succeeded to the earldom; Theresa Susey Helen, who was born in 1856 and married in October, 1875, to Viscount Castlereagh, eldest son of the Marquis of Londonderry; Gwendolene Theresa, who was born in 1858 and married in 1877 to Colonel Chaplin; and Muriel Frances Louisa, born in 1859 and married in 1876 to Viscount Helmsley, eldest son of the Earl of Feversham.

The twentieth earl was born in 1860.

Arms—Gules: a lion rampant, with a bordure engrailed, or. *Crest*—On a chapeau, gules, turned up, ermine, a lion statant, with the tail extended, or. *Supporters*—Two talbots, argent. *Motto*—Prest d' accomplir (Ready to perform).



OAKAMoor is a picturesque village on the south western side of the Churnet Valley, a small portion being in the parishes of Kingsley and Alton, and the remainder in Cheadle parish. It has a neat church or chapel of ease, which was erected in 1832, by subscription and grants. The vicarage of Oakamoor is in the patronage of the Rector of Cheadle, and is valued at £240. The vicar is the Rev. W. C. Greene. National schools were built at the same time as the church; and the North

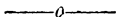
A Free Christian Church at Oakamoor, which was opened on Easter Sunday (April 21st), 1878, has been erected by Messrs. Thomas Bolton and Sons, the proprietors of the Oakamoor works, for the use of such of their workpeople and neighbours as may sympathize with a free worship irrespective of creed or denominational position, being, in fact, simply an extension of a work which, under the direction of the resident proprietor, had been in operation for some ten years past in the village of Oakamoor. The first chaplain of the works (the duty of which office is to visit and assist the families of the workpeople), commenced in 1868 the conduct of services on the principle stated above in a commodious room in the village set aside for the purpose. These services met with a degree of appreciation and success, which has led to the erection of the new structure, in which, under the direction of the present chaplain, the Rev. Charles Denman, the already existing congregation assembles, united upon a foundation of Christian life and love, as distinguished from theological dogma. The church stands on a wooded slope adjoining the village. It is surrounded by a large piece of land, part of which is planted with ornamental shrubs and trees, and the remainder it is intended to use as a burial ground. Adjoining is the residence of the minister. The church is built in the style known as the Early Decorated or Geometrical, and consists of a nave, with a small transept or side chapel for the organ, and a raised chancel. At the west end are a porch and vestry in a "lean-to" roof, and the west gable is crowned by a handsomely-carved bell turret. A small aisle for the school children on a lower level than the nave adjoins the organ chamber. Some of

and executed. The pulpit is of richly carved and traceried stone work. The building generally is of local white stone, faced and banded within and without with red sandstone, all the tracery being of the latter.

In the autumn of 1871 a meeting of working men was held at Oakamoor with a view of obtaining an improved water supply for the village. On that occasion Mr. Quinton, of Farley, placed before them certain schemes, the adoption of which was calculated to secure an abundance of pure water for the whole of the villagers. The execution of those schemes involved no practical difficulties, all that was essential being the encouragement and co-operation of landlords and landed proprietors in the simple form of a consent to allow a work so essential to the improved condition of the people of the village to be accomplished. Mr. Sleigh, of Leek, gave his consent to the use of the water from Springfield; the conduit pipes were allowed to be taken through the property of Mr. Bottom and the trustees of the Wesleyan chapel; the Rev. Charles Ingleby offered to erect a fountain; and the Earl of Shrewsbury gave land on which to erect it. The working men resolved to lay aside a portion of their wages to meet the necessary expenditure; and work being no stranger to them, each man agreed to give free labour in the undertaking on condition that the results of their labour were to be freely enjoyed. In strict fulfilment of their compact with each other, a little army of them shouldered their picks and spades, and the sods were soon turned up. Under the guidance of Mr. Peter Ford, whom they appointed architect of the works, they laboured

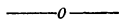
village, an event which was accompanied by some little ceremony, in which the people of the place religiously recognised the precious gift which they had been the means of making available to themselves and to the villagers who should succeed them for generations to come. The water was turned on by Mr. William Rushton, the oldest inhabitant, at that time, of Oakamoor, the first delivery being received by Mrs. Berrington, the oldest woman in the village.

The copper works of Oakamoor are noticed in page 39.



FROGHALL is a small village mainly in the parish of Kingsley. It is noticeable for its extensive limestone works, which belong to the North Staffordshire Railway Company, who supply the iron districts with limestone, and have also large kilns for making lime. The Railway Company have also a tramway to Caudon Low, where there are immense quarries. The stone is brought to the railway and canal down a very steep incline, for Caudon Low is situated on an extremely high hill. A tramway is laid down the incline in three stages, and is a feature of great interest. Going from Froghall the first stage of the incline is steepest, the gradient being one in twelve, and level ground is reached after passing through several cuttings and more than once by the edge of a deep ravine, a distance of 1,694 yards. The next stage is somewhat longer, being 2,105 yards, including a tunnel 500 yards long. The last stage is the shortest, being only 1,000 yards long.

reached much fine scenery is brought to view. From the quarries are sent annually a quarter of a million tons of limestone to be used in the ironworks of North and South Staffordshire in fluxing the ironstone at the blast furnaces. At a meeting at Cauldon Low in March, 1875, Mr. T. Wardle, F.G.S., mentioned a remarkable circumstance with regard to the bed of hæmatite ironstone at Froghall and in the neighbourhood. He said that at the top of each of the four series of millstone grits there is a bed of coal, generally about two feet thick, and called feather-edge coal. The first series of the grits is found at Froghall and in the neighbourhood, and the bed referred to occurs duly and in its proper order. It is, however, no longer a bed of coal, but a bed of hæmatite ironstone. The carboniferous properties of the rock appear to have been chemically altered by the action of peroxide of iron. A peculiarity of this hæmatite is that when it comes to be smelted it does not require a fluxing agent.



CAULDON LOW is in the parish of Cauldon, where there are a Church and National schools, the latter built in 1846. The church is an ancient one pleasantly situated on an eminence, and has not been much altered since 1794, when it was mentioned in the Gentleman's Magazine in the following terms : It consists of "nave wherein is one aisle lately rebuilt of stone, and an ancient chancel separated from it by a low arch. The contrast between them hath a pretty effect. The body of the church,

west end is a neat gallery, under which a door opens into a small square tower, wherein hangs a single bell. The chancel is from east to west about six yards one foot ; and the contrary way it extends five yards." In the churchyard, "relatively speaking, large," on different upright stones may be seen the following inscriptions :—

Here lieth Margaret Manifold, aged seven times seven years old. So was John Kent, her own dear father lying in the grave, July 31st, 1750.

On another—

Here lie the remains of the Rev. Thomas Prince, minister of this place, who died ——— the 15th, 1757, aged 74.

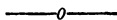
Who has been here ? Reader, stay.

I, Thomas Price, lie in clay ;

And he that reads think of me,

And of the glass that runs for thee.

The living is a vicarage worth £90 a year, in the patronage of Mr. A. Henniker, and is held by the Rev. John P. Sargent, M.A.



MINGSLEY is a parish of considerable extent and population, the principal part being in Totmanslow South. It includes the township of Whiston, in Totmanslow North. It is one of those parts of the country which underwent considerable improvement by plantations and enclosures a little less than a century ago.

The parish church was founded several centuries ago, but the exact date has not been preserved. The tower of the church is old, and the style of architecture leads some to suppose that it was built not later than the 14th century,—perhaps as early as the 13th century. From the fact of the village

been commonly supposed that the church was dedicated to St. John the Baptist; but the present Rector, the Rev. Thomas Goddard, is of opinion that it is dedicated to St. Werberg. Packer, in his Calender of the English Church, states that there are nine churches in England dedicated to her, and from its being mentioned in the King's Book under this name, it would appear



KINGSLEY CHURCH.

that Kingsley is included. The nave and chancel were taken down in 1821 and the present plain structure was built. In the 20th reign of the Conqueror Kingsley was the land of Randulfus, fil Huberti. "But Ranulf held only one hide, which Robert de Buci held of him; Ranulf and Nigel (de Stafford), again, of R. de Buci; while this Nigel held in capite, in the same Chingeslia, three hides." (Erdeswicke.) In the 24th of Edward IV.

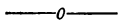
and from the Meynell family by marriage into the Bassetts of Blore. From them it passed to the Earl of Newcastle, and from him to the Cavendishes. Mr. James Beech purchased the advowson from the Duke of Devonshire, and most likely obtained his manorial rights at Kingsley from the same source. Kingsley is now a vicarage, Mr. Beech being the patron.

John Stubbs, of the Shaw, in the parish of Kingsley, gentleman, by will, bearing date November 9th, 1703, gave to Kingsley parish for a school to be free for ever some messuages and lands at Foxt, Cheadle, and Kingsley, and upon this foundation a free school was established, and is still carried on at Kingsley. The trusts of the charity appear to have eventually centred in John Beech, of the Shaw, grandson of the testator, and his representatives, who acted as sole trustee till 1818, at which period the school had fallen much into decay. The property belonging to the charity in 1860 was specified by Mr. Griffiths as follows:—1. A messuage with out-buildings and land, containing 16 acres 25 perches, including four or five acres of woodland, situate at Foxt, in the occupation of Thomas Pegg, as yearly tenant, at the annual rent of £23. 2. A messuage and premises at Kingsley Holt, and about an acre and a half of land, held at the yearly rent of £5 10s. 3. A small allotment made on the inclosure of Cheadle common, in respect of common right belonging to the last mentioned premises. It is let for 4s. a year. 4. Another small allotment in Ipstones parish, made under the Ipstones inclosure, in respect of the property

occupier. For this portion he used to pay 2s. a year, but nothing has been received since 1817. 6. The school house and garden in Kingsley. 7. A sum of £557 10s. new four per cent. stock, which arose under the following circumstances:--Upon examining the charity in 1818, the trustees found that the school had been for some time held in the church, the old school house having become unfit for the purpose, and that it was conducted in a very inefficient manner. They resolved, therefore, to remodel the school upon the national system, and to build a new school house, the expense of which should be defrayed from some balances in the hands of Mr. Beech, and from the produce of a fall of timber, which they directed to be made upon the land at Foxt. The net produce of the timber was £1,025 15s. 6d., and two sums were accounted for by Mr. Beech, one of £117 10s., being the balance of receipts and payments in his hands from 1797 to 1819, during which time he had been the only acting trustee, and the other of £236 15s. 2d., being a balance in hand due from his ancestors previously to 1797. Out of this fund, amounting to £1,383 os. 8d., a piece of land was purchased for £130, and the school house erected thereon at the cost of £412 4s. 6d. The sum of £589 8s. 1d. was invested in the purchase of £550 Navy Five per cents. (now converted into £557 4s. 10d. Four per cents.) and the balance, being £251 18s. 1d., remained in the general account. 8. Mrs. Dorothy Brindley's gift. It is recorded on a tablet in the church that Dorothy Brindley, in 1692, gave 40s. a year, for ever, for the use of a school at Kingsley, to be paid out of the stock of £40, which money, as appears from the

respect of this, an annual sum of £1 16s., being at the rate of four per cent., has been received from land at Whiston Eaves, formerly belonging to the family of the Brindleys, and now the property of Mr. George Locker, of Kingsley, who purchased the land on the understanding that it was subject to this charge. The income of the charity from these several sources when the Commissioners visited Kingsley was—Rents of the school lands (exclusive of the 2s. from the barn, No. 5), £28 14s.; dividend of stock, £23 2s.; Mrs. Brindley's benefaction, £1 16s.; total, £53 12s.

In 1857, the year in which several local offshoots of the County Agricultural Association were formed, the inhabitants of Kingsley determined to establish an annual exhibition. It was felt that owing to the extraordinary excellence of the stock exhibited in the county show the chances of the Kingsley farmers gaining prizes were reduced to a minimum, and that the competition so far as they were concerned would be restricted to a more circumscribed sphere than the county. The first show of the "Kingsley Agricultural Society" was held in September, 1857, with a fair amount of success; but either from the fact that there was more merit in competing in a larger field, or from some other cause, the society in question had only a very short existence.



IPSTONES is a parish in an elevated situation north of Kingsley, and abounds in high and picturesque cliffs. Soon after the Conquest the manor of Ipstones, which is co-extensive with the present

Leek, deals very lengthily with the manorial history of this parish. Amongst the possessors of the manor was one John de Ipstones, and in the 17th Richard II, 1393-4, Parliament granted at the request of the Commons that one Roger Swynnerton, charged with the death of John de Ipstones, one of their number and Knight of the shire of Stafford, slain on his way up to the House, shall not be released from prison by bail, but only by due course of law. (Parliamentary Rolls.) The manor subsequently belonged to the Breretons of Brereton, one of whom, Sir William, was involved in Queen Anne Boleyn's fate, and beheaded 1535. At a later period Sir Richard Egerton, on whom the manor of Ipstones was settled, dissipated a large fortune in gambling, and by deed dated 25th of November, 1633, sold his reversion of the manor to Matthew Craddock, of Caverswall Castle, and Joan Craddock, his mother.

George Craddock, by indenture of lease and release, dated 7th and 8th October, 1639, conveyed the manor of Ipstones to William Fowler and John Hollins, of Moseley, as trustees for sale and payment of certain debts. He died 16th April, 1643, leaving a widow Dorothy, daughter of John Saunders, D.D., provost of Oriel College, Oxford, who soon after remarried Sir Orlando Bridgman; but she had never joined in levying any fine to bar her dower. In 1649, William Fowler, the surviving trustee, agreed with the ancient tenants and farmers of Ipstones to purchase the manor and estates of Ipstones for £6,550, and by deed dated 5th February, 1649, Wm. Fowler, Sir O. Bridgman, and Dame Dorothy his wife, conveyed them to Philip Hollins and Samson

(Hadfield.) Sharpcliffe was conveyed 3rd of May, 1652, to John Whitehall, of Leigh, but afterwards of Pipe Ridware, and descended to his son James W., whose two coheiresses conveyed it to the families of Parker, of Park Hall, and Littleton, of Teddesley, Barts.

The other portions of the estate were conveyed in 1650-1-2. Considerable estates in Ipstones afterwards became the property of the Lords Ashton, of Tixall, and were sold by the coheiresses of that family at the same time with the manor of Bradnop, 26th June, 1770, to John Sneyd, of Bishton, who built thereon Belmont. "John Sneyd, of Belmont, Esq., has likewise this year received the gold medal for having planted 10,000 larch trees." (Shaw.) Darwin wrote the following lines as an address from a water nymph at Belmont to the owner of that wood-embosomed seat:—

O friend to peace and virtue, ever flows
 For thee my silent and unsullied stream,
 Pure and untainted as thy blameless life!
 Let no gay converse lead thy steps astray
 To mix my chaste wave with immodest wine,
 Nor with the poisonous cup, which Chemia's hand
 Deals, fell enchantress, to the sons of folly!
 So shall young Health, thy daily walks attend,
 Weave for thy hoary brow the vernal flower
 Of cheerfulness, and with his nervous arm,
 Arrest th' inexorable scythe of Time.

Mr. Sleigh, referring to the sale by the coheiresses of the Ashton family, said neither the manor nor the advowson was conveyed, and consequently the trustees still remained seized of both in trust for the general body of freeholders.

The church is situated on a gentle eminence

vanes. The edifice was re-built in 1790. It is dedicated to St. Leonard. By the composition of 1450, up to which time Ipstones had formed part of the parish of Leek, and the curate had received a stipend of £2, it was agreed that the Vicar of Leek should pay him £5. The living is a vicarage in the gift of freeholders, and is worth £183 at the present time. The following have been incumbents of Ipstones:—John Lokker, “Chapellyn of Upstones,” in 1539. Henry Cole. John Ashton, curate, 1690. Francis Nabbs, 1699. Joseph Leeth, 10th May, 1707. — Bold, April 27th, 1722. William Goddard, 1727. Matthew Thomas, 21st July, 1730. Joseph Whiston. Samuel White, 1754-85. William Carlisle, 1789. John Sneyd, M.A., August 27th, 1833, resigned 30th July, 1861, when the Rev. R. H. Goodacre, the present vicar, was elected.

In former times Ipstones, Cheddleton, and Horton were chapels of ease to Leek. The following has reference to this subject:—“To the church wardens of the several parishes of Ipstones, Cheddleton, and Horton, in the county of Stafford, and to every of them. Upon complaint of Mr. George Roads, the present vicar of Leek, that the whole burden of the tenths due to his Majestie, which is 15s. 11d. a year, hath layn upon him for these seven years last past; whereas he is informed tenn shillings a year has formerly been paid out of the three parishes aforesaid, being all within the Rectory of Leek; that is to say, out of every parish 3s. 4d.: Being moved with pittie and compassion, I doe by virtue of these presents require you y^e before named churchwardens, and every of you, to take y^e business into y^r considⁿ, and to consider him with y^e repay-

time past as to come, if of right you ought soe to do, or else to give me a speedy satisfactory account why y^e ought not to doe itt; otherwise there will be a return thereof made upon the Exchequer, which I hope you will avoid on the first intimation of y^r loving friend, John (Hacket) Lich. and Cov.

“Dated at Lichfield, y^e 25th February, 1666.”

By indenture of lease and release, bearing date 1st and 2nd of January, 1761, James Rushton, in consideration of certain sums of money paid for the benefit of himself and wife during their lives, granted to Uriah Cordon and eleven others and their heirs, a house and about ten acres of land at Ipstones Edge, the yearly rents of which should be applied to the schoolmaster of the English charity school, then lately erected at Ipstones, for the teaching of twenty or more of the poorest children in the parish to read, write, and cast accounts. The purchase money was raised by subscription. The estate contains about twenty acres, although the deed above referred to specifies little more than ten acres, an increase for which there is no record.


It is stated in a table of benefactions in the church that Mary Richardson left by her will, in 1680, £20, for the maintenance of a free school in this parish for poor children, so far as the interest would yearly pay, after the rate of 12d. a quarter for one child; and on another tablet it is stated that this £20 was, with £10 given by the will of William Adams to the poor, laid out upon a house, called Botham's house, paying 30s. yearly:—namely, 20s. to the school and 10s. to the poor. The owner of Botham's house, in respect of Richardson's gift, pays

George Clewes left a land charge of 20s. per year, to be paid on condition that his heirs or assigns had the privilege of nominating two scholars to be taught free. About forty years since Uriah Carden, of Ashbourne, left £500, to be laid out in land for the benefit of the Ipstones School.

In 1853 new and excellent school premises were built at an expense of £650. In 1859, the building was improved and an infants' department was added.

In 1858 the Committee appealed to the inhabitants and the friends of education generally for support, stating all classes resident in the parish avail themselves of the school for the education of their children, which costs them on an average 8s.6d. per year, while the total cost, if government grants and all expenses be included, is 29s., thus affording a benefit of 20s.6d. for each child sent, while the advantage to cottagers through the foundation, and by rule 8, is still greater. This rule, which is specially framed to encourage those who are striving to educate their children and to discountenance pauperism, is as follows:—"Subscribers to the school may nominate one child to be taught free for each half-guinea subscribed; such child to be above ten years of age, or to be one that has lost its father, or whose father from age or infirmity is not able to earn a full day's wages, or if he be able to do so, then he must be paying for the education of two other children."

In 1800 John Sneyd left £100 worth of land (Little Heath.) The rent, about £4, to be given to the deserving poor who attend Ipstones church and take the sacrament. There are several other smaller

HEDDLETON is a small village pleasantly situated on an eminence above the Cauldon canal and the river Churnet. The manor of Cheddleton belonged to the Earl of Arundel in the time of the Conqueror. It subsequently passed through the hands of the Egertons of Egerton, and more recently to the possession of the Powys family. Thomas Rudierd, 1st of Sept., 1600, sold to Sir John Egerton, Knight, "the church or chappell of Chedulton, and gleabe lands therewith, all tythes, oblations, obventions, and mortuaries, parcell of the Rectory of Leek, and thereto belonging," subject to the yearly payment of £10 5s. 4d. to the Queen's majesty, and £5 6s. 8d. to the curate. (History of Leek.)

The church is dedicated to St. Edward, and is valued in the King's book at £7 15s. 10d., then in the gift of Francis Eld. It contains some monuments to the Hollins' of Moffley, and to Edward Arblaster, of Rownall, who died 8th February, 1783, erected by his kinsman, the Rev. Edward Powys. The east and two other chancel windows are filled with indifferent stained glass, in memory of several members of the Powys family, two of whom were for many years incumbents of Cheddleton.

From a paper read by Mr. Thomas Wardle, F.G.S., before the North Staffordshire Naturalists' Field Club on the 20th of April, 1876, it appears that the architectural history of the church has been

of the church, with its vaulted roof is very late, its date perhaps being about 1670, or even of the reign of George I. The window in the south aisle points to this, in character having lost its strictly Gothic feeling, and having features closely allied to the Jacobean type which succeeded it. The tower was built in Elizabeth's reign. It is a plain but substantial structure, with the date of 1754 on the south parapet. The parapet or battlement is of the ordinary kind, consisting of alternate merlon and embrasure, not for shelter and shooting, like many ancient battlements, but simply for ornamental treatment. The stone of the tower is millstone grit, perhaps the best and most durable building stone in the country, and was probably obtained from Wetley Rocks. The rest of the church is also of millstone grit, except some portion of the work restored in 1863-4, which were unfortunately done in the softer and less durable stone from the Triassic beds at Alton. The roof is post Reformation work of the same date as the tower, or a trifle later. The nave arches on the south side are probably 13th century. Those on the north side have been rebuilt at a later date. There are two interesting relics of an ancient side chapel at the east end of the south aisle—the raised foot pace on which the altar stood, now occupied by the organ, and the piscina. The latter was used to receive the water in which the priest washed his hands, as well as that with which the chalice was rinsed at the time of the celebration of mass. Parker says they date from the middle of the 12th century, are generally placed in England on the south side of the altar, as this is, and occasionally in the vestry for the priest to wash

chancel is the finest part of the church. The cathedral has no more richly moulded window than the east one. Unfortunately the beautiful tracery is "marred and obscured by modern glass of vulgar and effeminate colour and drawing." The chancel arch was probably removed in the 16th century, when the nave roof was put on. In taking down the ceilings at the restoration of the church, there were found indications of a wooden chancel screen above a subsequently built brick arch. Mr. Scott, junr., designed the present beautiful oak screen. There was undoubtedly a rood loft, for the entrance door east of the nave arcade still remains, although the steps leading to it have long been removed. The date of the chancel is about 1320 to 1330: it is fine, simple work of the period. The altar-piece, a triptych, is a very interesting carving in oak, of probably the 15th century. It has been restored, and sides have been added to it. It is a beautiful and interesting work of ancient and modern art. On it is the motto—"Mors et vita, duello confluxere mirando"—(Death and life have fought a wonderful battle). The old font was removed during the restoration, and a new one of alabaster chastely designed and well executed, presented by Mrs. Bradshaw, of Leek, was put in its place. The lectern is a fine mediæval eagle in brass of most excellent design. The three inferior east windows previously referred to, were placed in the church in memory of the Powys family prior to the restoration of the church. The other chancel windows are restorations, admirably executed by Messrs. Morris and Co., of London, from cartoons by Dante Rossetti and Burn Jones, two painters whom Ruskin has ranked with the greatest painters of either ancient

or modern times. Numerous fragments of the original glass are incorporated with the new. The quatrefoil in the western window on the south side is entirely old. Its subject is an ecclesiastic at devotions. The subjects of the windows are sainted kings who have been helpers of the church—Constantine, Alfred, St. Edward the Confessor, St. Louis, who was the 9th Louis of France, canonized in 1297, and Ethelbert. There is also Helena beautifully painted, and placed in the same window with Constantine, whose mother she was. The large window in the south aisle of the nave contains three magnificently drawn figures of angels. The window was placed there by the parishioners in memory of the much esteemed first wife of the worthy vicar, Mr. Boucher. The baptistery window, a gift of the late Rev. John Sneyd, of Ashcombe, is a cinque cento treatment of baptismal subjects: the washing of Naaman, the Syrian, in the Jordan, as the type, and the baptism of Christ as the antitype, with the four rivers of Paradise flowing above in general symbolism of the whole subject. In the corresponding west window of the south aisle are four subjects, types and antitypes of sacrifice for sin: Cain and Abel's offering, the latter only acceptable to God; Melchisedec; the Jewish Burnt Offering; and the Last Supper. The next window to it is by Wailes, of Newcastle-on-Tyne. The easternmost window is by Morris and Co., representing Boaz and Ruth, and was given by Mrs. Wardle in memory of Mrs. Elizabeth Leek, whose eldest granddaughter she was. The former residence of the Leek family was at Bottom Hall in this parish. It has long been

There were originally three bells, but now there is a good peal of six, well and regularly rung. The first bell was added in 1864, to the memory of Mr. Wardle's eldest daughter, and has its motto from the hymn "The strain upraise," the lines "And children's voices echo," answer making, "Alleluia." The second bell was added in 1862, and has for its motto "Glory be to God on High." The third has no motto, but has the names of the makers, John Hammersley and Edward Arnold, fecit Leicester. The fourth has a date, 1632, and motto, "Jesu be our speed." The fifth is dated 1752, and has the names of the churchwardens of the time, Philip Whiston and John Sutton; no motto. The sixth was added in 1862, with the second by public subscription. It has for its motto "I summon all to pray."

The churchyard cross was restored at the expense of Mr. Wardle by Mr. Scott, junr. The result is—"A base of four steps raised to the present level of the churchyard, some three feet higher than in former times from interments; also a restoration of the upper part of the shaft and placing upon it, first capitals surmounting the columns, and upon these four sculptured figures of Kings—St. Edward, the patron saint of the church, facing west; Melchisedec, priest and King, in the south; David with his harp, on the east; and Solomon, holding a model of the temple, on the north. Surmounting and crowning these is a touching and well-executed representation of the Crucifixion of our Lord, dead on the cross. On the back of the cross, facing east, are the instruments of the Passion—nails, hammer,

Near the west door of the church is a beautiful specimen of secular architecture, designed by Mr. Scott, junr., which serves for a village museum, library, vestry, and choir-house. Several of the windows and part of the school house are from the old village school, partly built about 1730, by James Whitehall, of Sharpcliffe. It stood near the east end of the church and was taken down when the new school was built.

Facing the porch is a sculptured figure of our Saviour in white marble, holding the cross. Twined round its shaft is a scroll, on which is written *In hoc signo vinco*. (By this I conquer.)

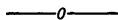
The living until recently was in the gift of the Powys family. It is now, according to the Lichfield Diocesan Calendar, in the patronage of Mr. C. Lamb. The present vicar is the Rev. A. F. Boucher.

From the benefaction boards in the church it appears that John Fenton gave £100 for apprentice fees; John Bagnall, 20s. yearly to the poor chargeable on Ringe Hay estate, and £5 to the school; Edward Arblaster, Thomas Joliffe, and Lady Moyer £10 each, towards the bounty; James Whitehall, in 1728, gave £200 to the endowment, and £30 towards the erection, of the school; and Robert Hill, 20s., yearly, from Felthouse to the curate.

“Cheddleton wake used to be held on the same day as Leek, but has lately been altered to the Sunday afterwards.” (Loxdale).

Ascombe Park is the seat of the Sneyd family, descended from Henry de Sneyde, of Tunstall and Sneyde, Staffordshire, 3rd Edward II., 1309, whose pedigree is to be found in Burke's Landed Gentry. The family—of which Sneyd, of Keele, is the first;

Berkeley Lodge, the third house—for three or four generations assumed the surname of de Tunstall, the aforesaid Henry having married the heiress of Nicholas de Tunstall. (History of Leek). On the same authority it may be stated that Mossley, the old mansion of the Hollins's, has their arms (ar. a chev. az.; in chief, four crosses formée fitchée of the second, with a crescent) and "I.H.M. 1640" still to be deciphered on one of its spouts. Sir Brooke Boothby was of opinion that the family derived from a Saxon Hollinshead, who lost his life as an adherent to the first William, and that they were made to commemorate this event by dropping the *head* in their patronymic.



CAVERSWALL is a parish in the Cheadle Union at the north west corner of the Hundred of Totmonslow North. It contains, besides the village of Caverswall, the township of Weston Coyney and Hulme, and the Local Board district of East Vale, the latter of which, at the extremity of the parish, adjoins the populous borough of Longton, and, for historical purposes, properly belongs to the Potteries.

The most noticeable object in Caverswall is the castle. Of the origin of the castle no precise information exists. In the Saxon era there was a mansion at Caverswall, and most likely it was occupied by one of those powerful nobles who excited the peculiar jealousy of William the Conqueror. Caverswall and a large number of surrounding

the country was in an unsettled state while the Plantagenets bore sway. The owners of Caverswall in those days consequently had to make substantial provisions for their own safety. During the reign of the Plantagenets a substantial building stood there, with moat and drawbridge and every other means of protection from the lawless; and it is generally believed that it was erected by Sir William de Caverswall, in the reign of Edward the II. In the reign of Edward III., Caverswall passed by heritage from the family of that name to the Montgomerys. Subsequently the castle has changed hands many times, at one period belonging to the Earls of Huntingdon. Very early in the outbreak between King Charles and his Parliament, the Craddocks, at that time in possession of Caverswall Castle, took sides with the Parliament, for whom the castle was garrisoned. The religious spirit of the times prevailing, not only in the district now comprised within the Cheadle Union, but throughout the country, was manifested in the order then given relating to the castle. Bands of robbers ravaged the country under the pretence that they were acting for the King. Many of the principal families in the neighbourhood sent their valuables to the castle for safety. The military authorities, in advising that this course should be adopted, directed "that no shelter shall be afforded to Papists, delinquents, nor malignants." Horses were to be taken from "Papists, delinquents, and malignants," for military purposes; and from the same class of persons timber or any other materials might be taken to the full extent necessary for the purposes of fortifying the castle. Indeed, the Papists were

mercilessly plundered and persecuted in every possible way. Whatever the troops at the castle required, or fancied they needed, they levied on the inhabitants of the neighbourhood, who must have suffered severely, even those who were not "Papists, delinquents, and malignants." The poverty of the neighbourhood became such that an order was issued for the dismantling of the castle as a garrison. But before the order could reach Caverswall fresh dangers were apprehended, and the place was still held for the purpose of defence.

The old castle—a very strong and stately structure of stone, consisting of the high keep, with an inner court and garden, and four lower towers, one at each angle of the main building—has often changed hands, as previously stated, though not as the direct result of the fortunes of war; but whatever may have been the cause of this (and changes have taken place in connection with the castle even during the present generation) it has not, like many of the more superb edifices erected prior to the troublesome times of King Charles, been suffered to go to decay. The wars referred to ended in favour of freedom and just laws—freedom to follow commercial, manufacturing, and agricultural pursuits, and liberty to conduct religious exercises without fear of persecution and the confiscation of property on account of religion.

In 1811 Caverswall Castle was converted into a nunnery. In that year a number of nuns, who had emigrated from France and settled at Preston, in Lancashire, removed to Caverswall Castle as a more secluded spot. Pitt, writing in 1817, said: "This castle, which was sold by the Hon. Booth Grey to Mr. Brett, a banker, of Stone, in this county, was taken on lease by Mr. Walter Hill Coyney, of

Weston Coyney, for the nuns; and the sisterhood, amounting to sixteen in number, with their confessor, came hither. This priest, who is a man of very agreeable manners, has taken much pains to convert several of the peasantry of the parish to the principles of Catholicism. His success, however, has not been commensurate to his zeal. When he has any thing to bestow upon them they are mean and willing enough to receive it; but he has discovered that the majority of his converts come to the chapel in Caverswall Castle more for the hope of gain than for the hope of salvation. In the meantime the nuns are sufficiently active in the good work of instructing young ladies in the principles of their faith, and they have at present about thirty pupils in progress." Their discipline was exceedingly strict.

The priest's labours, as already stated, were not crowned with success, and he and the nuns quitted Caverswall. Yet they have left an impression there, and after their departure a Catholic resident at the castle, Sir P. P. Ratcliffe, erected, within the castle grounds, a chapel for divine worship according to the rites of the Roman Catholic church.

The church, which is near the castle, is a small Gothic structure of stone with a low tower. It has been built more than two centuries and a half, but modern improvements have materially altered its appearance.

A monument in the church bears the inscription at its head—"Willielmus de Careswellis," which is surrounded by the following distich:

Castri structor eram, domibus, fossique, cemento,
Vivis dans operam, nunc claudor in hoc monumento,
Anglice:

There are also in the chancel some other monuments including an exquisite one in pure white marble, by Chantrey, to the memory of Lady St. Vincent. The deceased is represented kneeling, with her arms crossed on her breast, and her coronet laid aside. She was of the family of Parker, and is described as having been "eminently pious, virtuous, and charitable." She died February 8th, 1816, aged 75 years.

Another monument sets forth—"Here lieth y^e body of George Parker, Esq., who served his country as justice of y^e peace in y^e reigns of King Charles I and II, with generall applause for his application, skill, and probity, in very unequall turns of fortune, of an equall temper of mind, of perpetuall good humour and agreeable will to y^e last." After relating his issue, the inscription adds, "He resigned his soul into y^e hands of God, 9th of May, 1675."

In the chancel are also deposited the remains of the Rt. Hon. Sir Thomas Parker, of Park Hall, "a very successful lawyer of the last century." Another monument contains a quaint inscription relating to George Craddock, who was "assaulted unto death in y^e meridian of his age" near the castle "lately bvl't, even unto beavty, by Matthew Craddock, Esquire, his father, who lyes interr'd near this place." George Craddock died April 26th, 1643.

In the north aisle there is a tablet containing the following:—

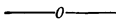
Erected in memory of Joseph Wilshaw, late of the Mear, gentleman, who died the 3rd day of February, 1844, aged 73 years. And of Catherine his widow, who died 28th day of February, 1845, aged 78 years. He bequeathed to the vicar of this parish for the time being £200 to be invested in the funds, the interest or bread to the poor of the parish of Cheadle.

as he should select on every Christmas day for ever. Also £100 to be invested in like manner, and the interest applied in keeping the tombstone of his late father and himself and the pallsiding thereof in this churchyard in repair and painting for ever. And also such sum as would purchase an annuity of 20s. a year each for the clerk and sexton for the time being of this parish for ever. He which hath pity upon the poor lendeth to the Lord and that which he hath given will He pay to him again. Prov. xix., 17.

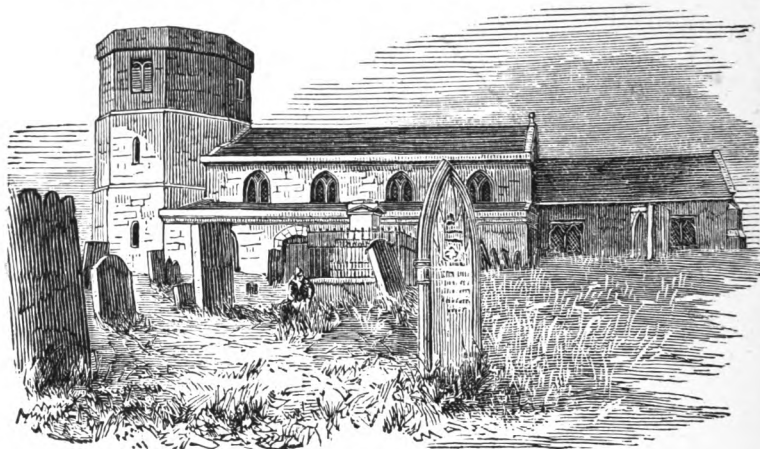
Other small benefactions are likewise recorded on tablets in the church.

In 1875 the parishioners of Caverswall were compelled by the Education Department to establish a School Board. The first election took place on the 19th of January, 1875; and as the population in 1871 was only 4,082, the Board consists of only five members.

Weston Coyney Hall, the residence of Colonel Coyney, is about three quarters of a mile from the castle. The Mr. Walter Hill Coyney who leased the castle for the nuns, was, according to an authority previously quoted (Pitt's Staffordshire), brought up a Protestant, and was introduced to a Miss Coyney, the inheritor of a considerable estate, and an orphan. This lady was a zealous Papist, and Mr. Hill, when he married her, was obliged to adopt the family name and agree that if they had any daughters they should go to mass with their mother, and the sons might go to church with their father. The agreement was adhered to, and the present owner of Weston Coyney estate is a Protestant.



Dillon. An old manuscript in the Salt Library describes it as having, in the last century, "many advantages from nature, as well apparent as occult; many from its irriguous surface, cloud-capped hills, and rich valleys, but still more from those concealed in the bowels of mother earth." A considerable portion of the land of the parish was greatly improved at the end of the last century by the judicious management of Mr. John Holliday, who



DILHORNE CHURCH.

then resided at Dilhorne Hall. [See page 30.] The village—for such it must be denominated at the present time—is small, but the parish is extensive, including Forsbrook and Blythe Marsh.

Dilhorne Church is an ancient structure of stone, with a very curious octagonal tower, the parallel of which is scarcely to be met with, except at St. Mary's, Cambridge. The tower contains five bells.

complete from the time that Elizabeth commenced to reign. A curious circumstance is recorded in them. During the Protectorate the banns of marriage between a man and woman of Dilhorne were published at the market cross of Cheadle by the town crier, and the parties were afterwards married by a justice of the peace. About the end of the seventeenth century, when the church underwent repair, a copper plate inscription was preserved by being broken from a decayed portion of the wall, and affords a correct and curious instance of the great perfection of the old square text hand. The inscription is in these words:—

Under this stone in this chauncelle or Quyer lye y^e bodys of Richard Copwood, sonne of John Copwood, Esquyer. And Margaret his wife Daighter of a worthie wyght. Namelie, of Blore, Sr William Basset, Knyght, unto whome wh^h all the faithfull, and us, graunt a joyfull resurrection, O Lord Jesus. George Copwood, 1595.

One of the coheirs of the Copwood family married to Philip Hollins about the year 1650, and their son, Copwood Hollins, subsequently came into possession of the estates. The following inscription was placed on his monument:—

Here lieth the body of Copwood Hollins, late of Dilhorne Hall, who died August 25th, anno domom^o 1705, aged 53 years.

Mourn, reader, mourn, thy mighty loss. Here lies
One whom you'll want, and, by the want, will prize:
The several ways of doing good he knew
To's Prince, his country, and his neighbours too.
All these believed to serve and then withdrew;
Here now he quiet sleeps, his labours cease,
And, as he liv'd, so happy died in peace.

Mr. Hollins having died without issue, the Dilhorne and other considerable estates by virtue of settlements vested in the coheirs of Philip Hollins. Tinn

the coheirs, whose daughter married Mr. Holliday, an eminent conveyancer, the biographer of Lord Mansfield.

Sir Edward Manningham-Buller, Bart., the present possessor of Dilhorne Hall, is the first baronet of that branch of the family. He was a son of the late Sir Frederick Yarde-Buller and brother of the first Baron Churston. Sir Edward was born July 19th, 1800, and was educated at Oriel College, Oxford (B.A. 1820, M.A. 1824). He sat as M.P. for North Staffordshire in the Liberal interest, 1832-41; for Stafford borough, 1841-7, and for North Staffordshire 1865-74. He unsuccessfully contested that division of the county 1847 and 1857. Sir Edward assumed by Royal license the additional surname of Manningham in 1866. He is a Deputy Lieutenant and magistrate for Staffordshire, and was High Sheriff of the county in 1853. Sir Edward married, 1st in 1824, Mary Anne (who died 1860) daughter and heiress of Major General Coote Manningham; secondly, in 1863, Georgina Charlotte (who died 1875) daughter and heiress of the late Sir Charles Edmund Nugent, and widow of the Right Hon. George Banks, M.P.

Arms—Quarterly: 1st and 4th sable, on a cross argent quarterly pierced of the field, four eagles displayed of the first, *Buller*; 2nd and 3rd sable, a fesse ermine in chief three griffins' heads erased or, the fesse charged with a cross-crosslet gules for difference, *Manningham*. *Crests*—1st a Saracen's Head affrontée couped proper; 2nd, a talbot's head or, collared gules, line terminating in a knot sable, neck charged with a cross-crosslet gules for difference.

The old Grammar School at Dilhorne is generally supposed to have been founded by the Earl of Huntingdon in the time of Henry VIII., though there does not appear to be any document extant which conclusively establishes this supposition. The probability is that under a subsequent deed the patronage and trusts of the school became vested in the Earls of Huntingdon. However that may be, for many years previously to the passing of the Endowed Schools Act the Dilhorne Free Grammar School was supported by the annual income of £261 subject to some small deductions, derived from the following property:—Three cottages, a barn, and about 48 acres of land at Dilhorne; four cottages and about 21 acres of land, at Kilamarsh, Derbyshire; and a farmhouse, and buildings, a cottage, and about 57 acres of land at Caverswall; the latter having, in 1813, been exchanged for some land at Blurton, part of the original estate left to endow the school. At one time a respectable Grammar School was kept up at Dilhorne. The master at that period took classical scholars as boarders and amongst the free scholars were some who received classical instruction.

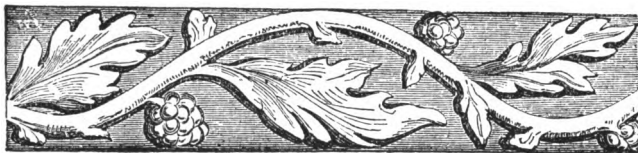
In 1872 a scheme for the management of the endowment was issued fixing the governing body at six, of whom four shall eventually be elected and two co-optative. The representative governors are to be elected by the ratepayers in vestry meeting for five years. Power was given in the scheme for disposing "of the present school site and buildings in any such manner as the Charity Commissioners shall sanction, to the intent that such site, or so much of it as was originally part of the churchyard, may thenceforth be part of the churchyard." Provision

school is to be an elementary one, the tuition fees not to exceed 9d. per week, the subjects of secular instruction to be reading, writing, arithmetic, geography, and for girls needlework. There is special provision for paying £800 and £200 to the governors of the Longton and Blyth Marsh endowed schools respectively under the schemes issued for the management of the endowments of those places.

A free school was founded in 1728 at Blyth Marsh by William Amory, of Stonehouse, in the parish of Dilhorne, and endowed with 7a. 2r. 10p. of land called Pool street Meadow, lying at Blyth Bridge, yielding in 1872 £22 a year. Early in the present century a misapplication of the trust led to a suit in Chancery, and new trustees were appointed. For two or three years after the decree in Chancery the school was suspended, and the whole of the rent was applied towards defraying the costs of the suit and the expense of repairing the school, which had fallen into great decay previously to the conveyance under the authority of the court. Afterwards the school was re-opened, and a portion only of the rent was reserved for the above purposes.

The scheme of the Endowed Schools Commissioners for the management of the endowment at Blyth Marsh is similar to that which applies to Dilhorne in its main provisions. The co-optative governors named were Mr. M. E. Buller, Rev. David Beilby, and Mr. G. H. Hawley.

About the year 1850 a new chapelry district was formed and a church was built between Blyth Bridge and Forsbrook. The cost was mainly



CHAPTER XIII.

CHURCH GOODS—CHEADLE—DRAYCOT—CHECKLEY—
CROXDEN—BRADLEY—ROCESTER—ALTON—CAUL-
DON — IPSTONES — KINGSLEY — CHEDDLETON—
CAVERSWALL—DILHORNE.



AMONG the Records in the custody of the Master of the Rolls deposited in the Public Record Office, London, there is "A just trew and a parfett survey and inventorie of all goodes, plate, juelles, vestments, belles, and other ornanments of all churches, chappelles, brotherheddes, gilds, fraternities, and compenies," within the various hundreds of Staffordshire, taken the "sixth yere of the reigne of our Sovereign Lorde King Edwarde the sixthe, by Walter Vicounte Hereforde, Thomas Fitharbert, Knight, and Edward Lyttleton, esquier, by virtue of the Kinges Majesties commission to them directed in that behalfe as hereafter particularli appereth." The following are taken from the

CHEDULL.

Fyrste, on vestement of tawney velvet, with all things to hit.

Itm. ij vestements, on of whitte saten bruges, thother of grene.

Itm. ij old vestements, thon of grene with all things to them belonging, thother of redd, with ij green tunacles.

Itm. on coope of whitte damaske, and ij old coopes.

Itm. one challes of coper and gilte, ij corporases with cases of velvet.

Itm. on pix of pewter with a canopi, and ij alter clothes.

Itm. ij candlestikes of yron, on nolliwater stoke of crasse.

Itm. iij belles in the stepull, and a hande bell.

Itm. on crosse of coper, on crosse clothe of grene saten.

Itm. ij banor clothes, iij cruetts, ij towelles, and ij acring belles.

Itm. on sanctus bell in the custody of Thomas Piotte.

Mr. delyvered by the right honorable Walter Vicounte Hereforde, Lord Ferers and of Chartley, Thomas Fitharbert, Knight, and Edward Lyttelton, squire, Comissionars for Church goodes within the Counti of Stafford, to William Sherley and Roger Jilnar, Churche Wardens there, on Chales of Coper and gilte, ij Lynen Clothes for the Holli Comunyon Table, iij bells in the stepull, and a Sanctus bell, to be kept untill the Kinges Ma^{ties} pleasure be

this viijth of May, anno regni Edwardi Sexti Septimo.
Indorsed Chedull.

DRAYCOT.

Fyrste, on redde vestement of saten sipars with all thing to hitt.

Itm. on vestement of saten sipars, blew, with all things to hitt.

Itm. on vestment of cremeson chamblett withowte an ames.

Itm. ij other vestements of diverse collors without ani thing belonging to them; on cope of dune velvett, on other of grene wolsted.

Itm. viij alter clothes, iij corporases with cases, on chales of silver with a patent, iij grett belles, a handbell, and ij sacring belles.

Md. delyvered, etc., to James Wright and Richarde Cocke churchwardens there, on chales of silver with a patent, iij belles in the stepull, and ij lynen clothes for the Holli Comunyon table, safeli to be kepte untill the Kinges Ma^{ties} pleasure be therin furder knownen, etc.

CHEKELLEY.

Fyrste, ij vestements, on of old velvett and an other of whitt silke.

Itm. iij old vestements, iiij albes, ij ameses, iij stollles.

Itm. on challes of silver with a patent parcell gilt.

Itm. a handbell, a sacring bell, ij copes, on of blewe saten bruges.

Itm. iij old altar clothes.

Md. delyvered, etc., to Thomas Beache and William Bokewalde, Churchwardens there, on chales of silver with a patent, ij lynen clothes for the Holli Comunyon Table, and iij gret belles in the stepull, safely to be kepte untill the Kinges Ma^{ties} pleasure be therein furder known, etc.

CROXDEN.

Fyrste, iij old alter clothes, on littell belle, ij sacring belles.

Itm. on old vestement of bustion, with albe, ames, stolle, and fanne.

Itm. on corporas clothe with a case, on old surples, and on towell.

Md. delyvered, etc., to Steven Oliver and Steven Snape, churchwardens there, on lytel in the chapell there, ij lynen clothes for the Holli Comunyon Table, safelie to be kepte untill the Kinges Ma^{ties} pleasure be therin furder knowen, etc.

BRADLEY.

Fyrste, on challes of silver with a patent, and iij old vestements.

Itm. iij old albes, iij ameses, iij fanes, ij stoles, and ij alterclothes.

Itm. iij towelles, ij small belles, on sanctus bell, on hand bell.

Itm. a sacring bell and an other littell bell, on crespatori.

Itm. on cruett of pewter, one pix of brasse, ij old surpleses.

Md. delivered, etc., to John Sherat and Robert Snape, Churchwardens there, on Chales of Silver with a patent, ij linen clothes for the Holli Comunion Table, ij smalle belles and a saunce bell in the Stepul, and a Surples for the Curat to ministre with, savely to be kepte until the Kinges Maj^{ties} pleasure be therein furder knowen, etc.

ROSSETTOR.

Fyrste, iiij vestements, ij albes, a cope of saten bruges.

Itm. a peare of sensors of brasse, a ship, and a bokett of brasse.

Itm. a pix of brasse, a cruett of pewter, ij corporases.

Itm. iij alterclothes, ij alterclothes for shorte alters.

Itm. iij belles in the stepull, a sacringbell, a a handebell.

Itm. ij crosses, and a challes of silver with a patente.

Md. delyvered, etc., to James Les and Thomas Grenne, Churchwardens there, on Chales of Silver with a patent, ij lynen Clothes for the Holi Comuyon Table, iiij belles in the Stepull safely to be kepte

ALLETON.

Fyrste, on challes of pewter, on pix of brasse, ij corporases, with cases.

Itm. iiij vestements, iiij ameses, ij albes, ij copes brothered with flowers.

Itm. on surples, ix alterclothes, vij towells, on vell clothe.

Itm. on crosse clothe, v banor clothes, iiij belles in the stepull.

Itm. a sanctus bell, a sacring bell, and a cressmatori of brasse.

Itm. iiij cruets, ij crosses of brasse, on of wood, and iiij coffers.

Itm. iiij candelsticks of brasse.

Md. delivered, etc., to Nichollas Key, William Gledenhurst, and William Hewet, Churchwardens there, on challes of pewter, ij linnen Clothes for the Holi Comunyon Table, a surples for the curat to minstre with, and iiij belles in the stepull, and a sanctus bell to be safeli kepte untill the Kinges Ma^{ties} pleasure be therein furder knowen, etc.

CALDON.

Fyrst, on challes of silver with a patent, parcell gilte.

Itm. on corporas with a case, a pix of maslen, ij alter clothes.

Itm. ij vestements, thou of redd silke, thother of redd sey.

Itm. on sensor of brasse, on crosse of cooper, and ij albes.

Itm. ij belles in the stepull, a sanctus bell, and a handebell.

Itm. a sacring bell.

Md. delyvered etc., to George Lorte and Henri Kente, churchwardens there, on chales of silver with a patent parcell gilte, ij lynen clothes for the Holli Comunyon Table, ij belles in the stepull, and a sanctus bell, and a surples for the curat to ministre with, safeli to be kepte untill the Kinges Majesties pleasure be therin furder knowen, etc.

YPSTONES.

Fyrste, on challes of silver with a patent parcell gilte.

Itm. on vestement of saten, on albe, on stoll, and on fanne.

Itm. on corporas, a cope of grenne silke, a grette bell.

Itm. a sanctus bell.

Md. delyvered etc., to Robert Masse and James Johnson, churchwardens there, on chales of silver with a patent, on clothe for the Holli Comunyon Table, on belle in the stepull, and a saunce belle, a surples for the curat to ministre with, saffeli to be kepte untill the Kinges Majesties pleasure be therin furder knowen, etc.

Itm. ij corporas cases, iij alter clothes, on cope of silk laking the cape, and on vestement of whitte saten.

Itm. on vestement of whitte silke withowte lynning.

Itm. on vestement of blewe silke branched, and and a handbell.

Itm. ij belles in the stepull.

Md. delyvered, etc., to Thomas Aderley and John Thornburye, churchwardens there, on chales of silver with a patent, ij belles in the stepull, tow lynen clothes for the Holli Communion Table, safely to be kepte until the Kinges Ma^{ties} be therein furder knowen, etc.

CHEDULTON.

Fyrste, ij vestements, on of blewe silke, thother of yollowe and red velvett with albes, ameses, stolles, and fannes.

Itm. ij copes, on of grenne velvett, thother of silk parcell gilt with a patent.

Itm. on corporas, ij cruetts of leadde, ij grette belles.

Itm. ij sacring belles, iij alter clothes, a crosse of maslen.

Md. that Walker Mildmay, Knight, and Robert Kelway, abouts iiij yeres paste sold xlix shepe and vj kie which were to the use of the church, but for howe muche they knowe not.

with a patent, ij lynen clothes for the Holli Comunyon Table, and thre grett belles in the stepull, and a surples for the curat to ministre with, safeli to be kepte untill the Kinges Ma^{ties} pleasure be therin further knowen, etc.

CARESWALL.

Fyrste, ij belles in the stepull, a sanctus bell and a handbell.

Itm. a sacring bell, a crosse of coper with a banor to the same.

Itm. ij sensors of brasse, on cruett, on towell.

Itm. ij vestements, on of blewe chamblet, thother of taffetta silk with all things thereto belonging, and a rochett.

Itm. ij coopes, on of redd silke, thother of checked crulle.

Itm. ij corporases with cases, ij alterclothes, and on surples.

Md. John Aston and Gilbert Rowley, Churchwardens there, delyvered to Richarde Forcett, surveor, on challes of silver, with a patent parcel-gilte.

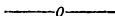
Md. Edwarde Clarke delivered to Richarde Cowper, surveor, a vestement of whitte fustian with all things to hit, and xxxs. vjd which remayned as a stoke.

Md. delyvered, etc. to Edmunde Clarke and Richarde Hone, Churchwardens there, ij belles in the stepull, a sanctus bell, ij lynen clothes for the Holli Comunyon Table. and a surples for the ministre



CROXDEN ABBEY: ITS HISTORY AND ARCHITECTURAL FEATURES.

BY CHARLES LYNAM.



PURPOSE first to give a slight sketch of the history of the abbey, and secondly, to describe its architectural features. The sources whence my information is received, are, a copy of the Annals of the Abbey, mostly kept by a Monk of the House named William de Schepished, and given me by Mr. Garner; the journal of the British Archæological Association for December, 1865; and the buildings themselves, as they have been known to me for many years past as they now exist.

Croxden is one of the later Cistercian abbeys of England, and was founded from the Norman monastery of Alnet or Aulney, near Bayeaux, in Normandy. The annals of William de Schepished and their continuation extend from William the Conqueror to the year ~~1174~~. Like all the monastic annals, the contents are very miscellaneous, but in

H of book 74.

1st—Events concerning the Kings of England and the Royal Family, and narratives relating to wars both at home and abroad.

2nd—Dates of taxes imposed on the laity and the church, and regulations respecting the coinage.

3rd—The succession of the Bishops of Lichfield and Coventry down to 1322. An imperfect series of the Archbishops of Canterbury down to 1333, and occasional mention of other Bishops, etc.

4th—The foundation of several Cistercian monasteries. The erection and destruction of various churches, etc.

5th—Records of eclipses, earthquakes, comets and stars, storms, years of famine and plenty, and seasons of drought and of wet.

6th—A complete series of notices of Abbots of Croxden for the first 200 years of the existence of the abbey, in which the date of the erection of its buildings is accurately defined, and a genealogy of the family de Verdun, the founders of the monastery, is given.

7th—Some account of the author of the Chronicle and of some members of his family.

William de Schepished took his first vow in A.D. 1288, and was ordained priest of Walsall, by the Bishop of St. Asaph, on the 26th February, 1294, so the annals after this date could not have been compiled by this monk. Some of his relatives were monks, and some of them in his own abbey.

We learn from the Chronicle that in 1176, Bertram de Verdun, from pious motives, gave to the monks of Alnet, or Aulnay, the land of Chotes, to

the place now called Cawton or Cotton, not far from Croxden. In 1178 the first monks of the monastery must have been brought together. They were all from abroad; but one Thomas an Englishman was elected first abbot. In the next year the removal from Chotes to Croxden took place, and in 1181, the *place* of the abbey was dedicated. Thomas, the first abbot, elected on the day of Pentecost, 1178, being yet a deacon, presided over the house for fifty-one and a half years, and although "busied with the erection of very many buildings," wrote out with his own hand the beautiful volumes containing the greater part of the *Bible*. He died, or as the old Chronicler expresses it, "he rested in the Lord" on the 4th of December, 1229, and was buried in the chapter house. The buildings upon which he was engaged seemed to have formed the foundations of the church and of some parts of the domestic buildings, but his interment in the chapter house, and that of Nicholas de Verdun, before the high altar, seem to indicate that the plan, at least, of the buildings was arranged and carried out.

In 1230 Walter de Chacumb was elected abbot. He ruled but a short time, and was buried in the chapter house on the south side of his predecessor.

In 1234 William de Esseburn was elected abbot on the Octave of John the Baptist, but he died in the autumn of 1237, on his return from Citreaux, and he was buried "in foreign parts," and to him succeeded John de Tillon, but he "laid down his office" in 1242.

In this year Walter London, Prior of Stratford (in Essex), was elected abbot, and, on the Sunday before Ascension, undertook the government of the

believed that the Lord had bestowed a special blessing upon their place. He wonderfully augmented the convent, and made the buildings very beautiful in the gates of the monastery, the half of the church and chapter house and of the refectory. He built the kitchen, the dormitory, the chamber of the sick, and its cloister, and the sheepcote, and he erected many other buildings, with great skill, and furnished them in a laudable manner. Lastly, towards the close of his life he erected a stone wall round half of the abbey. At his death it is said he had completed the abbey to the utmost. The dedication of the church took place under his rule in 1253. He departed this life on the 28th June, 1268, "leaving the memory of himself in blessedness to posterity."

The abbey was then vacant for four months and three days, but on St. Peter's day, 1268, William de Howton, who succeeded to the chair, built the upper and lower abbot's chamber in an admirable manner, giving for the work £100 sterling. He also bought a *Bible* in nine volumes, with excellent notes, for fifty marks sterling, glossed by Master Solomon, Arch-deacon of Leicester. He died abroad September 16th, 1274, probably attending a chapter of the order, and was interred at the parent Abbey of the Cistercians, Citreaux, more than 400 abbots attending his obsequies. On the 20th October in this year died John de Verdun, "a mighty patron of this house," and was buried before the high altar of the church.

On the 13th December, 1274, Henry de Moysham succeeded to the abbacy. He finished the wall round the abbey. He released himself from the burden of the pastoral care, and retired from his

John de Billysdon, "a man exceeding all in gentleness," succeeded on the same day that his predecessor resigned. "This man could in truth and reality be called by the name of John:" he was greatly beloved in the eyes of all who beheld him. "He abounded also in richness of corn, wine, and oil." So plentiful was the harvest in 1288, that carts could not be found to carry the hay and corn. To him may be attributed the cellary or west wing of the monastery, called in later times the Billysdon building (corrupted into Botelston). He "departed to Christ" on the 8th July, 1293, and was buried in the chapter house on the north side of Thomas, the first abbot. The abbey was then vacant for nearly a year.

On Holy Trinity day (1st June, 1294,) Richard de Twyford, "a man excelling all in religion and devotion," was elected Father of this Monastery. He, after three years' faithful administration, paid the debt of human life, also on Trinity day 1297, after special devotion from his first profession at the altar of the Holy Trinity. He was buried in the chapter house "beyond the pulpit" next to Walter de Chacumb. The ordination to the priesthood of the author of the Chronicle was in his time, and in the night after his burial, it is recorded "that the church of Lek (Leek) was burnt down, together with the whole town by accident." A vacancy of more than seven months followed.

William de Over was elected abbot on the 30th December, 1297. In 1300 the underkeeper emptied a large pool and found but little fish, with the exception of 500 eels or thereabouts. In 1301 on the day of the Blessed Mary Magdalene, about the sixth

extent, that all the persons in the convent, being at their first refection, were dismayed with a sudden and unlooked for trembling. In 1302, the bell of collocation was first hung in the church. The Chronicle records in 1303, "our wood of Lyewode was burned at our grange at Chedle." In 1308 the abbot of our house being cited to the general chapter, and not going, was deposed from his office by the said chapter. He augmented the library with many books, and purchased our house in London for £20 off Fulco de Saint Edmund. In this year he died, and was buried in the cloister of the monks, without the church door, near the scamnum or exchange, the place where traders were admitted to sell wares to the monks.

Richard de Esseby who had been prior since 1298, was elected to the abbacy in 1308, on the day of St. Gregory the Pope. In the year 1399, T. de Verdun, the patron, died on the Feast of St. Bartholomew the Apostle, at Alveton, and was laid by the side of his fathers in this church with great honour, concerning whom it was said, "He died, and was as tho' he died not, for he left behind him one like to himself both in name and reality." In 1312, Matilda de Verdun, Lady Alveton, gave birth to her fourth daughter, Margaret. Lady Matilda dying within a month of her birth was buried with great pomp in the Abbey Church, near the Altar of St. Benedict, Gilbert, Bishop of Armadown, being the officiating minister. The Earl of Lancaster with all the nobility of the county attended the funeral. On the 23rd of May, 1313, Richard de Esseby laid down his office, and Thomas de Castreton, prior of the house, was canonically elected. At the same

convent in full assembly, the usual seal of the abbot of the house was broken, and it was enacted that a common seal should be made according to a royal statute, and that it should be placed in the charge of four of the most worthy monks of the house, and it was made accordingly. On the vigil of Easter the great bell of the house was unfortunately broken, and Master Henry Michel de Lichfield came to cast another, and laboured at it with his youths from the octave of the Trinity to the feast of the Nativity of the Blessed Virgin; and then failed in casting it, losing all his labour, but, beginning it afresh, he completed it, at last, about the Feast of all Saints. In 1319, Alveton Castle, and the patronage of the abbey passed to the Furnivals, Lords of Worksop and Sheffield. At this time a plague or murrain visited the cattle through the whole land, and this house sustained thereby a loss in cattle of 200 marks. The new Lord of Alveton, Thomas de Furnival, made many exactions upon this house, to wit, certain daily distribution of alms at the gate, the keeping of his horses and hounds in any numbers he pleased to fix, the maintenance at table of seven of his bailiffs from Alveton, every sixth day throughout the year, in a room specially set apart for their use. Thus and otherwise he caused great trouble to the monks, until at length, under a writ, terms were made by agreement as to these matters between the Lord of Alveton and this house. In 1320, on the 11th of June, Richard de Esseby was again elected, nothing being said of the death of Thomas de Castreton. From infirmity, Richard de Esseby resigned his office a second time on the 23rd May, 1329. He died in November, 1322, in the 52nd year of his

interred before the Altar of St. Benedict, in the south transept of the church.

On the second resignation of Richard de Esseby in 1329, Thomas de Schepished was called to the charge on the 12th of June. In the following year it is said, an eclipse took place, of the sun, in the afternoon of the 16th of August. Before this for two months and more, and afterwoods for three months, so great a fall of rain burst forth, and so unusual and unseasonable was the state of the atmosphere, that the crops could not ripen; consequently in several places of the country they did not begin to reap until Michaelmas; so that at Croxden they had scarcely completed reaping by the first of November, and at length they stowed away their peas in granaries, etc. Strange to say, early in November, and up to Martinmas, peas fresh in pod were given to the convent in the refectory instead of pears and apples. On the 24th December, a very violent wind blew from the west and unroofed the buildings of the abbey and of the whole country to a terrible extent, and entirely threw down from the foundation, several of them; also tearing up in a wonderful manner from the roots, innumerable oaks in the woods, and apple trees and pear trees in the garden. More woods were also burned this year.

In 1332, the whole cloister of the monks was roofed anew all round, and according to the account of the carpenters, shingles were used to the value of twenty-five marks five shillings and sixpence. In 1333, the refectory and central tower were roofed anew with shingles which cost more than nineteen marks. Such was the salubrity of the air this year,

buildings adjacent to it, to wit, store rooms and necessary offices, and also the dormitory of the abbot, were roofed anew, in a fit and becoming manner with new shingles, nearly thirty marks worth, and all the spouting and gutters, which were before of wood, were made of lead. In this year Lady Joanna de Furnival of Alveton, the last of the Verduns, died in child birth at the premature age of 30. The Abbot of the Abbey, assisted by those from Burton, Diculacre and Hulton, with other venerable fathers, officiated at the funeral. Her grave lay before the high altar. In this place it is also recorded that Lord Bertram de Verdun, the illustrious founder of this house, died in the Holy Land, where he was travelling with Richard King of England, and notice is made of all their interments.

In 1335, this abbot began to build his new chamber, between the kitchen and the infirmary, and the dormitory, and in the following year he completed it at great expense. In 1336, an abbey pool was made in Lent. The King exacted the wool, at a certain number of sacks, and for a certain price, the number for Staffordshire being 600, and the price nine marks, but he paid nothing at all. The winter was very severe and long, and the snow very deep.

In 1339, Margaret the daughter of Thomas de Furnival (and at whose birth the last of the Verduns died), also died, in the 19th year of her age, at Sheffield, an office on her behalf being celebrated at Croxden. In the same year Thomas de Furnival also died at Sheffield, and was buried at the monastery of Beauchief, by the Abbot of Croxden. Whether

In his time Roger, Bishop of Coventry, held a visitation at Alveton church, and slept the next night at Croxden Abbey, where he examined the muniments of the convent, relating to their possession of that church.

The years 1340 to 1344 stand blank in the chronicle. In 1345, the wood of Gibberiding and others were sold, and houses at Shawe, Combrigge, etc., built without sparing labour or expense. In this year, it is said sheep and other animals perished from rot, famine, and cold. In 1346, the Abbey Pool above referred to gave way and was repaired. The year 1347 is blank, and 1348 nearly so. In 1349 it is said, "There was a great pestilence throughout the whole world." In 1350, "This year was a jubilee." From 1351 to 1361 nothing is recorded, except in the latter year this is said: "A second pestilence took place, and all the children that were born since the first pestilence died." In 1367, Alexander de Colbeley, who succeeded Richard de Schepished, and of whom nothing else is related, was deposed: on the day thereof, 13th January, 1367, William de Gunston was elected abbot by the whole convent. The Abbot of Alnet sent a commissary to visit Croxden, at this time its affairs being in confusion, the debts amounting to 152 marks eight shillings and elevenpence. On the day Alexander de Colbeley was deposed, William de Gunston was elected in his place.

In 1368, there was a great scarcity of grain: one bushel of wheat was worth in London two shillings and more, one of barley twenty-pence, two bushels of oats twenty-pence. In 1369, there was a

years. Also the house called Botelston fell down from the church, as far as the door of the aula or hall, except three couples, and in the next year, it was rebuilt in large timber, and covered with nineteen and a half marks worth of shingles. In 1372, the ditches were made at a total cost of seven marks. In the same year a heavy flood destroyed all the grass growing near the water, and all the bridges across the Churnet were totally destroyed. Also in the same year a tempest in the day time took the lead off the dormitory, infirmary, and abbot's chamber, and threw down half the trees in the orchard, and thirty oaks at Grete, and the large granary of Musden. This last was rebuilt the next year. In 1374, the last recorded work at the abbey was done, namely, three corners of the cloisters were repaired, and both north and west walls near the church were roofed in anew, and also the church with "clamp irons." Thus ends the Chronicle of William de Schepished, Monk of the Abbey of Croxden—

"To be, to have been, to be about to be, are three vain periods of existence. For everything perishes which has been, which is, or which shall be. That which has been, which is, and which shall be, perishes in the space of a short hour: therefore of little profit it is to be, to have been, to be about to be."

This monk's labours were carried on by another hand whose list gives the following names, after that of William de Gunston. Philip Ludlow, Roger Preston, John de Brownefield, William Burton, Ralph Layland, John Walton, and John Shipton, at first Abbot of Hulton. elected at Croxden in

government terminated in 1539, when this house was suppressed and became tenantless.

To turn from the Chronicle to the remains of the buildings. I produce a plan enlarged from one published in the *Archæological Journal* for 1863, on which is shewn in black the parts now remaining, and also the complete form of the buildings as made out by my friend Mr. Gordon Hills, of London. They follow the Cistercian arrangement, but present several peculiarities; the most striking is the extreme simplicity of the windows, and of much of the detail: the more elaborate parts have much of a foreign aspect, due, no doubt to the connection and dependence of this abbey on that of Alnet.

The architecture of the remains is with little exception of the 13th century, and there can be no doubt that in what still exists of the church we see the work, which was consecrated under Walter de London in 1241, and in the sacristy chapter house, and two passages south of it, in the common room of the monks which forms the substructure of their dormitory, in the "necessary offices" attached, and in the kitchen and fragment of the refectory, we are looking upon the other buildings erected by the same man between 1242 and 1268. The abbot's house as we see it may with equal certainty be allowed to be that erected by William de Howton, between 1268 and 1274. The work added to the south end of the monks' dormitory is probably that new chamber of the abbot lying between the kitchen of the infirmary and the dormitory, which Abbot Richard de Schepished erected in 1335 and 1336. Identical in workmanship with this, is the vaulting of the cellary, adjoining the west end of the church

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b. Altar of St

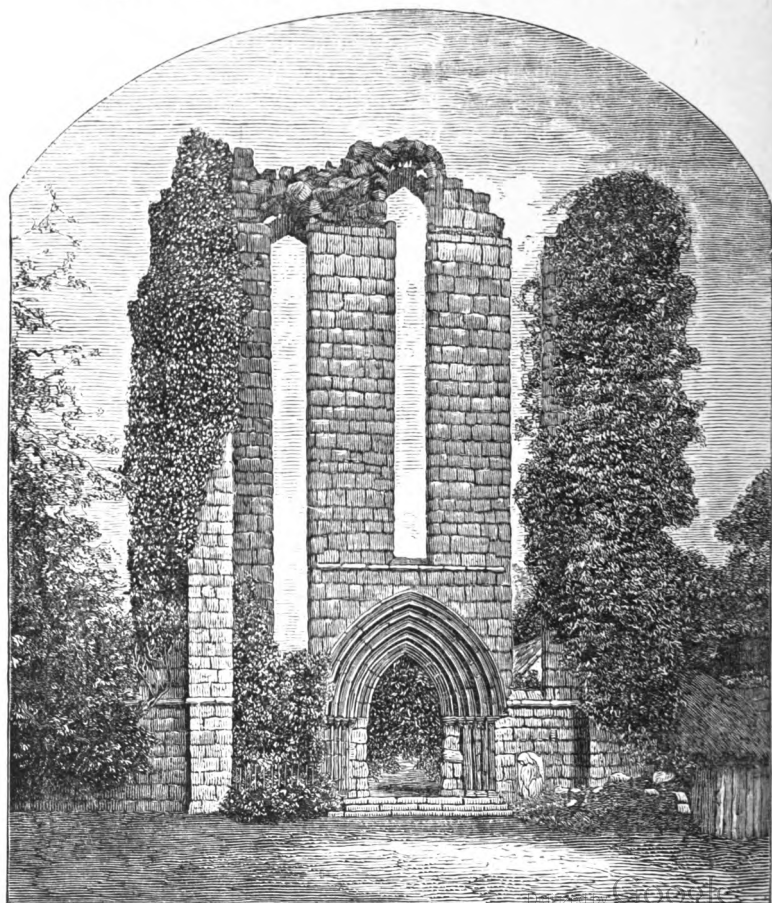
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Note: The black sh

and 1369. A small portion of the abbey gateway may yet be seen, and the abbey mill is full of materials taken from the abbey. Of the ruins, the church first commands attention. The west end, with its richly moulded doorway and stately triple lancet windows, and lofty buttresses, is simple and dignified. The remains of the half columns, on the inside of this wall, denote the sort of pillars which separated nave and aisles. The remains of the south wall shew that the aisles had groined vaults. A large portion of the south transept also still remains, against the south gable of which abuts the dormitory roof, and in which is the door to the sacristy, and to the monks' dormitory, being their entrance to the church for night services. On the east side of the transept were two chapels which, with the transept itself, were vaulted. The interments in this transept were, 1—Norman de Verdun, father of the founder. 2—Theobald de Verdun, died 1399. 3—Matilda, died 1312. 4—Theobald, son of Theobald de Verdun, and husband of Matilda, who died in 1316. 5—The infant son of these, named also Theobald. 6—Abbot, Richard de Esseby, in 1333. The two chapels of this transept were dedicated, one to the Holy Trinity to the north, and the other to St Benedict.

The fragment at the east is just one half of a small apse, which was evidently attached to the circular end of the church. This little chapel had a vaulted roof, and was lighted by a single lancet window, and is of the same date as the rest of the church. This fragment is a key to the form of the whole east end, and it shews that there must have been five small apsidal chapels round the

eastern termination for a Cistercian church in England. It is believed the only other instance of



both Beaulieu and Croxden were dependent upon, and had their origin in, that country. The plan of Croxden is a copy of that at Alnet, which was dedicated in 1190. There the five aspidal chapels were dedicated as follows: the central one to the Blessed Virgin Mary; the others to St. Thomas of Canterbury, St. Mary Magdalene, St. John the Baptist, and St. Martin.

The great altar stood, as shewn upon the plan, within the main apse; the interments before it were, 1—Nicholas de Verdun, son of the founder, 2—John de Verdun, who died in 1274. 3—Joanna de Furnival, who died 1334, and was buried between the two. Some years ago three stone coffins were to be seen in the position shewn upon the plan. Such situation being usually devoted to the remains of highly venerated saints.

To the south of the south transept are the buildings of the Abbot Walter de London. Adjoining the transept is the sacristy. West of this is a small chamber which the notice of the interment of Abbot William de Over shews to have been the scamnum or exchange. The church door before which he was buried as we see, still remains a rich piece of work.

Next, south, is the chapter house, with its front of three arches, forming an open screen without glazing or doors. The central arch formed the entrance, and the side arches were enriched with tracery. The chapter house had a vaulted roof, as indicated by its remains. In this apartment where the convent daily assembled, under the presidency of the abbot, were probably interred most of the abbots.

de Chacumb the second, to the south of the first; John de Billysdon the eighth to the north of the first, and Richard de Twyford the ninth abbot. South of the chapter house is a passage which led from the cloister to the gardens of the monastery mentioned more than once in the Chronicle. Next to this is another and narrower passage, which also led to the gardens, and by a door in its south wall to a common room of the monks. The walls of this room remain, but the three central columns, which supported the vault, are gone. The lancet windows on the east shew how this room was lighted. There were two lancet windows at the south end, and a door near them in the west wall. To the east of this room is the building mentioned in the Chronicle in 1334, as adjoining the dormitory. This, no doubt, was of two stories in height. The dormitory (built by Walter de London), extended over the common room passage, chapter house and sacristy, except that against the church was probably the treasury. The south end of the dormitory was set apart from the first for the noviciate. The steps leading to it are against the west wall of the common room.

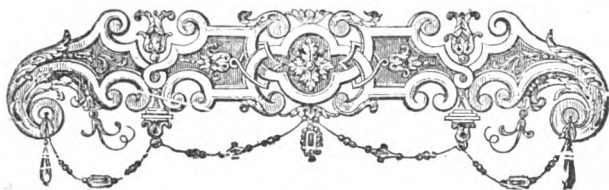
Of the buildings on the south of the cloister but little remains. To the east is the dormitory staircase—a door into the south garden—an oven indicating the position of the kitchen. Next the kitchen westwards, just enough remains to mark the position of the refectory in its usual place in a Cistercian Abbey, built by Walter de London, and mentioned in 1333. It was in this apartment that in 1301 the monks were dismayed by the shock of an earthquake as related in the Chronicle.

The remains of the west wing are very slight, but

of two columns down the middle. This work shews the northern portion against the church to have been early, and the southern of later date. This wing was no doubt occupied by the cellary and lay brethren. The way from their dormitory to the church for night services is still indicated, and here probably was the hall or guest house. This is the portion which fell in 1368, and was afterwards rebuilt, and known as the Botelsdon building. The cloister of the monks was within the quadrangle now described, and was no doubt the work of Walter de London. In front of the chapter house it had a vaulted ceiling, but wood elsewhere, as the remaining walls indicate.

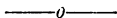
Of the abbot's house built by William de Howton, between 1268 and 1274, the fragments are scanty and ruinous. In 1335 and 1336, Richard de Schepished built his new chamber between the kitchen of the infirmary and the dormitory. It blocked up the end windows of the common room. The infirmary, where dwelt the aged and infirm of the house, was about in the place indicated on the plan. Nothing now remains of this.

We have now traced the monks and their doings through many years, but before we leave them, allow me one reflection. These men builded a House of God, and this without bazaar or tea meetings. They cultivated their land in quiet industry, grateful to their founder, patrons, benefactors, and above all, were ever mindful of Him who blessed their toil and prayers (as this Chronicle of the aged monk clearly indicates), and yet their house was destroyed, their lands confiscated, and their church desecrated, and now a common highway passes through the temple they reared for the worship of God, and beasts tread the



THE CHEADLE COALFIELD.

BY WILLIAM MOLYNEUX, F.G.S.



THE tract of country to which the name of the "Cheadle Coalfield" has been given is circular in shape, about five and a half miles in diameter, and situated on the western flank of the southern extremity of the Pennine chain of hills, and the eastern division of the northerly part of North Staffordshire. It is enclosed on all sides by hills, with a circular boss or elevation standing in the centre, and is practically a basin, contained in rock geologically older on three sides, and on the fourth by a series of newer age. Its immediate marginal elevations, on the east, north and west sides, are composed of one or other of the Millstone Grit groups, while the other is made up of the Bunter-beds of the new red sandstone. Geologically the country of which it forms the centre is of a most varied and interesting description; and for beauty and diversity the scenery of which it is composed has no counterpart in the Midland counties. Bold and rugged here, soft and swelling there, it is beautiful everywhere; and within a six mile walk of the town of Cheadle to the

open section, examples of every member of the great Carboniferous system, from the Carboniferous Limestones, to the mottled clays of the Upper Coal Measures; and coming upon these, the Permians, and different groups of new red sandstone, with their superficial coverings of boulder-clays, sands, and gravels. It is a rich field for the physical geologist, and the palæontologist, the naturalist, and the artist; and to everybody who has even a touch of that deeper feeling which belongs to a sensitive and appreciative mind, it affords a source of attraction and genuine pleasure.

The fundamental rocks of the district are the Carboniferous Limestones,* upon which all other members of the Carboniferous series rest. These, notwithstanding their geological position, now form and occupy the bold elevation of Cauldon Low and the Weever hills, some 1300 feet above the sea level, and in which the great Pennine ridge abruptly terminates. These Limestones are thick-bedded, massive in structure, brown and gray in colour, sub-crystalline, fossiliferous, and metaliferous, and lying slightly inclined to the west. They are here and there slickensized and fissured, the spaces being infilled with red iron-coated siliceous and calcareous grains. Hæmatite lodes run east and west, and both copper and lead ores have been found and sparingly worked. The Hæmatite if followed downwards would be found to increase in thickness and value. The Limestone has been quarried some

*Some years ago, teeth, tusks and other remains of *Elephas primigenius* were found in a fissure of a quarry at Waterhouses, and at Thor's Cave and other caverns in these Limestone, remains of numerous extinct animals with weapons and other

hundreds of years, and used in the manufacture of iron, and in building and agricultural operations—for each and all of which it is in every respect thoroughly adapted.

These Limestones, which are from 800 to 1000 feet in thickness, have been brought into their present position by processes, which, whatever the length of time during which they were in operation, have effected a complete and wonderful change in the normal condition of the whole of the central parts of the northern portion of England. It is not necessary here to enter into a description of the means by which the change has been brought about, or the results by which that change have been accompanied; but it may be mentioned as a fact of great importance in the investigation of the Cheadle coalfield that before the elevation of the Pennine chain took place, the two now detached coalfields of Staffordshire and Derbyshire were united and continuous; and lying covered up by deposits many thousands of feet below their present level. But for this elevation, neither of the great coalfields which now spread outwards from the flanks of the Pennine chain—including those of Durham, Yorkshire, Derbyshire, and Leicestershire on the east; and Lancashire, and North and South Staffordshire on the west—would have been known; they would still have been buried deep in the bowels of the earth, and with them the ironstone, coal, and limestone, upon which the great wealth and commercial prosperity of England was founded and has hitherto been maintained.

The country which forms the western margin of the Weever hills is composed of the Yoredale

naturally succeed the carboniferous limestones, and against which they are here faulted. They are about 500 feet thick, are much disturbed by parallel faults, are irregularly inclined in every direction, contain concretionary ironstone hæmatite, occasionally copper and lead ores, and abound in *Goniatites*, *Ariculopecten*, *Spirifer*, *Lingula*, fish remains, and many other fossils. There are also plant remains. They have been subjected to a great amount of irregular surface denudation, and in many places they are cut down into deep and picturesque valleys, coombes, and gullies. These deposits occur nowhere south of Licks wood, near Oakamoor; but hence they sweep northwards, and occupy the whole of the broad tract of country which extends from the banks of the Dove at Hartington, to the ridge overlooking the Cheshire Plain at Congleton; a distance of fifteen miles. Approaching the Churnet Valley near Basford, they have been hollowed into a deep long trough which runs south and north, and is infilled by Bunter gravels, on which the town of Leek partly stands. West of this, they give place to a narrow parallel belt of Millstone Grit, which has been preserved within their folds, and from beneath which they again rise, forming an oval and detached field running northwards from between the Shafferlong and Pottery Coalfield, and then tail to a point in a narrow belt at Stansmoor near Dilhorne.

The Yoredale beds are followed by the different rocks of the Millstone Grit series—the Fifth, Fourth, Third, Second, and First grits, with their accompanying shales—the whole attaining a thickness of from

round by Consall, and down southward as far as Dilhorne. These grits are coarse in structure, often, as in the case of the Rough and Third Grit conglomerate, and largely used for building stone and other purposes. They frequently contain *Calamites*, *Lepidodendra*, and other plants, and the shales by which they are divided are rich in *Aviculopeecten*, *Goniatites*, *Posidonia*, *Lingula*, *Orthoceras*, and other shells, besides *Palæamiscus*, *Rhizodus*, and a large list of fishes, with plant remains. At the base of the shales of the First and Third Grits there are deposits of Hæmatitic iron ore, and at the base of the Second Grit occurs a thick seam of coal, which has been worked at its outcrop at Ipstones and other places on the same range.

The rocks described all lie north of a line drawn east and west from Oakamoor to Dilhorne, and constitute the margin or boundary tracts of the Cheadle Coalfield in that direction; but south of this line these rocks, which underlie, suddenly give way to rocks which naturally overlie the coal measures; and the country becomes one exclusively of new red sandstone. Curiously enough, although there is this great difference in the geological horizon of the rock, the elevation of the country is continued and the rounded outline of the Bunters as they stretch southward from and include High Shut, Rakeway, and Gun hills on each side, complete the outer lip of the great basin within which the Cheadle coalfield practically and geologically lies. The new red sandstone rocks consist of Bunter conglomerates, Neupe sandstones, and red marls, which abutting the immediate border of the coalfield appear to be more

to the west. Within a mile or so of Huntley Hall, where the coal measures disappear from the surface, the new red sandstone beds are represented exclusively by red marls, which broaden out and absorb the whole of the country between the Trent and Dove valleys as far as Burton-on-Trent. On some parts of Needwood forest, at Bagot's Park and Christchurch, they are capped by outlines of the naturally on-curving Rhætic sandstones, limestones, shales, and marls.

These in brief are the whole of the stratified rocks which appertain to and contribute in a marked or special manner to the physical features of the Cheadle coalfield. There is no evidence of the existence of the Permians in direct association with the rocks of which the geology of the immediate district is made up; and it is singular that while the southern and south-west margins of the adjoining Pottery coalfield are composed very largely indeed of Permians, the Cheadle basin is, so far as has been proved, entirely wanting in these deposits. The nearest point at which they occur is Cocknage, six miles south-west from Cheadle. The superficial deposits will be hereafter dealt with.

The measures of the Cheadle coalfield consist of two distinct groups of strata, the one belonging to and representing the lower, and the other the lower portion of the middle division of the North Staffordshire coalbearing series. The lower measures are now largely developed, and occupy a larger extent of country on the north and east margins of the field than the west, and in point of fact it is only on the

Park, Ipstones, thence to Belmont and Consall, and then turning south extend to near Dilhorne. The divisional line between these and the succeeding lower thick or middle series—the Kingsley sandstone—extends from Hobridging Wood to Kingsley, and thence to Hazles and Dairy House. Practically the coalfield is about equally divided between these two distinct groups—that is, the newer or middle group occupies one half; but the lower or underlying group of course naturally exists over the whole.

The position of these lower beds is this—they dip westerly on the eastern side of the field, southerly on the north, and easterly on the west, and thus by inclining to a common centre establish the fact of its basin-like character, and their uniform extension under the whole area comprised in the field.

These Lower Measures consist of black, grey, and chocolate shales, clunch, brick, fire clays, several bands of lean clay-ironstone, several seams of coal, and at the base resting almost immediately on the First Grit a band of valuable iron ore known as the "Froghall Ironstone." The existence of this ore was first determined by a Cornish miner named Bishop, who, in 1840, had a lease of a few acres of land near Consall Forge, in the Churnet Valley, for the purpose of working the thin coals there, and whose attention was attracted to it by noticing detached blocks of the ore in the river bed. It had, however, long before been used by the farmers of the district as "raddle," and Dr. Plot in his "Natural History of Staffordshire," published in 1688, referred to its occurrence both here and elsewhere, and noticed its use. There is a common impression in the country that this ore had been

the time of the Danes; and the numerous heaps of slag or furnace refuse found not only in the immediate neighbourhood of the Churnet valley, where the ore has, since Bishop's time, been worked, but some miles distant outside the Coal Measure, area are pointed out as evidence of these ancient workings. No doubt the ore had been worked to a small extent previously to its modern discovery, as at times "hollows" or places where it had been worked have been occasionally met with in the district, and fragments of the ore occur amongst the slag, but there is no evidence of the extraction of the ore from the strata in which it is embedded, anything at all approaching the quantity indicated by the slag heaps, which, of course, would have been the case had it ever been extensively mined.

These slag heaps are unquestionably the refuse of iron smelting and manufacture, but the ore itself was brought principally from other parts of Staffordshire, because of the abundance of wood which grew here, and which was converted into charcoal for the purpose; coal not then being used. Similar heaps exist at Chartley and many other places in the county, far removed from the situation of ironstone deposit, and they indicate the custom in force many centuries ago, of the iron ore as the less bulky substance, being taken on the backs of horses to where the wood or charcoal required for smelting grew—nothing more.

At distances varying from twelve to forty yards above the ironstone occurs a seam of coal called *Stinking Coal*, and about the same distance above this another seam of coal called the *Saute or Sweet*

evidence. Along the outcrop of each seam, the "old men" delved coal certainly some generations ago, and hundreds of old pit banks show both the scene and the process by which it was conducted. These old coal workings appear to have been principally for the purpose of lime-burning; the coal being too sulphureous for ordinary domestic use, and in comparison with the sweet cheerful blaze of wood, of which in these days the country was largely stocked, it was dirty and objectionable. The "Sweet Coal" has but a limited area; and the "Stinking" or Sulphur Coal has been worked principally along the line of the Churnet Valley, and back to the east and north, and north-west; but not west of Kingsley. The coal seams which overlie these Lower coals, and are divided from them by the Kingsley sandstone, are confined to a line west of that village; and comprise all those of Cheadle proper, from which they differ in every important particular, both as regards position, thickness, quality, and palæontological associations.

The Cheadle Coals cannot be shown to have been worked much in excess of a hundred years, and the first operations appear to have been confined to the outcrops of one or more seams near Kingsley on the east, and Litley and Dilhorne on the west. Being situated a much greater distance from the Limestone quarries than the Lower Coals, their use was not only local, but almost exclusively devoted to domestic purposes. While the Churnet Valley portion of this Coalfield with its iron ore and Stinking Coals absorbed so much attention, the Cheadle basin for many years was gradually getting

common opinion that it was becoming a worked out district, and therefore comparatively valueless in another. Consequently its resources remained undeveloped, the number of its collieries decreased, as tract after tract became exhausted, and the Cheadle coalfield was fast following the example of the Shafferlong and Goldsitch Moss basin—a coalfield with a history but no future. However, by a series of well-chosen and perseveringly-conducted explorations which originated with the proprietor of the Cheadle Colliery, the Cheadle coalfield is now proved to be a rich and valuable reservoir of mineral matter.

The discovery of the “Hydrate” or Froghall iron ore speedily opened up a new industry in the Churnet Valley district, and in the course of twenty years it will be difficult to find an area of similar extent where so many shafts, adits, or other perforation in the crust of the earth, have been conducted in search of a mineral of this description. Many, and by far the greater number of these explorations resulted in the discovery of the ore, but many did not, and probably it is safe to add to the exceptionally large number of mining explorations that in no other district of equal extent has so much money been made, or so much lost in the search for, and working of a thin band of iron ore. The district, as before stated, is comprised geologically of Coal Measures, and the different groups of grits and shales belonging to the Millstone Grit series and Yoredale beds. Except, however, to a trained and experienced eye it is difficult to determine

position of the "Stinking" coal was always held as a sure guide to that of the iron ore; but it was forgotten that the Millstone Grit shales contain a seam of "Stinking" coal also; and therefore from a combination of these and other causes, mistakes in the selection of proper sites and others of a serious nature too often occurred; resulting in grave disappointment and loss, where in nine cases out of ten thorough geological knowledge would have prevented both.

It is not necessary, nor shall I here, except briefly and for the purpose of explaining the exact geological position of the "Hydrate" of the Churnet valley in its relation to the Cheadle coal series and the underlying grit series of the Ipstones district, describe the different rocks and divisional shales which constitute the northern margin of the Cheadle coalfield. The following general section will afford all requisite information, and enable any one to obtain a good general idea of the position and ordinary character of the strata which come immediately under the Hydrate in the Churnet valley and elsewhere down to the Yoredale beds.

		ft.	in.
1	Hydrate.....		
2	Marl or Clay.....		
3	First Grit	60	0
4	Grey and Chocolate shales, with nodules of red sand- stone.....	30	0
5	Calcareous Hæmatite.....	0	4
6	Second Grit	102	0
7	Grey and black shales.....	114	0
8	Coal	2	6
9	Third Grit, or 50 yard rock	156	0
10	Roach shales, etc.....	115	0
11	Calcareous Hæmatite.....	2	2
12	Fourth Grit	90	0
13	Shales	100	0

Consall Forge
Section.

New House
Section.

These different deposits may be examined at different points, ranging from within the valley to its northern and eastern margins. The calcareous hæmatite which occurs on the top of the Third grit was, according to sections of borings at New House, Ipstones, in 1858, ascertained to be 2ft. 2in. thick, and the same band was worked at Mosslee; but it did not here exceed ten inches in thickness. There is also a calcareous hæmatite in places lying on the top of the Fifth grit, and in fact deposits of the same description of ore occur in the Yoredale beds. It is not, however, with these, but with the better known and more persistent Froghall iron ore that we have to do; and the following general section of the lower coal measures of the district will convey all requisite information.

		ft. in.
1 Kingsley Rock	West side of Churnet Valley.	30 0
2 Shales		2 0
3 Coal		40 0
4 Shale, with bands and nodules of grey ironstone..		30 0
5 Sandstone Rock		40 0
6 Grey and black shale		0 4
7 Coal		20 0
8 Rock and shale		3 3
9 Coal, "Sweet," with parting		20 0
10 Measures		0 4
11 Coal	Churnet Valley Section.	30 0
12 Grey and black shale		2 3
13 Coal, "Stinking"		34 0
14 Measures		0 3
15 Coal		20 0
16 Measures		0 4
17 Coal		63 0
18 Roach and Measures		1 0
19 Hydrate.....		10 0
20 Marl		
21 First Grit		

“Lower” or Churnet valley and the “Middle” or Cheadle measures, and as the whole of these enter into the composition of the Cheadle coalfield, it will be necessary to describe them somewhat in detail.

The iron ore of Froghall is a remarkable stratified deposit, varying in thickness from an inch to two feet six inches in thickness; sometimes lying almost immediately upon and at others separated from the First grit by a thick bed of chocolate, or red and white clay and marl. There does not appear to be another example in the county of a deposit of this character, and up to the present time its existence has not been proved by actual mining operations—that is, it has not been “worked” on the west of the ridge overlooking the Churnet valley except at Consall. Of its origin and areal extent there is diversity of opinion; but as a matter of fact it is not only of the varying thickness I have described, but it passes in colour through the different shales of red, yellow, and brown down to black, and from a band of black stone passes in some places into a seam of coal. The more valuable kinds are the red and yellow, which lie on the western and northern half of the field, the other on the Ipstones or extreme eastern part of it. It is invariably overlaid by chocolate shales, and “roach”—a laminated micaceous, arenaceous shale—and its proper place is from 10 to 40 yards below the “stinking” coal, which is held as the “key” to its position. There is but a very small area of the proved district of the ore left, and the question of the extension of the deposit westward is a matter of the greatest importance to those interested in the Cheadle district

Ores of Great Britian, Part IV., North Staffordshire.

Peroxide of Iron.....	52'83
Protoxide of Mangaise	0'81
Lime	14'61
Magnesia	5'70
Carbonic Acid.....	18'14
Phosphoric Acid.....	0'32
Sulphuric Acid	0'28
Silica	trace
Water	4'75
Organic Matter	1'30
Ignited Insoluble Residue.....	0'04
	<hr/>
	98'78
	<hr/>
Iron, total amount	36'98
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In the iron ore near Ipstones I have met with a fine series of the crustacean *Palæocaratus Rupellani*, and with here and elsewhere in the shales and ore *Berychia*, *Cypris*; *Anthracosia Ovalis*. *Megalychthys Hibberti*, *Palæoniscus*, *Phizodopris*, and *Lepidodendra* with other remains.

The "Stinking" coal although varying in the distance it occupies above the Iron ore is seldom less or more than two feet three inches thickness. It is a laminated coal, easily mined but sulphureous, and of but little value except for steam or lime burning purposes. It is, however, an exceedingly interesting seam from its association with a band, about eighteen inches in thickness, of black and gray shales containing numerous little nodules of iron pyrites which lies immediately upon it, and is completely full of fossils. These fossils are almost entirely of marine habitat, and their presence shows very conclusively that whatever the conditions under which the hydrate has formed (and there is no doubt that they were fresh water conditions),

or mud by which it was covered up and which now forms the shales in which they are embedded, myriads upon myriads of molluscous animals lived, burrowed, and died, during a very long period of time, and before, by some further change in the earth's surface, hereabouts the marine were abruptly succeeded by brackish, and then—as indicated by the fossils—fresh water conditions over a very large extent of country, not confined to what is now Staffordshire. In these shales are preserved *Aviculopecten papyraceus*, *Goniatite Listeri*, *Posidonia Molyneuxi* (Salter), and *Orthoceras*, with *Palæoniscus*, *Megalichthys Hibberti*, *Rhizodus*, *Gyrolepis*, *Onchus*, *Helvelus*, and other fish remains, together with plants. A bone bed about the eighth of an inch from the line of division between these marine forms of shells, and the following which are never directly associated with the former; *Lingula mytiloides*, *Cypris*, *Berychia*, and *Anthracosia*. In the open section behind some cottages on the road side leading from Froghall Station to Kingsley, and also near Consall Forge, is a thin band of lean ironstone, which contains large numbers of *Aviculopecten papyraceus*, and in the nodules of brown ironstone which are frequent in the shales occasionally occur species of a beautiful little *Palæoniscus*. The "Sweet" coal shales are, so far as I have been able to examine them, barren in fossils; but the measures both above and below it occasionally contain nodules or bands of lean ironstone, and in these are found *Anthracosia Ovalis*, and a few other shells of the like description. In the black shales which lie near the top coal (a seam that crops out about midway up the hill leading to Kingsley), I have found fish remains. There

the valley about midway between Froghall and Oakmoor, and *Anthracosia Ovalis* occurs in a lean ironstone near it. The horizon of these several deposits it is not difficult to determine. These comprise the measures which come between the Kingsley rock and the "First" Grit. Generally speaking they are throughout disturbed by faults, and largely affected by denudations. They dip in every direction, and both the iron ore and the coal crop out at almost every level or line of elevation from the base of the valley to the high grounds about Ipstones and Consall. The Churnet Valley which is really most remarkable and picturesque, and has a river (the Churnet), a railway, and a canal, running through it, but no road, is a deep excavation out of coal measure strata; and there are numerous lateral valleys excavated by the same process running from it a long distance both to the east and west. Along the flanks of them in every direction both the iron ore and coal have been largely worked.

The "Kingsley rock," to which allusion has been made, is a coarse open yellow sandstone, on which the town of Kingsley stands, and of which it is principally built. This sandstone is about 60 feet thick, and I have traced it around three sides of the Cheadle basin, between which and the Lower Measure it forms a natural and clear division. There is not much doubt that it is thicker on the eastern and northern margins of the field, than it is on the western; but this has never as yet been practically proved in that direction.

general sections of the strata of which the field is composed. These I have prepared from sinkings and borings carried down at different points over its entire area, and comprising the whole of the measures as they are by this means known to exist between their foundation, the Kingsley sandstones on the eastern, and their covering, the Bunter conglomerates on the south-western margins of the basin. It will perhaps be the best understood, as it is certainly the simplest plan, to commence with, those strata which occupy the higher or western division, and to continue the sections downwards to the basement beds of the eastern division; and this is the order of the following—

SECTION OF THE DILHORNE OR DELPH HOUSE SERIES.

		ft.	in.
1	New Redsandstone (Bunter-beds)	160	0
2	Measures	100	0
3	"Thin Coal"	1	6
4	Measures ..	90	0
5	Dilhorne "Sixfoot," or 2 yard coal	6	0
6	Measures	50	0
7	"Half-yard Coal	1	6
8	Measures	72	0
9	"Yard Coal"	3	0
10	Measures	57	0
11	"Litley Coal"	2	9
12	Measures	36	0
13	"Four-foot Coal"	4	0
14	Measures	120	0
15	"Sulphur" or "Stinking Coal" ..	3	9
Total depth.....		707	6

The last-named "sulphur" coal has never been worked, but the others have; and there is therefore on this side of the field, lying within 583 feet of the surface, six seams of coal, of an aggregate thickness of 18 feet 9 inches, and each of which has been

borings, carried down beneath the "Four-foot" coal at Litley.

Mr. Herbert Salt, of Dilhorne, informs me that about twelve years since he sunk a pit at a place called the "Dale," on Dilhorne common; and I give the section as containing some additional particulars.

	ft.	in.
1 Bunter Sandstone (dry)	120	0
2 Bunter Pebble Beds, coarse and full of water	30	0
3 Red Marl	4	0
4 Light fine-grained Sandstone	5	0
5 Roach	60	0
6 Grey Shale, or clunch	36	0
7 Black Shale	10	0
8 "Yard Coal"	3	6
	268	6

The coal—the position of which does not agree with the one it occupies in the previous section—was found to dip east at an angle of about one in ten, and was driven into a short distance until cut off by an upthrow fault running west. A second shaft, sunk only about fifty yards distant, showed the Bunters to be only about 90 feet in thickness, and the "Yard coal" lying at 240 feet from the surface. Other operations carried on at Callow Hill, in the same locality, found the Bunters reduced to 60 feet in thickness, and a coal five feet in thickness lying at 120 feet from the surface. The measures therefore appear to be disturbed hereabouts; they incline highly to the west, and are heavily watered. In Whympney Wood, nearer Dilhorne, a pit was recently sunk through 150 feet of shale and clunch to a coal five feet thick, about 20 inches of the top

quently found at 21 feet from the surface, but beyond these there do not appear to have been any further provings in that district.

Proceeding now to the east, at about the centre of the field, come the Kingsley Moor New Sinkings, and the Park Hall Colliery Pits, the latter of which were sunk in 1873. The following is a combined section, and I give it in detail as one of instructive interest.

KINGSLEY MOOR NEW SINKINGS.*

	ft.	in.
1 Pit Top, raised.....	15	0
2 Coal, "Sweet".....	1	9
3 Grey Roach.....	54	0
4 Coal, "Stinking".....	2	0
5 Strong Clunch.....	4	0
6 Grey Roach.....	7	6
7 Black Shale.....	3	6
8 Clunch.....	5	0
9 Grey Roach.....	11	4
10 Coal.....	0	2
11 Rock.....	8	0
12 Grey Roach.....	40	6
13 Rock.....	12	0
14 Roach.....	6	6
15 Rock.....	2	6
16 Grey Roach.....	9	0
17 Black Shale.....	1	6
18 Grey Shale.....	9	0
19 Coal, "Cobble".....	1	9

PARK HALL COLLIERY.†

	195	0
20 Clunch.....	19	6
21 Dark Shale.....	15	0
22 Black Shale.....	17	0
23 Coal.....	0	2
24 Clunch.....	1	6
25 Rock, white fine-grained.....	6	0
26 Grey Roach.....	4	6

Carried forward..... 258 8

* These belong to W. Bowers, Esq., and form part of the Woodhead Collieries, of which he is owner.

	Brought forward.....	258	8
27	Strong Roach	18	0
28	Grey Shale	13	6
29	Rock	9	0
30	Roach	13	6
31	Rock	10	6
32	Grey Shale	4	6
33	Coal	0	6
34	Clunch	4	6
35	Rock Binds	10	0
36	Grey Rock.....	3	0
37	Coal, " Rider ".....	1	6
38	Clunch	7	6
39	Rock	26	0
40	Strong Grey Roach.....	37	0
41	Hard Rock	4	0
42	Rock (soft)	5	0
43	Grey Roach	21	0
44	Grey Shale	12	0
45	Black Shale	9	0
46	Coal, " Woodhead "	3	0
47	Black Stone	0	9
48	Pricking.....	0	2
49	Coal " Ouster ".....	0	3
50	Clunch	2	0
51	Bind	7	0
52	Grey Shale with Ironstone.....	15	0
		<hr/>	
		496	10

The measures here dip south at about one and a half inches in the yard, thereby illustrating the basin-shaped sweep of the strata from west to north. Following the course of the measures eastwards, at about two miles distant come the Woodhead Collieries, where the coal bearing that name has been extensively worked at depths varying from 75 to 450 feet from the surface; it hereabouts varies from 2 feet 7 inches to 3 feet in thickness, has a westerly dip, and is met with at about 105 feet below the Rider coal, which is here 3 feet 6 inches thick, and 240 feet under the "Eases" or "Cobble" coal. The "Woodhead" coal was first worked under the name of the "Shaws" (probably from a

from Kingsley Moor, Hazel Cross, under Kingsley Hill, and thence to Lightwood and Rakeway, where there are the remains of old coal pits. This range corresponds with the position of the coal in its relation to the Kingsley sandstones, which form the higher ground immediately east of this line, and may be traced cropping out in the Brook course behind the farmhouse at Lightwood, beneath a mass of gray shales. Under the "Woodhead coal" come

	ft.	in.
1 "Ouster Coal"	0	3
2 Clunch	2	0
3 Bind	7	0
4 Grey shales with bands of Iron- stone, which, from borings and other sources appear to be about	52	0
5 And to be succeeded by the Kingsley Yellow Sandstone.		

So far therefore as regards the general section of the measures from the top to the base there is no more to be added. In the southern margin of the field, however, at the Birches and other sinkings of the Birches and Cheadle Colliery* we have the following interesting particulars:—

	ft.	in.
1 Soil and Brick clays	12	0
2 Fire clay	3	0
3 Clunch and binds	162	0
4 Coal. "Lucksall" or "Cobble,"	2	10
5 Fire clay	6	0
6 Rock and rock binds	6	6
7 White and red micaceous sandstone with bands of red ironstone	105	0
8 "Rider" rock	12	0
9 Roach	12	0
10 Black shale	2	0
11 Coal "Rider"	1	6
12 Fire clay	1	0
13 White rock	29	0

Carried forward 354 10

*This Colliery is the property of Mr. Robert Plant F.G.S.:

	Brought forward.....	354	10
14	Roach, variegated, close-grained laminated sandstone with Calamites	63	6
15	Red and grey shales with balls of red ironstone.....	9	6
16	Black shale	7	6
17	Coal, "Woodhead".....	3	2
		<hr/>	
		438	6
		<hr/>	

Generally speaking then, these individual sections of strata, obtained from so many different points of a wide circle of the field, are representative examples of the position and character of each group of measures as they occur in the different localities specified. The first thing to draw attention to is the fact that east of a line drawn north and south through the centre of the field, the "Woodhead coal" is the only seam worked—the only one of the now workable seams proved, and that westwards of that line the "Woodhead coal" has never been proved; but that no fewer than six different seams which certainly overlie it, are known to exist, and for a long time proved the more valuable part of the field, and the sole working area of its several collieries.

Now this general section shows that between the bed of Red Marl, which comes immediately under the Bunter gravels and the Kingsley sandstone, there is a total thickness of 967 feet of strata. For instance, taking the aggregate thickness of the Dilhorne series down to and including the "Stinking" coal as 523 feet, adding the measures which come between the "Stinking" and "Cobble" coal at

thence down to the Kingsley sandstone as a further 62 feet, the total thickness of 967 feet is obtained. Curiously enough, if this be equally divided it gives almost correctly, figure for figure, the one half with its one workable coal, the "Woodhead" to the eastern side, and the other with its six workable coals to the Dilhorne or western side. Add to this the Kingsley sandstone 90 feet, and the Lower coal measures of the Churnet valley series 120 feet, and we have, as shown in the following table, a total vertical section of 700 feet containing twelve workable seams of coals of an aggregate thickness of 37 feet of solid coal, and at least one band of valuable ironstone as the composition and residence of the Cheadle coal basin.

	ft. in,
1 Thin Coal	1 6
2 Dilhorne, or Two-yard Coal	6 0
3 Half-yard Coal	3 0
4 Yard Coal	3 0
5 Litley Coal	2 9
6 Four-foot Coal	4 0
7 Stinking Coal	3 9
8 Cobble Coal	2 10
9 Rider Coal	1 6
10 Woodhead Coal	3 0
11 Sweet Coal (Churnet Valley)....	2 10
12 Stinking Coal	3 0
	<hr/>
	37 2

The "Thin" coal, so named in all probability from its being thin, crops out in the brook course in Foxfield Wood, and was formerly worked in the fields thereabouts by open works and shallow pits. It appears to have been used solely in the manufacture of coke, for which it had a high if but local reputation from time immemorial. It in this respect

the Old Delph (Dilhorne six-foot) coal; it has a thin parting, and is underlied by a bed of fireclay. Above it occurs another seam of coal ten inches in thickness, and directly beneath this is a fine bed of white fireclay, from 12 to 15 feet in thickness.

The "Dilhorne," or "Two-yard" coal, evidently derived its name from the fact of its first being worked on Dilhorne Common, where, and also at Godly Brook, it crops out. From its shallowness it is generally soft, but otherwise a fairly good coal.

The "Half-yard" and "Yard" coals are excellent coals, and so is the "Litley," first worked at Litley Common. The underlying "Four-foot" is better adapted for steam than household purposes; and the "Sulphur" coal is suitable for lime burning; but where the other could be obtained it cannot be regarded as of much commercial value. This finishes the Dilhorne or westerly series.

Of the Woodhead, or easterly series, the "Cobble," or "Lucksall" coal appears to have been worked in the southern part of the field; and the "Rider" also, but to a smaller extent only; but the main, and really valuable coal of the entire field is the "Woodhead." This is a long-grained finely laminated, strong semibituminous coal, free burning, possessed of great heat, and yields a low percentage of reddish-brown ash. It is by comparison equal in its general properties to the famous "Deep" coal of Cannock Chase, which it much resembles. It has a good roof and floor, has but little gas or water, and no coal in its position could possibly be worked at less cost, or with less waste or difficulty. This seam is now worked at the Woodhead, Park Hall, Birches,

With a railway for the supply of distant markets, this coal would command a large sale for household purposes, for which it is admirably adapted. From a combination of causes the Woodhead is the only seam of coal now being worked in the Cheadle field, and upon which, as a resource, in fact it cannot but be seen it must in reality depend. This being the case, it will be advisable to investigate the history and resources of the seam, both under its geological condition and commercial aspect. Before entering upon this, however, I will, as a necessary preliminary, describe briefly the different faults by which the field has been affected.

These faults are not only not numerous, but geologically speaking of no great magnitude. Considering the isolated position of the field, and the character and variety of the rocks by which it is surrounded, it would be only natural to assume a different condition; but it is not so. The movements by which the marginal rocks were forced upwards, appear to have been almost uniformly applied, and while the exterior edges gradually rose to form the outer and upper rim, the central part remained depressed; hence its shape. During those movements fractures of the strata of greater or less length and extent took place, the tendency of each being to deepen towards the centre, but running in parallel lines east, west, north, and south. The principal and most important dislocation commences a mile east of High Shutt Wood, and runs almost due east and west under Green hill, Alderley mill, up to Dilhorne, a distance of six miles. It throws the strata downwards to the north, and on its eastern range fully 225 feet. There is a fault running in

Woodhead colliery, 150 feet down then to the north ; and a fault extends from Hazles Cross Green in the direction of Green Head, where it is cut off by another running north and south, from Lady Park to Hazle Wall. Between the town of Cheadle and Diihorne Hall, where it is lost under by the Bunter conglomerates, there is a further east and west dislocation, and in the centre of the field about Harewood Hall there is a little nest of minor faults running in different directions. The north and south faults are not so numerous, nor important, and while those of the opposite direction are confined principally to the east and west sides of the basin, those running north and south are equally confined to the corresponding margin of the field. At the now disused Cheadle Mill pits, a fault running north, east, and south-west, has a down throw of 39 feet to the west ; running in the same direction about 50 yards west of the Birches colliery, another fault running has an up down throw of 60 feet to the west. This, with the exception of some minor dislocation in the same neighbourhood, and two or three north of Kingsley appear to comprise the list of vertical disturbances in this direction.

And now for the "Woodhead" coal. This seam as before explained, has never been proved west of a line drawn north and south through the centre of the field. From its extreme easterly outcrop under Kingsley Hill almost up to that central line, workings have at different points been in continuous operation—first at the surface, then, as at the Shaw, at 25 yards; the Ladies Well, 80 yards; Woodhead 130 yards; and then at Remington in the centre, 150

south side at Birches and Cheadle colliery, at 146 yards. It everywhere as nearly as possible corresponds in thickness, is of the same quality, and has the same characteristic conditions. The area over which it has been proved by these means, is about 3 miles in extreme length by one in width; and during the hundred and fifty years in which it appears to have been gotten, probably about one-third of that area has been raised; leaving the remainder or two-thirds for future use. In this calculation I conclude, as a matter which does not admit of a doubt, that the Woodhead coal underlies the whole of the intervening space between the Birches and Cheadle collieries, and Park Hall collieries, including of course, the hill called Cheadle Park and Green Hill which overlooks the town of Cheadle. The remaining part of the field, that is the country west of the divisional line which consists of about three miles in length by two in width, is so far as regards the Woodhead seam, a supposed blank. The question therefore to determine is whether this be so or not. I have described the outcrop of the Woodhead coal under the Kingsley Hills, and the rocks and measures associated with and coming beneath it. In reality, the geology or the rock-structure of the eastern side of the field is repeated rock by rock, measure by measure, coal by coal, beneath the horizon of the Sulphur coal. The only difference is, that the western side has a series of coals and measures, which, although at one time that in originally covering the whole area and continuous, have by upheaval and denudation been removed on one side and not on the other. The Kingsley yellow sandstones form an inner lip to

and when the Kingsley beds come in their natural position, the Woodhead coal comes also. The elongated continuity of the measures on the east does not obtain on the west because it is broken by faults, and the coal and measures throw down abruptly along the hidden lines of dislocation. The space between the line of outcrop of the Dilhorne six-foot coal in the Foxt Fields Wood and Black Bank is barely half-a-mile, and yet the whole of the measures which occur between that seam and the Millstone grit are there as truly as the First grit comes to the surface; and form the high ground of Black Bank and Sumner Hill. About midway in this wood was formerly a quarry in sandstone, and from fragments which still lie about there, although the beds are now covered up, there is no difficulty in recognising it as the yellow sandstone of the Kingsley beds. In these sandstones therefore we have the connecting link, and key as it were to the geological position and character of these westerly deposits, and there can be no doubt that the necessary explorations carried down at any point over the area which lies between Dilhorne Common on the south and Dairy House on the north would result in the discovery of the "Woodhead Coal."

The extension of workable coals beneath the Bunter-beds south of the Dilhorne and Birches and Cheadle collieries is a question of grave public concern. The evidence is this: the explorations at Dilhorne and Delph House show the coal seams to rise westerly against the horizontal covering of Bunter sandstone and conglomerate—that is, they appear to be cropping out in that direction. About twenty-seven years ago some pits were carried down

beneath 180 feet of Bunters the "Dilhorne Two-yard" coal was met with at 285 feet from the surface. The position of these sinkings is about half-a-mile south of the line of introduction of the Bunters, and near a fault running north-west and south-east which brings in the overlying Keuper sandstone and marls. In 1856 a boring was made near Creswell Mill, nearly two miles south of the southern edge, of the exposed coal measures, and carried down 600 feet in red marls, Keupe sandstone, and conglomerate, but abandoned before the latter beds were penetrated. Last year borings were commenced on the roadside between the Church at Caverswall and Blyth Bridge. There appears to have been an unsuccessful attempt to reach coal by means of sinkings on the roadside leading from Dilhorne to the Potteries.

These, so far as I have been able to ascertain, embrace the whole of the explorations to reach the Cheadle coals outside the recognised limits of the field; and although the headings driven south and west in the neighbourhood of Dilhorne indicate a roll in the measures, the disturbance is no doubt purely local, and that both in this and a due southerly direction, where the trials show conditions more distinctly favourable and conclusive, the extension in regular succession and continuity of the coal seams beneath the new red sandstone may be accepted as a matter of fact.

I have now come to a point in the consideration of the undeveloped resources of the field from which it will be necessary to return to that portion of the subject which refers to the Froghall ironstone. The tracing of this ore was discontinued along the

Consall, west of which it has not been worked, and is not popularly supposed to exist. The evidence on the subject is this. Several years ago (in 1860) mining explorations at Oakamoor resulted in a complete failure, simply from the fact of the operations being conducted in strata, the geological position of which was a long way below the horizon of the ore; and not in coal measures at all. Subsequently borings were put down at two or three places, both on the east and west sides of the valley near Froghall station, and the stone found in its proper position, but only two or three inches in thickness. Quite recently it has been detected east of Rakeway. Further north, at Windend, on the west side of the valley, it was followed until thrown down by a fault, and the same occurred at Hazles Cross, further north still. Again, northwards of this and curving round to the west, the stone is being worked at Consall, and the workings carried to a point from whence a line drawn north and south would run through Dairy House, Whitehurst, and Cartwright's Drumble, where the outcrop of the stone may now be traced. Some years ago it was found at a place north-west of Consall, one foot thick, and lying at 100 yards from the surface; and it is thrown out along a line extending north and south from near Cellerhead to Sumner Hill, and in the valley beyond. Four years ago a pit was sunk at Dairy House, 70 yards, on faulted measures lying "on edge." The coal sought for was not of course found, and the pit was abandoned after the accidental death of one of the men employed. The

field and its comparison with that on the east can result otherwise than in the conviction that geographically and geologically the one is a repetition of the other, and that, as both on the east, north, and west there are the same seams of "Stinking" coal, the same deposit of chocolate shale, and valuable iron ore reposing in its bed of white and yellow clay, so are those deposits extended under the intervening space beneath the valley in which the town of Cheadle stands, and uniting form one continuous whole under the entire area where the Woodhead coal occupies its normal position. It is of course impossible to speak with certainty as to the thickness and commercial value of the iron ore, but the inference, judging from samples obtained from different localities, the general character of the stone at the points up to which it has been worked, and the geological conditions under which the ore was deposited, is that under the additional area thus described it will be found to differ in no essential manner from its ascertained thickness, position, and valuable character in the Churnet Valley. It will be found at about 360 feet below the Woodhead coal, and the finding of it will inaugurate a new and important era in the manufacturing and commercial history of Cheadle.

There are no Permian beds between the coal measures and the Bunters, but both these and the whole of the thick coals, ironstones, and Upper measures of the Pottery coalfield did at one time cover up these Cheadle coals, but have been removed by denudations. The Bunters lie almost horizontally on the dipping strata of the coal measures, and where they are inclined it is in a westerly direction.

|||

gravel—the pebbles being composed largely of white and coloured quartz, with a large admixture of a great variety of other rocks, such as silurian sandstone, carboniferous limestone, chert, and millstone grits, and there are also granites, schists, hornblends, trappean ash, agates, chalcedons, and jasper. The silurian and carboniferous pebbles frequently contain fossils of these formations; but there have been no remains discovered of contemporaneous life. The Bunters are heavily watered, and the town of Cheadle is supplied by water obtained from a well sunk in these beds some 60 yards on Monkhouse Hill. They are occasionally used as building stone, and have been found to contain both copper and lead ore on Cannock Chase, the northern portion of which they cover; but as a rule the water obtainable from them is free from other than a small percentage of mineral matter, and constitutes one of the best and purest supplies for domestic use it is possible to obtain.

The Keuper sandstone, by which the Bunters are immediately overlaid, together with the Bunters themselves, may be advantageously studied in the Churnet Valley in the neighbourhood of Alton Towers, and they occur in a small patch at Draycot, at the south-eastern extremity of a tract of red marl running from Caverswall. The Keuper sandstones afford excellent building stone, and are largely quarried at Hollington. Their present position is due to the action of faults.

The surface of the coalfield and the country generally is more or less spread over by varying deposits of boulder clays, sands, and gravel, and there are numerous scattered blocks of granite,

subangular and angular, together with carboniferous limestone, chert, Yoredale sandstone and Millstone grit. The clays are occasionally used for brick making.

The valleys of the river and brook courses are more or less thickly embedded in sand, gravel, and clay, the rearranged material of the Bunters, and Boulder clay deposits, with the addition of chalk flints. In some localities fragments of iron ore are plentiful, detached from the outcrop of the stone, and carried down and rounded by water. Curiously enough, Plot, writing 200 years ago, drew attention to these nodules of iron ore in the brook courses, which were even then as until recently collected and sold to farmers as raddle. Had Plot have known their value, had he understood their history, and endeavoured to trace out their source, Cheadle might generations ago have been the seat of an extensive iron manufacture, and have anticipated by that means the history that awaits it.

Before concluding, I add a few observations on the organic remains of the field, in which I have now for many years taken a keen interest.

Probably in one respect there is no more interesting organism found in the field than the little crustacean *Palæocarabus Rupellianus*, and this interest is to a certain extent increased by the fact of its having as yet not been found anywhere else in North Staffordshire than Ipstones, and there confined to the Froghall ironstone and one locality, namely, a now disused sinking called, characteristically enough, "Skin and Grief Pit." It occurs there at the top part of the stone in association with a small bivalve

overlying the stone contain scales, and occasionally fragments of the fish *Palæoniscus*, with scales and bones of others, including *Megalychthys Hibberti*. There are also plant remains—*Lepidodendra*, *Calamites*, and others.

Occasionally, as before stated, shells are present in the lean mixtures which occur in the shales, but the great zone of defunct animal life is the shale by which the "Stinking" coal is immediately covered. The geological history of this seam is exemplified by palæontological associations; and by them one is enabled to identify, although under different local names, its original but now broken continuity with the Shafferlong, Witby Moor, Biddulph Moor, Goldsitch Moss, and Axedge coal basins. Wonderful indeed was the fecundity of the races of *Aviculopecten*, *Goniatites*, *Posidonia*, and *Orthoceras*, which have left their remains where they are now entombed; and large indeed in numbers were the fishes which swam in the waters above, and whose remains are now commingled in one compressed mass. As I have before remarked, the line of demarcation between these marine with the overlying fresh water organisms is clear and distinct, but with both are associated *Lepidodendra* and *Calamites*.

In the black shales which immediately overlies the "Woodhead" coal, it is singular to find so large a number of detached scales of the fish *Calacanthus*. These scales are most beautifully marked and delicately enamelled, and the fish must have been exceedingly prolific in the waters by which the coal seam became covered. It is, however, not only scales that are found, but now and then perfect



INDEX.

- Adams, 230.
Adderley Green, 16.
Agriculture, 20-28.
Alcock, 88.
Allen, 88, 89, 90, 140, 155, 177.
Allsopp, 93.
Almond, 11, 295.
Alton, 13, 15, 32, 38, 60, 81, 147, 199, 217, 254.
Amory, 248.
Ashbourne, 68, 138.
Ashcombe Park, 237.
Askin, C., 161.
Aston, 4.
Atkin, Thos., 50.
Atkinson, 86.

Bagnall, 70.
Bagnall, T., 80.
Baker, J., 50.
Bakewell, T., 35, 63, 112.
Ball, R., 56, 57, 59.
Bank Quay, 36.
Banks, Joseph, 10, 53.
Banks, Sir J., 10, 147, 153.
Barnett, 58, 90.
Basford, 15, 16.
Bassets, the, 6-10, 224, 245.
Beard, 146.
Beech's Charity, 55.
Beech, 101, 102, 224.
Belfast, Earl, 81.
Belmont, 30.
Benefactions, 79.
Bethel Chapel, 137.
Birches Colliery, 43.
Billysdon, 263, 270.
Blagg, 80, 97, 101, 102, 147, 156, 176.
Blagrove, Danl., 50.
Bleachworks, 44.
Blood, 83, 84, 85.
Blount, 113, 114, 115.

Bolton, A. S., 11, 39, 177, 218.
Boulton, 111.
Bourne, 101, 102, 141.
Bowers, 97, 295.
Bradley, 15, 60, 153, 252.
Brailey, 112.
Brandon, 101, 102.
Brassworks, 36, 38, 39.
Brereton, 227.
Brindley, 225.
British Workman Public House, 157.
Brookhouse, 36.
Brookiston, 14.
Buller, Sir J. Y., 10.
Buller, Sir E. M., 10, 11, 60, 246.
Burnet, 148.
Burton-on-Trent, 21.
Buxton, W., 230.
Byms, 93.

Campbell, 176, 193.
Carnarvon, Earl, 146.
Catholic Church, 116-136.
Catlow, 143.
Cauldon, 15, 16, 60, 179, 254, 221-2.
Caverswall, 12, 13, 15, 16, 41, 60, 91, 175, 238-243, 257.
Challinor, Mary, 80.
Chambers, 45.
Charing Cross, 45.
Cheadle Grange, 14, 42.
Cheadle Hulme, 5.
Cheadle Mill, 14, 140.
Cheadle Park, 34.
Checkley, 13, 15, 16, 23, 60, 66, 74, 91, 182-190, 251.
Cheddleton, 12, 13, 15, 41, 42, 60, 95, 179, 229, 232-8, 256.
Church, the parish, 73-78.
Church Goods, 249-258.
Churnet, 41, 42.

- Clewes, 231.
 Clutton, 93.
 Coal, 39-43.
 Coinage, 44-46.
 Colliery Company, 178.
 Collis, 146.
 Combermere, 84.
 Consall, 15, 60.
 Cookshill, 16.
 Copperworks, 36-39.
 Copwood, 265.
 Court of Exchequer, 104, 105, 106.
 Cox, 146.
 Coyney, 240, 243.
 Craddock, 227, 239, 242.
 Craie, W. Y., 177.
 Crape Mill, 43.
 Cresswell, 175.
 Cross, 47.
 Croxden, 13, 34, 35, 98, 153, 252, 259-276.
 Cumberland, Duke of, 66-72, 145.
 Cuttlestone, 4.
 Culloden, 69.
 Dark Hole, 50.
 Degge, Sir Simon, 39.
 Denman, 218.
 Denstone, 15, 60, 195-199.
 Derby, 67, 138.
 Derry, Dean of, 82.
 Deverell, R. B., 82.
 Dilhorne, 10, 13, 15, 24, 28, 30, 42, 61, 91, 139, 171, 175, 243-8, 258, 294, 300, 301.
 Dispensary, 141.
 Dividy Lane, 16.
 Doles, 19.
 Dove, 21.
 Draycot, 3, 12, 13, 15, 44, 60, 91, 251, 179-182.
 Drayton, 20.
 Drinking Fountain, 141.
 Drunkenness, 64.
 Dugdale, 145.
 Durant & Co., 43.
 Eggington, 93.
 Electro-plating, 161.
 Elliot, 42.
 Elkington, 166.
 Endowment School, 94.
 Evans, 163.
 Fairs, 18.
 Falling in a grave, 90.
 Farley, 15, 60.
 Fisher, 161, 169.
 Fitzherbert, Sir T., 249, 250.
 Foljambe, 184.
 Forsbrook, 15.
 Fowell, Richard, 80.
 Forester, G., 173.
 Fowler, S., 80.
 Foxt, 15, 16, 147.
 Freehay, 14, 93.
 Freemasonry, 144, 145, 146.
 Froghall, 30, 220-1, 292.
 Furnival, 200, 265, 267.
 Garner, R., 37, 41.
 Gas, 143.
 Gibbons, 161, 171.
 Gisborne, 143.
 Goddard, 97.
 Gooding, 19.
 Gower, Admiral, 28.
 Greenhead, 42.
 Greenhill, 147, 159.
 Grey, Lord, 9.
 Griffin, 159.
 Grosvener, 72, 80, 82, 83, 149, 153.
 Guardians, the first, 60.
 Guisers, 20.
 Hale, Sir M., 82, 83, 148.
 Hales Hall, 80, 82, 147, 148.
 Hall, 41, 146.
 Hammond, 140.
 Hancox, 97.
 Hanley, 63, 137, 140.
 Hardy, 143.
 Harley, Lord, 10.
 Harrison, 52, 111.
 Harvey, 101, 102.

- Hereford, Viscount, 248, 249.
 Heywood, Sir T. P., 195.
 High Shut, 32, 147, 148.
 Hoggins, James, 58.
 Holliday, John, 10, 30, 102, 244.
 Holmes, 58, 138, 161, 171.
 Homer, C. J., 43.
 Honeybone, 101, 102.
 Honeyburn, 155.
 Horton, 229.
 Howton, W., 262, 270, 275.
 Hulme, 137.
 Huntley, 93.
 Hurst, 81.
 Hyde and Crewe, 141.

 Ingleby, 101, 219.
 Ipstones, 13, 15, 16, 41, 43, 59,
 60, 61, 147, 226-231, 255.

 James, 137.
 Jenkinson, 95.
 Jones, 86, 87.

 Kay and Co., 43.
 Keates, 19, 20, 38.
 Key and Son, 36.
 Keys, 111.
 Kingsley, 12, 13, 15, 16, 31, 38,
 42, 44, 60, 79, 91, 95, 97, 156,
 217, 222-6, 255, 291.

 Lamb, Penniston, 10.
 Lea, 155.
 Leafields, 137.
 Lee, 146.
 Leek, 63, 67, 68, 174, 229, 263.
 Leigh, 81, 101, 102, 159.
 Leman, Wm., 50.
 Lichfield, 13, 68.
 London, Wm. de, 261, 273, 274,
 275.
 London, 56.
 Longton, 16, 140.
 Lowe, Dr, 161, 169.
 Lys, 106, 108, 109.
 Lyttleton, E., 249, 250.

 Machin, 144.
 Mackenzie, 141, 146.
 Madge, 6.
 Mann, 177.
 Market, 47, 49.
 Marston Wood, 43.
 Mather, G., 82.
 Mavill, J., 56.
 Mear, 16.
 Mechanics' Institute, 142.
 Meredith, J., 58.
 Meridan, 68.
 Methodist New Connexion, 140.
 — Primitive, 140, 156.
 — Wesleyan, 138, 139,
 156.
 Middleton, J., 70.
 Mills, T., 80.
 Milner, 49.
 Minton, 133.
 Moland, 82.
 Molyneux, W., 43.
 Monkhouse, 34, 35, 96, 97, 143.
 Moore, 86.
 Murhall, W., 70, 71.

 National Schools, 94.
 Neath Abbey, 36, 46.
 New Book Society, 141.
 Newcastle-under-Lyme, 21, 26,
 45, 62, 67, 138.
 Newton, 95.
 Night Watch, 51, 52.
 North Rode, 174.
 Norton, Howard, 58.

 Oakamoor, 14, 29, 30, 31, 32, 38,
 39, 43, 80, 217-220, 292,
 306.
 Officers of Union, the first,
 60.
 Offlow, 4.
 Olebar, 176.
 Omerod, 5.
 Onecote, 140.

 Parish Apprentices, 57.
 Park Hall, 11.
 Parker, 112, 242.
 Patten, 36, 38, 39, 46.
 Pegge, 93.
 Penkridge, 4.
 Pew Dispute, 111.
 Phillips, 12, 44, 56, 101, 102,

- Pirehill, 4.
 Plant, 81, 146, 174, 177.
 Ponsonby, Sir F., 84.
 Poor Houses, 53.
 Potteries, 24, 26, 41, 43, 167.
 Povey, Mary, 59.
 Powys, 232, 237.
 Pretender, the, 66.
 Pritchett, Delabere, 82, 92, 100,
 101, 102, 103, 104, 110.
 Pritchard, 137.
 Pugin, 116, 133.
 Purefoy, W., 50.

 Quin, 97.
 Quinton, 219.

 Raffles, 137, 138.
 Railway, 27, 29, 172-8.
 Ratcliffe, 241.
 Rawle, 91, 93, 94, 112.
 Rebellion, the, 66-72.
 Rectory, 91, 92.
 Religious Census, 12, 13.
 Religious feeling, 112.
 Resisting Tithes, 100.
 Richardson, 230.
 Ritchie, 61.
 Roads, 28, 29.
 Robinson, 138.
 Rocester, 192-4, 253.
 Rogers, J., 161, 170.
 Rownall, 15.
 Rudyard, T., 232.
 Rushton, J., 230.
 Russell, 146.

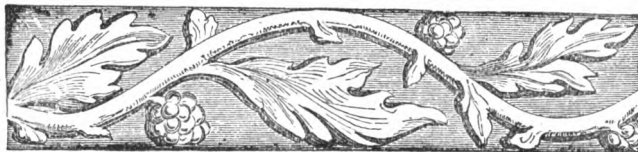
 Saint Thomas's Club, 63.
 Saint Vincent, 242.
 Salt, 294.
 Sanford, Van, 43.
 Schepished, 259, 266, 269.
 School Endowments, 95.
 Scotch Rebellion, 66-72.
 Seisdon, 4.
 Seldon, 148.
 Sharpstone's Cliff, 41.
 Shenton, R., 79.
 Shepherd. So. 00. 130 140 147
 Shrewsbury, Ancestry of, &c.,
 201, 217.
 Silk Mill, 43.
 Simms, J., 81.
 Skelmersdale, 146.
 Skinners Brook, 69.
 Slaney, 51.
 Smith, R., 46.
 Smith, R. F., 81, 97, 139, 144.
 Sneyd, 30, 101, 228, 231, 237.
 Somerset, Duke of, 9.
 Spencer, D., 55, 58, 93.
 Spilsbury, 161, 171.
 Stafford, 27, 45, 62, 67, 68, 111.
 Stafford, family, 6, 193.
 Stanmoor Hall, 42.
 Stocks, 50.
 Stoke, 174.
 Stone, 67-70.
 Stowell, H., 78.
 Stubbs, 80, 95, 224.

 Talbot, 119.
 Tamworth, 21, 45.
 Tape Mill, 43.
 Tean, 16, 43, 44, 66, 190-2.
 Teanford, 44, 93.
 Temperance, 156.
 Thacker, 144, 146.
 Thompson, 155.
 Tipton, 138.
 Tithes, 98-110.
 Tittensor, Thomas, 55.
 Tokens, 44, 46.
 Totmanslow, 3, 4, 249.
 Trees, 30.
 Trent, 21.
 Trent and Mersey Canal, 36.
 Trysall, 4.
 Turner, 80, 101.

 Uttoxeter, 13, 46, 66, 174.

 Vavasour, Sir E., 179, 182.
 Verdun, 199, 260, 261, 264, 271.
 Vernon, 146.

 Wailes, 76.
 Wakes 18



HISTORY OF CHEADLE.

APPENDIX.

I.

*Monkhouse Hill.—(From “The Moorland Bard,” by
Thomas Bakewell.)*

While wand'ring o'er the Monkhouse Hill,
What various views the eye may fill,
Of valley, hill, and woodland shade,
With marks of commerce and of trade.
The farmer's industry is seen,
In fallows brown, and meadows green ;
And fields of corn are scatter'd round,
While dreary heaths the prospects bound.
Yet, e'en those hills, so bleak and steep,
Give food to num'rous flocks of sheep ;
And fruits of most delicious taste
Are the productions of the waste*

Ten public roads appear to view,
 And thoughts of former jaunts renew,
 Of business, or sometimes 'twas pleasure,
 In which I spent my hours of leisure.
 But 'tis in vain abroad we roam,
 If pleasure we have not at home.

The contemplative eye to please,
 Nine fabrics for luxuriant ease,
 Call'd country seats, do now appear—
 Methinks the sound of mirth I hear;
 For health and plenty there reside,
 With their attendants, pomp and pride.

But, heav'ns! how much of want and pain
 Are felt in this extended plain!
 See yon lone cottage on the moor*
 Where lives a widow, old and poor,
 Lamenting her hard fated lot,
 While o'er the embers boils her pot,
 With few potatoes, and she's spread
 Upon her stool some sour oat bread;
 A little whey in earthen cup,
 And salt, her bill of fare make up.
 Yet e'en on this poor wretched fare
 She now partakes with anxious care;
 With caution the remains sets by,
 And trembling doubts her next supply.
 Thus misery does her daggers plant,
 Of real and ideal want.

A little further move the eye,
 Another cottage you will spy,
 With patch'd up window, shatter'd door,
 A bed of straw, and clay cold floor.
 There lives old Giles; brave, hale and young,
 He once was; now his nerves unstrung;
 For age, and want, and sickness came,
 And shook his manly, vig'rous frame;
 His trembling limbs scarce strength retain,
 His shrunk up body to maintain.
 See him now view the setting sun,
 Wishing that his own race was run;
 Yet once he was his neighbour's pride,
 The boast of yonder woodland side.

Hark, yonder squalling brats just by!
 Imperious hunger rais'd the cry;
 Their mother lately brought to bed,
 Too feeble is to raise her head;
 Altho' the sense of hearing tire:
 The oldest daughter blows the fire,
 To warm some gruel for the dame,

* Wretched as are many of the English cottagers, they yield

A few small sticks support the flame ;
 The oldest she of nine poor elves,
 And four of these can't help themselves ;
 Two idiots in the list you'll see—
 (To God how thankful we should be,
 Who gave us knowledge Him to serve,
 And does our reas'ning pow'rs preserve.)
 No cordials comfortable has she,
 Poor gruel, and some poisonous tea ;
 No sugar, cream, and scarcely bread,
 Then how can she lift up her head
 And rise from off the bed of pain,
 Or strength and vigour e'er regain ?
 Her cov'ring a poor tatter'd cloak,
 And an old blanket black with smoke ;
 Her weary limbs a chaff bed press,
 While mental woes still more distress ;
 For she some better days had seen,
 Had joined the dance, and tripp'd the green,
 Of future ills had felt no dread,
 While gaudy trappings grac'd her head.
 Her husband wicked, selfish, gross,
 Ill temper'd, clownish, and morose,
 His gets he spends in drunken riot,
 And says at home he's never quiet.
 Ye rich and powerful, look around ;
 Say, can such wretchedness be found ?
 Yes, 'tis no fictitious scene I draw,
 But what in that poor hut I saw.
 See yonder fabric, fair and large,
 'Twas builded at the parish charge ;
 'Tis there that wasting age retires,
 To wait till painful life expires.
 Go, look within the ample space,
 Where cold damp vapours fill the place ;*
 Go, peep into the filthy cell,
 Where keen disease, and anguish dwell :
 See there acute or chronic pain,
 The muscles of the visage strain ;
 There see the idiot's vacant stare,
 And th' wild maniac's frantic glare
 Where, tho' strong chains the body bind,
 " No fetters can restrain the mind."
 Go, go, my friend, and learn to feel,
 Nor more thy heart from pity steel.

* Parish poorhouses are in general wretched places, and the affairs of the poor as wretchedly conducted : this is to be expected.

And you, ye proud, luxurious, say,
 (Who in soft pleasures spend the day,
 Where graceful beauty cheers the sight
 And music's charms the ear's delight.)
 Will you, too, view the scene of woe?
 Will you a purer pleasure know;
 Say, shall the bliss be understood,
 "The luxury of doing good?"
 Domestic calls my limits seal,
 Had I the means—for poets feel.
 But money is not all they want,
 You may some richer gifts implant;
 You should the poor's gross ways refine,
 Example should with lustre shine;
 Your influence might their morals mend,
 You then would prove your country's friend.
 But heav'n's! while I am wandering here,
 I might be useful in my sphere
 Of action; so I'll now descend
 The hill, and strive my ways to mend.

II.

*Letter from the "Staffordshire Advertiser," February 5th,
 1814, on the Enclosure of Common Lands.*

To the Editor of the *Staffordshire Advertiser*.

SIR,—Convinced that none can be so callous to the feelings of human nature as to refuse their assistance to a fellow creature, when it can be given without injury or loss to themselves; and fully persuaded that many of the benevolent omit performing still more frequent acts of beneficence solely from being unacquainted with the necessities of those in whose behalf their aid might be offered; I take the liberty of laying before the public, through your medium, the situation of the cottagers and occupiers of encroachments in the parish of Cheadle, in this county; and though I confine my remarks in particular to the cottagers of this parish, they may equally well apply to those of every other part of the kingdom, where inclosures of the waste lands are carrying

III.

Allotment of Pews in Cheadle Church by the Commissioners' award, dated the eleventh day of September, one thousand eight hundred and forty five.

No. on pews.	Sittings allotted in each pew.	Names of persons to whom allotted.	Messuages to which the pews or sittings are appurtenant (if any).
(South side of middle aisle.)			
1	6	Thomas Holmes ..	Wheat Sheaf Inn
2	6	Clement Sneyd ..	Huntley Hall
3	6	Elizabeth Hubbard ..	
4	6	John Smith ..	Thornbury Hall
5	6	Garvase Marson's trustees ..	Smaller house in main street
6	6	Clement Sneyd ..	Huntley house
7	6	James Beech ..	Broadhay farm
8	6	Henry Langley ..	Rakeway farm
(North side of middle aisle.)			
9	1	Thomas Whilock ..	House near Rising Sun
9	1	Richard Howe ..	House at Tenford
9	1	John Higgs (joiner) ..	House at Cheadle mill
9	1	Richard Keates (of Uttoxeter) ..	House at back of town
9	1	George Tipper ..	House at town end
9	1	Susan Keates ..	Swan Inn
10	1	Sarah Tipper ..	House in main street
10	1	Thomas Massey ..	
10	2	John Fenton ..	House below Cross
10	1	Richard Fallows ..	House at Major's barn
11	6	Sir John Buller Yardebuller ..	Royal Oak Inn
13	4	Alexander Bowers (assignees) ..	Booth hall
13	2	Elizabeth Bower ..	Grove
14	6	Joseph Ingleby ..	
15	2	Thomas Brandon ..	Houses in main street, occupied by John Jackson and William Kemp
15	2	Ralph Adderley ..	Mobberley farm
15	2	Maria Baines ..	House in main street
16	6	Sir John Buller Yardebuller ..	Hazlewall farm

19	2	Thomas Holmes ..	Newfield farm
19	1	Gervase Marson's trustees	Eaves farm
19	1	Thomas Tongue ..	House at Tenford
19	1	John Goodwin ..	House above Rakeway
21	5	Thomas Smith ..	House near Tanyard
22	2	William Williamson ..	Greenhead farm
23	3	Lady Pilkington ..	House at Brookhouse
23	1	George Vernon Keys ..	House near Churchyard
24	1	Richard Keates, ..	
24	2	John Pears ..	House at Gorsty hill
24	1	Hannah Povey ..	House in Charles street

(South side of north aisle.)

25	2	Samuel Waugh ..	Houses in main street
25	2	Charles Wink's trustees	House at Gorsty hill
26	4	Thomas Holmes ..	House at the Croft
27	5	Maria Higgs ..	House in main street, Richard Tomkinson tenant,
28	5	Ditto ..	
29	5	Mary Hall	Farm house at above Park
30	5	William Howard and Cephas Howard ..	Farm house at High street
31	1	James Moreton ..	House below Cross
31	4	H. G. Fownes and E. C. Fownes ..	Farm house at High street
32	5	Francis Hordern ..	House in main street

(East end.)

33	9	Rev. R. Rawle ..	As Rector for Rectory house
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(North side of north aisle.)

34	6	Rev. R. Rawle ..	Ditto
35	8	Sir John Buller Yarder ..	Park hall, Cheadle park, and Spout farms
36	6	Clement Sneyd ..	Huntley farm
37	6	Eli Bowers ..	Park fields
38	8	Sir John Buller Yarder ..	Portobello, Birchen fields, and house in main street
39	3	John Michael Blagg ..	House at Rosehill
40	3	John Keates ..	Houses on Ashborne road
41	3	Samuel Sherratt ..	
42	3	George Rushton ..	House in main street
43	3	John Colclough Bourne	House at Daisy bank
44	3	Louisa Milner ..	House in Cross street
45	2	William Young ..	House at west end of Cheadle

(South side of south aisle.)

47	3	Thomas Alcock	..	House in Tape street
48	3	Esther Beech	..	Farm house at above Park
49	2	Elizabeth Hubbard	..	
50	2	Charles Alcock	..	House at Watt place
50	1	Ann Barnes	..	House near Churchyard
51	2	John Bennett's devisees	..	House at town end
51	1	William Johnson	..	Angel Inn
52	3	Thomas Howe	..	Red Lion Inn
53	3	Thomas Brandon	..	Millhouses farm
54	3	Ann Fowell	..	House at Harplow
55	8	Clement Sneyd	..	Huntley hall (servants)
56	6	John Colclough Bourne	..	House at Daisy bank
57	6	Maria Higgs	..	House in main street, Richard Lowe tenant
58	8	Ditto	..	

(East end.)

59	9	George Tipper	..	House below Churchyard
60	9	Sir John Buller Yarde-	..	Letley and Windy Arbor
		Buller	..	farms

(South gallery.)

1	10	John Bill	..	House at Woodhouse
2	8	Mary Ann Astley	..	
3	3	Thomas Sillitoe (Hunt-	..	House at Huntley
		ley)	..	
3	5	Thomas Sillitoe (Hol-	..	Houses at Cheadle
		lington)	..	
4	3	Rev. Edward Whieldon	..	Hales hall
4	3	William Allen	..	Woodhead
4	3	George Tipper	..	House below Churchyard
5	6	Maria Higgs	..	
5	3	John Higgs	..	Harewood hall
6	9	Gervase Marson's trus-	..	House in main street
		tees	..	
7	9	Samuel Boden	..	House at Rock cliff
8	10	William Allen	..	Woodhead
9	10	William Burton and	..	Cheadle eaves,
		Charles Burton	..	
10	9	Thos. Patten and Co.	..	House in main street
11	9	Josh. Faulkner's trus-	..	House at east end of town
		tees	..	
12	3	Late Josh. Baddeley,	..	House in main street
		junior	..	
12	2	Late Loton Tipper's	..	

IV.

Deed of Composition between the Abbot and Convent of Crokesden and the Rector of Chedle, concerning the Tithes of certain lands in the parish of Chedle.

This indenture witnesseth that matter of dissension and question hath lately arisen between the religious men the Abbot and Convent of Saint Mary of Crokesden of the Cistercian Order of the one part, Master William Yevdale, Rector of the parish church of Chedle, in the Diocese of Coventry and Lichfield, of the other part. Upon the perception of the tithes of the profits of the Chapel Yard Halvyslaghton the Grange Park, Calvycroft and Lynclyff situate within the bounds and limits of the said parish of Chedle, by the intervention and treaty of friends, on the third day of this instant month of November, at Rocester, the matter of question or dissension aforesaid was put at rest in this manner: that is to say, that the aforesaid Master William, the Rector aforesaid, and his successors Rectors of the same church of Chedle for the time being, shall receive and have all and singular the tithes as well great as small issuing out of the places aforesaid as often as and when the same places or any of them shall happen to be put to farm and all other tithes which the same Master William, the Rector aforesaid, at the time of making the present composition possesses, and he and his predecessors have heretofore possessed, without any contradiction whatsoever of the Abbot and Convent aforesaid, or their successors, and for the perception of such tithes and for the good of peace the same Master William, the Rector aforesaid, and his successors Rectors of the same church of Chedle for the time being, shall pay or cause to be paid for ever yearly to the aforesaid religious men, the Abbot and Convent aforesaid, and their successors in the conventual church of Crokesden aforesaid, on the eve of Easter in every year, twelvenpence of lawful money of England, and the said Abbot and Convent and their successors at the same time shall pay one hundred loaves, commonly called obleys, to the aforesaid Master William and his successors at the costs of the same Abbot and Convent. And the aforesaid Abbot and Convent and their successors shall peaceably and quietly possess all other their possessions being within the parish of Chedle aforesaid here not inserted, free from the payment of any tithes as they possessed before any strife whatsoever in this behalf moved, and as they now possess without the reclaiming, hindrance, disturbance or vexation whatsoever of the aforesaid Master William, the Rector aforesaid, or his successors Rectors of the same church of Chedle for the time being. And that this agreement or composition real may obtain perpetual strength the Reverend Father and Lord in Christ the Lord William by the grace of God Bishop of Coventry and Lichfield Diocesan of the place the same composition or agreement

appear, and the parties aforesaid will and grant for them and their successors that if it happen that either of the parties shall hereafter in any wise contravene the present composition or agreement the same party thus actually contravening so often as it shall be contravened shall pay in the name of a penalty ten pounds of lawful money of England to the party willing to observe the premises and to the fabric of the Cathedral Church of Lichfield to be paid and applied by equal portions. To the payment or satisfaction of which penalty if (which God forbid) and so far as it shall be forfeited as aforesaid the Abbot and Convent of Crokesden aforesaid by these presents bind them and their successors and the aforesaid Master William Yevdale the Rector of Chedle aforesaid binds himself and his successors the future Rectors of the same church of Chedle aforesaid binds himself and his successors the future Rectors of the same church of Chedle and all their goods. In faith and testimony of all which things the Abbot and Convent of Crokesden aforesaid to one part of these present indentures remaining with the aforesaid Master [William] the Rector aforesaid and his successors the Rectors of the same church of Chedle have put their common seal and to the other part remaining with the Abbot and Convent aforesaid and their successors the same William Yevdale the Rector aforesaid hath put his seal. Given at Crokesden the twenty third day of the month of November in the year of our Lord one thousand four hundred and thirty three. And we, William, by divine permission Bishop of Coventry and Lichfield, finding the aforesaid composition and agreement to be reasonable and consonant to law, the same at the personal and earnest request of the parties aforesaid have ratified and confirmed and the same by our ordinary authority, decree to have real and perpetual force by the tenor of these presents. In testimony whereof we have caused our seal to be put to these present letters indented. Given in our Palace at Lichfield as to the affixing of our seal the twenty fourth day of the month and year aforesaid and the fourteenth year of our consecration,

V.

Extract from a terrier of Cheadle parish in the Registry of the Bishop of Lichfield and Coventry, dated 26th of September, 1732.

Corn tythes are due in kind and to be set up in the tenth cover
excepting as followeth

hall's meadow adjoining to y^e lands late of Mr. Edw. Large, deceased, pays as a rate tythe 2s. 4d.

Exemptions.—Mr. Whitehall's water meadow, 4d.; Mr. Adderley's mill and some other lands, 2s. 4d.; Teanford Mill, 1s. 8d.; Cheadle Mill, 3s. 4d.; Parson's Flat for herbage, 1s. 0d.; Jonas Bate for herbage, 1s. 0d.; tythe of hemp and flax in kind; tythe hay in kind out of the meadows undermentioned at the tenth cock set up. Mr. Harrison's meadow (now in George Thornbury's hands), y^e Duke of Newcastle's meadow in the tenure of Richard Pickering, Mr. Theo. Crompton's meadow in his own hands, Mr. Adderley's meadow in George Young's tenure, Thomas Sillitoe's meadow, the Bean meadow in John Sutton's tenure.

Lands and Meadows which pay a Modus.—Mr. Bagnall's meadow pays for hay when mowed 4d., but pays tythe in kind when ploughed. Mr. Thomas Thornbury's meadow pays for hay when mowed 4d., but tythe in kind when ploughed.

Exemptions from tythe hay in kind.—John Bagnall for Sea-fields pays a modus when grazed 2s., but pays tythe in kind when ploughed, ascertained by a trial at Stafford Assizes, April 8th, 1709. Mr. Colclough for hay at Delphouse, 4d.; Mr. Fowler late for Rakeway, 4d.; Mr. Leigh for Woodhead, 6d.

Exemptions from tythe hay.—Mr. Hurst for part Cheadle Grange, 6d.; Mr. Hurst for Whiston's Henshaw's liveinge, 6d.; David Hall, late of Woodhead, 2d.; Thomas Sillitoe's liveinge at Grange, 6d.; Mr. Mills at Millhouses, 1s.; Mr. Fernehough of Huntley, 3d.; Mr. Ford's late liveing, 3d.; Mr. Belfied, 3d.; Sickly liveing, 4d.; Dairy House, 3d.; Thomas Stool for Hassell's wall, 3d.; Tho. Dutton, 2d.; Booth Hall, 3d.; Broad's House, 1d.; William Wright for Gilbert's tenements, 2d.; Thomas Heath, senior, for Huntley tenement, 2d.; Cheadle Park, 5s.; John Hall, 2d.; Samuel Weston for Gostilow tenement, 2d.; the tenement at Grange, formerly Peter Lown's, 4d.; for a cow and calf, 1½d.; a barren cow, 1d.

A modus for calves, colts, lambs, pigs, wool, geese in kind (if there be but seven one to be taken), eggs, honey and apples in kind.

Surplice Fees, viz.:—For a wedding per banns, 2s. 6d.; a buriall, 5d.; a churching, 6d. Easter Rolls, viz.:—For a house and garden, 2d.; offering of marryd foalk, each 2d. Mortuary Dues, Clerk's Fees paid:—For a burial, 1s.; wedding by banns, 1s.; churching, 6d.; cleaning and looking after y^e clock and bells, 13s. 4d.; registering yearly, 13s. 4d.; wages yearly, 13s. 4d.

The following is taken from a terrier of Cheadle living, containing "the houses, buildings, glebe lands, tythes, moduses, exemptions, surplice fees, clerk's wages, custom and perquisites therein belonging, according as hath been accustomed and can be discovered, taken August 1st, 1795."

The garden, the fold, the rick yard about one acre, one newly erected stable or hovel standing in the orchard hereafter mentioned containing one bay.

Glebe Lands.—The cow pasture near adjoining to the house and called the orchard, containing eight acres or thereabouts, and divided into three parts. The two Birch crofts, containing three acres or thereabouts, lying on each side the lane leading from Cheadle to Cheadle Grange. The Botbrook and Twelve Butt Doles, half an acre each. One other little Dole lying in the Lower Town field, containing one quarter of an acre or thereabouts, and called the Stonehill Dole. One Dole of land lying in the Half Acre field, cropping the roadway leading towards Leek, adjoining to a piece of land called the Riddings, and another piece of land called the Woodcroft, shooting up towards Cheadle Park side, and another Dole lying in the same field, containing half an acre or thereabouts, adjoining the east side of a Dole, part of Brand, lining and shooting up to Cheadle Park. One enclosed Dole lying at the Hall orchard, containing half an acre or thereabouts, and two Doles in the Upper Town fields, one of them in Mr. Loton Tipper's enclosure and the other abutting to Coney Grey Bank, being together about three quarters of an acre. One Dole of land lying at Golden Croft side, half an acre or thereabouts, and two enclosed Doles of land adjoining to a little croft of Miss Chawner's, being about three quarters of an acre, and one Dole, containing a quarter of an acre or thereabouts, and leading down towards Richard Fallows' tenement, commonly called Major's Barn. Tenements upon or belonging to the Glebe, viz., the house or tenement in the tenure of Elizabeth Williamson and three others, containing four bays of building, and a little croft behind the house and buildings of Widow Watt, in the tenure of herself, Mrs. Ward, Edward Heighington, and James Brindley, with several gardens adjoining thereto. A house or tenement of Joshua Walker and six others, adjoining a little dole behind them containing about one eighth part of an acre, lying under a hill called Monkhouse, near adjoining to a house of William Keates, this croft being bought by William Keates and part of it built upon.

Corn tithes are due in kind to be set apart to the tenth cover, excepting as followeth:—Park Hall and Cheadle Park belonging to John Holliday, Esq. Mr. Whitehall's meadow adjoining to the land pays 2s. 4d.; Mr. Whitehall's water meadow, 4d.; Mr. Simon Mountford's mill and some other lands, 2s. 4d.; Tenford mill, 3s. 4d.; Parsonage Flat for herbage, 1s.; Jonas Bate for herbage, 1s.

The flax and hemp in kind, tithe hay in kind of the meadows mentioned at the tenth cock, viz.,—Mr. Holliday's meadow in the holding of Mrs. Tomlinson and Thomas Keates. Pickering's meadow belonging to Mr. Child in the holding of Mrs. Tomlinson. Mr. Barnes's meadow in the tenure of William Fallows. Mr. Spencer's meadow in his own holding. Thomas Sillitoe's meadow in his own holding and William Keates's meadow in the tenure of Richard Keates.

Child in the tenure of Mrs. Tomlinson, 4d., but tithe in kind when ploughed; Leafield in the holding of John Fallows when grazed pays a modus of 2s., but tithe in kind when ploughed, ascertained by a trial at Stafford Assizes, April 8th, 1709; Mr. Swinnerton for Delph House living, 4d.; Francis Leigh, Esq., for Woodhead, 6d.; William Fowler for Woodhead, 2d.; Mr. Hurst for part of Cheadle Grange, 6d.; Mr. Mills for Millhouse, 1s.; Mr. Buckley for Huntley, 3d.; Mr. Child for Samuel Stokes's farm, 3d.; Mr. Holmes's farm in the tenure of Samuel Ward and John Blinkhouse, 3d.; Mr. Holmes for Eaves 3d.; Litley living, 4d.; Dairy House, 3d. Numerous other exemptions follow and the fees are arranged as in the previous terrier.

 VI.

Deed of Surrender of the Abbey of Croxden.

To all faithful Christians to whom the present writing shall come, we, Thomas Chalner, Abbott of the Monastery or Abbey of the blessed Virgin Mary of Crokesden, in the county of Stafford, in the diocese of Coventry and Lichfield, of the Cistercian Order, and the convent of the same place, greeting in the Lord everlasting. Know ye that we, the aforesaid Abbott and Convent, with our unanimous assent and consent, with deliberate minds and of our certain knowledge and mere motion for certain just and reasonable causes our minds and consciences specially moving freely and spontaneously, have given and granted and by these presents do give grant, yield up, deliver and confirm to our most illustrious and invincible prince and lord, Henry the 8th, by the grace of God of England and France King, defender of the faith, Lord of Ireland, and on earth of the Church of England under Christ supreme head, all that our said Monastery or Abbey of Crokesden aforesaid. And all the site, ground, circuit and precinct of the same monastery of Crokesden aforesaid, and also all and singular our manors, houses, messuages, gardens, curtilages, tofts, lands, and tenements, meadows, feedings, pastures, woods, rents, reversions, services, mills, passages, Knights' fees, wards, ~~manages~~ bondmen, villians, with their sequels, commons, liberties, franchises, jurisdictions, offices, courts leet, hundreds, views of frankpledge, fairs, markets, parks, warrens, vivaries, waters, fisheries, ways,

and other ecclesiastical benefices whatsoever, rectories, vicarages, chantries, portions, pensions, annuities, tithes, oblations, and all and singular emoluments, profits, possessions, hereditaments, and rights whatsoever, as well within the said county of Stafford as within the counties of Derby, Northampton, Lincoln, Leicester, Chester, Middlesex, and elsewhere within the kingdom of England, Wales, Ireland, and the Marches thereof to the same Monastery or Abbey of Crokesden in any wise howsoever appertaining, belonging, appendant, or incumbent; and all manner our charters, evidencies, writings, and muniments to the said Monastery or Abbey and to the manors, lands, and tenements and other the premises with the appurtenances or to any part thereof in anywise howsoever belonging or concerning, to have, hold and enjoy the said Monastery or Abbey, scite, ground, circuit, and precinct of Crokesden aforesaid lands, tenements and other the premises with all and singular their appurtenances to our aforesaid most invincible prince and lord the King his heirs and assigns for ever, to whom in this behalf with all effect of law that can or may result therefrom, we subject and submit (as is fitting) ourselves and the said Monastery or Abbey of Crokesden aforesaid and all rights by us in any wise howsoever acquired, giving and granting to the same King's Majesty his heirs and assigns all and all manner full and free faculty, authority, and power to dispose of us and the said Monastery of Crokesden aforesaid, together with all and singular manors, lands, tenements, rents, reversions, services, and all the premises with their rights and appurtenances whatsoever and by his royal free will and pleasure to alienate, give, convert and transfer to any uses whatsoever agreeable to his Majesty such disposition, alienations, donations, conversions, and translations by his Majesty in any wise howsoever to be made thenceforth ratifying and confirming, and the same by these presents we promise to hold firm for ever; and that all and singular the premises may answer the desired end, moreover the elections to us and our successors; and also all complaints, provocations, appeals, actions, suits, and petitions and other our remedies and advantages whatsoever to us and our successors per chance in that behalf by pretext of the disposition, alienation, translation, and conversion aforesaid and other the premises in any wise howsoever accruing, and to be sued for and all exceptions, objections, and allegations of deceit, error, fear, ignorance, or any other matter or disposition whatsoever altogether removed and laid aside. We openly, publicly and expressly of our certain knowledge and spontaneous minds have renounced and relinquished as by these presents we renounce and relinquish and from the same withdraw by this writing; and we the aforesaid Abbott and Convent and our successors the said monastery, precinct, scite, mansion and church of Crokesden aforesaid; and all and singular the manors, houses, messuages, gardens, curtilages, tofts, meadows, feedings, pastures, woods, underwoods lands and tenements and all and singular

we the aforesaid Abbott and Convent have put to this writing our common seal and have subscribed our proper hands. Given the 17th day of the month of September in the year of our Lord 1538, in the 30th year of Henry the 8th. It was signed "by me," Thomas Chalner, Abbott of Crokesden; Thomas Rollaston, Robert Clarke, Thomas Keyling, John Thornton, John Orke, John Alnor, William Beech, Henry Rothwell, Robert Keydy, John Standfast, Richard Mayre, Thomas Hendon.

The following signed as witnesses: George Vernon, Esquire, Ranold Corbett, Esquire, Walter Orton, Gentleman, Lord Edmund Stretage.

Be it remembered that on the day and year within written the Abbott and Convent within named in the chapter house, all and singular the same being then and there assembled and forming the Chapter, with their unanimous consent and assent, of their certain knowledge, with deliberate minds, this their writing sealed with their common seal and subscribed with their proper hands containing the donation, grant, alienation, or surrender, have admitted and acknowledged as their free and voluntary deed, and the same deed into the hands of the venerable man Master Thomas Legh, Doctor of Laws, Commissary there of our lord the King to the use of our same most illustrious lord the King freely and spontaneously gave and delivered and earnestly besought that in the Court of Chancery of our lord the King wheresoever else that such their deed for the perpetual memory thereof might be enrolled, registered and inscribed, and requested these witnesses under written that as well upon such their deed as the sealing, delivery and request aforesaid they would bear testimony. George Vernon, Esquire, Ranold Corbett, Esquire, Walter Orton, Gentleman, Lord Edmund Stretage.

