

Preston Parish.



LACED in the centre of the county of Lancaster, upon the elevated banks of one of its finest rivers, boasting a high antiquity, the scene of many historical events in past ages, and ranking amongst the most flourishing seats of trade and manufacture in modern times, the town and borough of Preston excites the curiosity and interests the feelings of the antiquary, the politician, and the economist. With ample materials before us, but with limits too circumscribed for their full development, we proceed to sketch the history of a place endeared by early association, and entitled

Preston
Parish.

intrinsecally to the best efforts of the topographer.

As Amounderness ranks amongst the most ancient of the hundreds or wapentakes in the kingdom, so the town of Preston, the capital of this hundred, is of as high Saxon antiquity as any town in the county of Lancaster. The term *Saxon* is required to limit the expression; for it must be allowed that Preston was *not* a Roman station,* but that when, by the gradual recession of the waters, or by that mighty

* Dr. Kuerden, in his unfinished and unpublished MSS. on the history of Preston,* entitled "Gilda Mercatoria Ribodunum seu Prestoniensis cum Hansa in Agro Lancastriensi," has a chapter to prove that Preston was the RIBODUNUM of the Romans; without acquiescing in the doctor's reasoning, we do not feel at liberty to withhold from the antiquarian reader a theory that has been shut up for a hundred and fifty years in the Heralds' College. The learned native antiquary, in the quaint style of the age in which he wrote, proceeds thus:—

* Kuerden's
MSS Vol.
VI. fo. 121.
Cap. II.

"Why Preston formerly Ribodunum.

"Reasons why this antient Ribodunum of the Romans was formerly placed where now the present borough of Preston in Amounderness stands.

"Considering well what hath been already related, it may with greater probability be imagined and likewise on very good reasons be concluded, that this antient citty & colony of the Romans to haue been seated where the afforesaid borough of Preston now remaineth.

Preston
Parish.

convulsion of nature which threw up the huge mass of Pendle, and deranged the whole system of plants and minerals in the vale of Ribble to a great extent,* Ribchester sunk into decay, Preston rose upon its ruins, and became the principal port of Lancashire. This rank it sustained through a long succession of ages; and

“That it was seated upon a Dunum or high or rising ground adjacent to the much famed æstuarium by the Britains formerly styled Belisama, but now the Riuer Ribel, where it ebbs and flowes, the word æstuarium hinting so much vnto vs. And not as formerly with others it hath been mistaken for another famous citty and Armature of the Romans cald Coctium of Antoninus in his Itinerary, placed likewise more easterly & higher upon the Riuer Ribel, & afterwards from thence by the Saxons styled Ribel Caster, and scince by the Normans Ribchester.

“Coctium not Ribodunum.

“1. *Reason.* This citty of Coctium or now Ribchester mentioned in Antoninus Itinerary, is placed & distanced but 26 miles from Mancunium, Manucium or Manchester wherein this other British or Brigantish citty in Ptolomy cald Ribodunum in its shortest cutt is no less distant from the afforesaid town of Manchester than 22 miles, not known to be long as well as customary nere half the distance more than what is numbered in Antoninus Itinerary & may be better numbered for 40 South or Statute miles.

“2. *Reason.* Besides this Coctium cannot be the same town with Ribodunum, for though the same be placed nere the Riuer Ribel, yet it is not seated upon any Dunum but otherwise placed in a valley from all the neighbouring parts, & though it is reputed to haue been the famous Armature of the Romans here in Brittain, yet it is not placed upon any hill or rising ground, as the word Dunum in its name imports.

“3. *Reason.* A little on the north side of this Coctium or Ribchester, there is some remaines left of a Roman highway or publiq strata westward from the east coast, a little north from Rigodunum or the now Borough of Preston to the Belisama or æstuarium of Ribel, and wither shippes of ordinary burden may haue access and usually may pass up the riuer at high water within a mile of Rigodunum afforesaid, and being fraught at the tyde or reflux, may pass down some 3 or 4 leagues into the westren seas.

“And this high way by the country people at this day cald the Watling Street, & was wel vewed by the learned & incomparable antiquary William Dugdell Norroy King of Armes in his last visitation of the Gentry within the county of Lancaster An Do 1664, where by him and many other diligent observers there finding a rampire cast up with grauel, & the largeness of the bulk therof, was judged to be a Roman strata.

{ “4. *Reason.* Besides it was obserued that from this Ribodunum to the other Roman garrison, the Longovicum or Caerwerid of the Britains their Green Citty, there was another lesser strata leading betwixt them, as diuers signes of a like Rampire ouer Preston and Fulwood more towards Garstang by Broughton are yet conspicuous to the inquisitiue obseruations of many learned men as well as vulgar people.

“5. *Reason.* Moreouer at Myrescogh a parke within the Forest of Amundernes some 6 or 7 miles northward from Ribodunum, in or nere the now publiq high way to the afforesaid Caer Werid

* No Roman remains have been found here, while at York, Lancaster, Ribchester, and Manchester, they abound.

even as late as the time of Charles I. the contribution demanded by that monarch for ship-money from the borough of Preston, was one-fourth more than was required from Lancaster, and nearly double the amount that was imposed upon Liverpool.*
During the Roman period, the road called Watling-street, made by the conquerors

Preston
Parish.

of the Britains or the Longovicum of the Romans, or Lancaster of the Saxons, or the now borough of Lancaster of the Normans, and not many years agoe within the parke aforesaid, in digging or cleansing of a ditch, was found a Roman Vrne in which was found great store of antient coynes, most of which I myselfe haue seen and were for some years after carefully preserved or bestowed on friends by that ingenious gentleman Edward Towneley Esq. the proprietor & owner of the park of ground where this vrne was found.

“ Which place in a perambulation by the learned obseruers may be conjectured to haue been some Taberna or bathing place for the Roman soldiers who marched up this strata from Ribodunum to the next remarkable Roman garrison scil: of their Longovicum at Caer Werid or Lancaster as the same is now called.

“ It is likewise worth the consideration at this time to obserue how the Romans for the most part placed their maritime garrisons either upon or nere some remarkable æstuarium and not far from it, as for example—

“ One being placed at Caer Legionis, or the now West Chester nere the Seteia, and upon the Riuer Deua or Dee.

“ And another at Caer Wered or upon the æstuarium of Lune, now cald Lancaster.

“ They had likewise their Limen or Portus Setantiorum at or nere the now Pyle of Fudra upon the river Ken.

“ And now in like manner they had there Ribodunum placed upon that much famed æstuarium of the Britains, their Belisama or Rhe Bel, where the sea or salt water at high or springing tydes do ebb and flow about a mile aboue the now Borough of Preston, where the supposed Ribodunum formerly stood, and generally at all other seasons flowes a mile below it.

“ And ouer against this Ribodunum upon the opposite syde of the said Riuer upon a little hill was placed and remained in the Saxon tyme a little fort or castle, either so built to preserve there shipping, or the better to secure their passage or ford at low water ouer the Belisama, and this place was by the Saxons cald Penavortham and sometimes Peneuerdam, where was a borough of theirs—the word Pen by the Britains signifying a hill or high head of ground, and haue a mansion or castle built thereon.

“ This castle when built we know not, but that it was notable and taken notice of in the Conqueror's time, see Domesday Book in the Excheq^r, saying

“ Rex Edwardus tenuit

“ Peneuerdant.”

“ Now the better to make a discovery of the truth among so many obscurityes latent and not to damp or any ways obscure the great glory and renown of that most famous citty and sometimes the great Armature of the Romans in Brittain at their Coctium or Ribel Caster.

“ This Roman citty, fort, or colony, cald Coctium, was built as many conceiue in the Emperor Coccius Nerua's time, from whom it toke its syr name, for where the Roman Armature and garrison

* Vol. II. p. 4.

Preston
Parish.

from the *Setantian port*, at the Neb of the Nese, passed within little more than a mile to the north of Preston; while the Roman road from Luguwallium, in Cumberland, to Condate, in Cheshire, on its way through the hundred of Amounderness, intersected Watling-street near Tulketh-hall,* and advanced by Preston to Blackrode, the *Coccium* of Antoninus.†

Erection
of the
original
church.
A.D. 930.

It has already been mentioned, that, at the consecration of the monastery and church of Ripon, in 705, after its re-edification by archbishop Wilfrid, among other donations of the great Saxon princes and nobles who witnessed that ceremony, lands near Ribble, in *Hasmundernes* were bestowed on the new foundation. About this period, probably, the parish church of Preston was erected, and on the canonization of archbishop Wilfrid, the new edifice was dedicated to that saint. At a more advanced stage of the heptarchy, Athelstan, the son of Edward the elder, in the sixth year of his reign, granted the whole district of Amounderness to the cathedral church at York. Successive transfers of the hundred from cathedral to cathedral rendered the capital of the district the abode of ecclesiastics, and gave to it the name of *Priests' Town*, of which Preston is a contraction.

was by him planted there, wherein not long since I have seen coynes with his effigies, and circumscriptions found nere the riuer banckes and others of uarious impressions of his at Lancaster among the rubbish there, which might no doubt be occasioned either by some notable transplantation of his colonies, or from his great clemency to Christians, both being in one yeares space performed, I finding that under the Dukes of Britain there had been 23 tribunes or prefects the 2th C ti Armaturarum Bremonturaco at Oure borrow in Lancashire, betwixt Lac and Lune, where their armature had formerly been placed, but afterwards, according to publiq and antient tradition, removed to Coctium, so many signes of the remaines thereof haue been discovered nere vnto Ribchester, as likewise the 4th at Manchester, or Mancunium, where the Tribunes Cohortis primæ Frassigorum, or phaps Fraxinorum.'

Upon these conjectures and reasonings, it may be observed, that had Preston been a Roman station, remains would have been found here in subsequent ages in support of Dr. Kuerden's theory, but no internal evidence of this kind is to be adduced, while Lancaster, Ribchester, Manchester, and Blackrode, have each their trophies to present to the antiquary in support of their claims to a Roman origin. Nor does the fact of a Roman vase, stored with ancient coins, being found in Myrescogh Parke, go far to shew that "Preston was formerly Ribodunum," though it is an incontestable evidence that the arguments in favour of this supposition are vague and inconclusive.

* Upon high ground between Preston and Spaw Brow, and a little to the east of Tulketh Hall, is a perfectly square area formed by a ditch, and considerably elevated in the centre. The Roman roads from Freckleton to Ribchester and from Carlisle to Kinderton, must have crossed each other near this spot, which was probably a Roman out-post. In later times it was the site of a church dedicated to St. Mary Magdalen, and hence probably called the Maudlands. Seven or eight small pieces of silver were dug up near this mound some years ago, which appeared to have been suspended and worn, as each of them was perforated.

† Vol. I. p. 13. Turner's Ang. Sax. Vol. II. p. 103.

The Guild Merchant probably belongs to these times, and, though the Guild of 1329 is the first celebration of the kind on record in this borough, and though the grant of a Guild Merchant since the Conquest is not to be traced to any higher source than Henry I., it is generally supposed that Preston Guild commenced in Anglo-Saxon times. That Guilds existed during the heptarchy is indisputable. Originally they were a kind of sick clubs, and the contributions, the processions, and the conviviality of our modern benefit societies have a close resemblance to the Guilds before the Conquest. There were also Guilds Merchant established in sea-ports in the time of the Saxons, and these were fraternities constituted for the purpose of carrying on more successfully commercial enterprises with Hanse privileges. Preston was one of those ports, in proof of which, it appears from an ancient customale, in the records of the borough, that periodical *port moles*, for the purpose of hearing and determining causes relating to harbour, were held here several times in the year, and that the chief magistrate of the borough was stiled the Portgreve.

Preston
Parish.
Origin of
Guilds.

The Danes, on their arrival in the Humber, spread over the ancient country of the Brigantes, and the county of Lancaster became the scene of their ferocious devastations. The church of York, finding the possessions in Amounderness unproductive, abandoned them, and Tosti, the brother of Harold, became lord paramount.

The conquest of England by William the Norman, transferred the lands between Mersey and Ribble to Roger de Poitou, and Amounderness was added to his princely possessions. The defection of this baron led to the forfeiture of his lordships to the crown. When the Domesday survey was made, Amounderness contained but sixteen thinly inhabited villages, and three churches—Preston, Kirkham, and St. Michael's belonging to Preston, and all the rest of the hundred was waste.* Penwortham, at the opposite side of the Ribble, had a castle and a church, to which a priory, subject to the abbey of Evesham, was added in the reign of the Conqueror.

The most ancient record after Domesday, is the '**Black Book of the Exchequer**,' in which are contained the tenants and fees both "de veteri feoffamento," i. e. held in the reign of Henry I. or before; and "de novo feoffamento," in that of Henry II. or Stephen.† From this document it appears, that Theobald Walter held Aumodnesse by the service of one knight,‡ whence it results that the charter of 5 Richard I. is rather to be considered as a confirmation of a former grant than an original donation. Gilbert Filius Rembr, baron of Kendal, in the same record, is stated to hold

* See the Domesday Survey in Vol. I. p. 108-9, in this work. In addition to the name of Prestone, those of Estun, Lea, Brocton, Burtune, Haleton, Grimesargh, and Fiswic, all townships in this parish, will be found in the Domesday Survey.

† Hearne, Præfat. ad Libr. Nigr. Scaccarii, p. xiii. xiv.

‡ Lib. Nig. Scacc. p. 340.

Preston Parish. four carucates of land in Preston and two in Bertune, besides other lands in the hundred, but not in the parish of Preston.

Custumale of Preston. The Custumale of Preston, which originally had a seal pendent, is without date, and in a mutilated state. The reference in the concluding clause to the "Breton Law," by which Amounderness was governed, seems to fix its introduction at some period during the reign of the Norman princes. If, in the absence of internal evidence, conjecture might be hazarded, we should ascribe it to Henry II. whose grant of rents in Preston to Warine de Lancaster, whose name does not appear in the pedigree, has already been noticed.* The first English king who conferred the privilege of guild or hanse, was Henry I. as duke of Normandy, when he incorporated the cordwainers and curriers of Rouen. The difference of time between the two kings is not more than nineteen years, which too slightly affect the antiquity of the *custumale* to be taken into account. Dr. Whitaker has printed the relics of the original, apparently from an inaccurate copy; but a MS. translation by Mr. Cayley, of the Augmentation Office, in the possession of Nicholas Grimshaw, esq., contains several passages that do not now exist in the Latin. This translation, since it faithfully renders the remaining portions of the *Custumale*, may be considered as accurate with respect to the decayed passages, and is therefore selected for insertion:—

Translation of the Custumale of Preston. "These are the liberties of Preston in Amundrenesse:—1. So that they shall have a Guild Merchant, with Hanse, and other customs, and belonging to such Guild; and so that no one who is not of that Guild shall make any merchandize in the said town, unless with the will of the burgesses.—2. If any native [bondman] reside in the same town, and hold my land, and be in the same Guild and Hanse, and pay scoth and loth with the same burgesses for one year and a day, then he shall not be reclaimed by his lord, but shall remain free in the same town.—3. The burgesses of Preston in Amundrenesse shall have soc and sac, tol and them and infangthef, and they shall be quit throughout all my land of toll, lastage, passage, pontage, and stallage, from Lenegeld,† and Dene-geld, and Gathwite,‡ and all other customs and actions throughout all our land and dominion, as well in England as in other our lands; and that no sheriff shall intermeddle with the burgesses of Preston in Amundrenesse concerning any plea, or plaint, or dispute, or any other thing pertaining to the aforesaid town, saving [the pleas of] the king's crown.—4. If any one wish to be made a burgess, he shall come into court and give to the mayor 12d. and shall take his burgage from the mayor; afterwards he shall give to the mayor's clerk one penny, that he may certify him to have been made a

* By the "Black Book" of the Exchequer, it appears, that the ancestor of Warine de Lancaster, Gilbert Fitz-Reinfrid, then called Gilbertus filius Rembr, held 4 carucates in Preston and two in Bertune, in the reign of Henry I. if not earlier.

† Dr. Whitaker suggests that this word is formed from the low Latin *lena*, a blanket; but is it not more consistent with the context, to consider it as *Langeld*, a land-tax?

‡ Dr. Whitaker has *Gothewite*, which he takes to be formed from *gote*, a ditch, or gutter. It is, however, no other than *Grithwite*, the fine for breach of the peace, a very common term in Saxon and Anglo-Norman laws.

burgess in court.—5. Also, when any burgess shall receive his burgage, and it shall be a void place, the mayor shall admit him, so that he shall erect his burgage within forty days upon a forfeiture; but if he do not erect it, he shall be in mercy 12d.—6. Also, when any burgess shall challenge his burgage against another, and shall prove it to be his right, and the tenant who holds it shall prove that burgage to have been held without challenge many years and days, and name for one year and one day, shall prove himself to have been possessed thereof, and shall prove the same in court by the oath of two of his neighbours to have been so held; he who shall so by them so prove shall hold without contradiction of the claimant whoever that claimant may be, for one day and one year on this side the sea of England.—7. Also, if any burgess complain of any matter and another challenge against him, the plaintiff for judgment shall name two witnesses, and shall have one of them at the day and term, and he may have any lawful person for witness and another burgess; but the defendant against a burgess shall be put to his oath at third hand* by his peers.—7. Also, the amerciamment in our court shall not exceed 12d. unless for toll evaded, and then the amerciament shall be 12s.—8. Also, a burgess shall be bound to come to no more than three portmotes yearly, unless he shall have plea against him, and unless he shall come to some one great portmote he shall be amerced 12d.†—9. The mayor shall collect the king's farm at the four terms of the year, and shall go once for the farm, and another time if he pleases, and shall take away [deponet hostium, pull down] the door of the burgage, and the burgess shall not replace his door until he have paid his debt, unless at the will of the mayor.—10. Also, if any burgess shall buy any bargain or any merchandize, and give earnest, and he who sold shall repent of his bargain, he shall double the earnest; but if the buyer shall have handled the goods, he shall either have the merchandize or 5s. from the seller.—11. Also, if any burgess shall have drink for sale, he shall sell according to the assize made by the burgesses, unless it shall be replaced by the tunnel.—12. Also, a burgess shall not come to the mayor after sunset for any claim, if he is unwilling, unless the claim be made by a stranger.—13. Also, a burgess shall accommodate his lord out of his bargain, and the lord shall pay for it to him within 40 days, but if he doth not, the burgess shall not accommodate him again until he shall pay.—14. Also, no one can be a burgess unless he hold a burgage of 12 feet in front.—15. Also, if a burgess shall sell for more than the assize he shall be in mercy 12d. and he who brought in nothing; so the burgess of the court aforesaid shall have fuel, fire, and water, to make judgment.—16. Also, if any be taken for theft or breach of trust and be condemned, he who sued shall do justice.—17. Also, if a burgess wound another and he shall be willing to agree amicably, he shall give for every bruise the breadth of a thumb 4d. and for every wound 8d.; and whoever is wounded may prove what he has lost by the wound, and the other shall return to him what he has paid to the surgeon for healing the wound: and the arms shall be brought to him, and he shall swear upon his arms that he has been wounded

Preston
Parish.

* That is, shall have two witnesses besides himself.

† “A portmote,” says Dr. Whitaker, “was a court convened for the purpose of hearing and determining causes relating to a harbour. It may surely therefore be inferred, that Preston was then a seaport town. There are many reasons for believing that the tides rose much higher up the Ribble than at present.” This reasoning, however, is not conclusive; there was a portmote at Manchester, which could not have been at any time a seaport town. The word *port* is from the Teutonic, and not from the French or Latin; it signifies any city or walled town as well as a harbour, and it enters into the composition of the names of several inland towns, as Stockport, Aldport, Newport Pagnell, &c.

Preston
Parish.

and such things have been done to him, and that, if his friends consent, he will take what is offered to him.—18. Also, if a burgess complains of another burgess that he owes a debt to him, and the other shall acknowledge the debt, the reeve shall command him to avoid the debt, and render the debt within 8 days, upon pain of forfeiture, 8d. for the first week, 12d. for the second, and so for every week until he shall render the debt; but if he shall deny the debt, and the plaintiff hath witnesses, he shall deny by a third hand upon oath, and the plaintiff shall be amerced 12d. And if the defendant shall come with his witnesses, and the plaintiff shall not come, the defendant shall be quit and the plaintiff in mercy; and if the plaintiff shall not be able to come and place any one in his stead before the court, he may take the defendant's oath. And that no plaint or forfeiture shall be set on the burgesses in the court aforesaid exceeding 12d. unless he shall vouched to duel, and duel shall be adjudged to him; but if duel shall be adjudged to him and waged he shall be in mercy 40s.—19. Also, if a burgess marry his daughter or grand-daughter to any one, he may marry her without the license of any one.—20. Also, a burgess may make an oven upon his ground, and take furnace for one load of meal [suma farris, *seam of corn*, Whitaker,] one halfpenny, and he whose meal or corn it shall be, shall find wood to heat the oven.—21. Also, the burgesses shall not go to the oven nor to the kiln unless they please.—22. Also, if any one's kiln shall take fire, and it have one door, he shall give 40d. and if it have two doors half a mark.—23. Also, if the burgesses by the common council of the neighbourhood shall travel for any business of the town, their expenses shall be rendered to them when they return.—24. Also, a stranger may not participate in any merchandize with the burgesses of our town.—25. Also, when a burgess shall be desirous to sell his burgage, his next of kin is to buy that burgage before any other, and when it shall be sold and he hath not another burgage, when the other shall be seized he shall give 4d. from the issue, but if he hath another burgage he shall give nothing.—26. Also, if a burgess shall be in mercy for bread and ale, the first, second, or third time, he shall be in mercy 12d. but the fourth time he shall go to the cuck-stool.*—27. Also, if a burgess of the town die a sudden death his wife and his heirs shall quietly have all his chattels and lands, so that neither his lord nor the justices may lay hands on the houses or chattels of the deceased, unless he shall have been publicly excommunicated, in which case by the council of the priest and of the neighbours they are to be expended in alms.—28. Also, the wife of the deceased may marry whomsoever she please.—29. Also, if any one shall demand a debt of another before the reeve, if he be unwilling to pay, the mayor shall render to the plaintiff his debt from the king's purse, and shall distrain the other by his chattels that he pay the debt, or he shall seize the house into his hands.—30. Also, the burgesses shall not receive claim from the reeve on a market day unless the claim be made by a stranger.—31. Also, a burgess gives no transit.—32. Also, a burgess hath common pasture every where, except in corn-fields, meadows, and hayes.—33. Also, if a burgess shall strike the mayor or reeve of the borough in court, and shall be convicted, he shall henceforth be in mercy for the offence.—34. Also, if the reeve shall strike any one out of court, he shall be in mercy for his

* “Ibit at Cuckestolam.” There are several fields adjoining to the corner of the Moor near St. Paul's church, known by the name of the “*Cuck Stool Pit Field*,” to this day. Insolvent burgesses were submitted to the chastisement of the correctional chair, and it is probable that a species of domestic delinquents underwent the same cooling operation. How this matter may be, we have not now the power to determine, but a passage in the history of Liverpool and Ormskirk may shed some light on this curious subject. Not more than forty-five years ago, a Cuck-stool complete stood over a pit, near Longton, on the way from Preston to Liverpool, adjoining the turnpike-road.

offence.—35. Also, if a burgess shall strike the reeve out of court, he shall be in mercy 40s.—36. Also, if a burgess shall overcome another, if he confess it, he shall forfeit 12d.; if he deny it, he shall clear himself by oath.—37. Also, if any one bearing false money shall be taken, the reeve shall render to the king the false monies as many as there are, and shall account in the rent of his farm for the goods, and deliver his body to our lord the king for judgment to be done.—38. Also, it shall not be lawful for regrators to buy anything which shall be sold on a market day to a regrator until the bells be rung in the evening, nor in any day in the week, until that which he bought shall be in the town for one night.—39. Also, the aforesaid burgesses shall not go in any expedition unless with the lord himself, unless they may be able to return on the same day.—40. If any one shall be summoned when the justice of the town shall be in the expedition and shall not go, and shall acknowledge himself to have heard, he shall forfeit 12d.; if he denies to have heard the edict, he shall clear himself by his own oath, but if he shall have essoin, to wit, either by his wife's lying in childbed of a son, or other reasonable essoin, he shall not pay. If he is going with the person of our lord the king, he shall not have essoin.—41. Also, it is the custom of the borough that no burgess ought to be taken for an accusation by the lord or by the reeve if he have sufficient pledges so of claim made in the borough by any knight, if duel be adjudged between the burgess and knight, the knight may not find a substitute unless it be found that he ought not to fight.—42. If the reeve command any burgess by another than his own servant and he shall not come, he shall forfeit nothing.—43. Also, no justice shall lay hands on the house or chattels of any deceased.—44. Also, if any one call a married woman a whore, and complaint be made thereof, and witnesses be absent, she may clear herself by her own oath; and he by whom it was said shall do this justice, that he shall take himself by the nose and say he hath spoken a lie, and shall be pardoned: there is the same judgment as to a widow.

Preston
Parish.

“ This is the law of Preston in Amoundrenesse which they have from the law of the Bretons.”

This ancient municipal constitution, with the stamp of seven centuries upon it, forms a striking contrast when brought in juxtaposition with our modern municipal constitution; but the object of both is good local government, and considering the relative state of society at the two periods, each may have advanced equal pretensions to the designation of Corporation Reform. The municipal laws of A. D. 2435 will, probably, correspond as little with those of 1835 as do those laws with the Preston Customale of 1160.

This ancient seat of the royal favour is a borough by prescription. Henry II. granted a charter to Preston, by which he confirmed to the burgesses all the same liberties and free customs which he had granted to Newcastle-under-Lyne,* the principal of which were a grant of Guild Merchant, exemption from tolls soc, sac, &c. throughout the kingdom, and the other immunities usually found in ancient charters.

In 5 Richard I. the king, to reward the services of Theobald Walter, granted to him the confirmation of the fee of the lordship of Preston, which, after the defection of Roger Poictou, he had received from the crown. In the sixth year of the same

* No charter of this monarch to Newcastle-under-Lyne is now to be found, and the only evidence of its ever having existed is this charter to Preston. See Parliamentary Report on Municipal Corporations, P. III. p. 1951, s. ii.

Preston
Parish.

reign, Theobald was made sheriff of the county of Lancaster, and retained that office till the first year of the reign of king John. This baron contributed largely towards the redemption of king Richard I. His son Theobald married Maud, sister of Thomas à Becket, the canonized archbishop of Canterbury, and he assumed the official surname, upon receiving the appointment of *Butler* of Ireland, which office was abolished A.D. 1811, on the payment of £216,000 to Walter, marquis of Ormonde, out of the public treasury.

The fishery and tithes of Preston were granted with two bovates of land to the priory of Lancaster, as appurtenant to the abbey of Sees, in Normandy; and in the reign of Richard I. Theobald Walter and the abbot had a dispute regarding the advowson of the churches of Poulton and Preston, which was terminated by a quitclaim from the feudal patron of his right in the advowson of Poulton, with the church of Bispham, and all the chapels attached to them; so that whatever parson should be presented to the same church by him or his heirs should pay to the abbot and to the prior of Lancaster every year ten marks of silver. This instrument is witnessed by Hubert Walter, archbishop of Canterbury, Gilbert Glenvill, bishop of Rochester, and others.*

^a Oct. 18. King John, in the first year of his reign,^a confirmed his father's charter to Preston, and granted to the burgesses the whole toll of the wapentake hundred of Amounderness, *their* fair of eight days, commencing with the Assumption, and pasturage and liberty of taking wood in the forest of Fulwood, towards building their town, on the view of the royal forester.† It would hence appear that there had been a fair before this time. The rents of Preston were also confirmed this year to Henry Fitz Warin de Lancaster.‡ In his fourth year, letters patent of presentation to the church of Preston, directed to the archidiaconal officials of Richmond, were delivered to Master Peter Russinoil,§ on whose death Henry III. presented Henry, the bishop of Winchester's nephew.|| In king John's reign, the men of Preston (that is, the free burgesses) were fined in ten marks and a palfrey, to have peace touching a plaint which Theobald Walter had brought against them concerning gibbet and gaol in Preston.¶

In the 7 Henry III. a royal mandate was issued to Roger Gernet, directing him to permit the vassals of Emeric, parson of the church of Preston, and nephew of the bishop of Winchester, (the Henry probably of the Testa de Nevill,) to have reasonable estovers in the hay of Preston, to repair their houses and enclosures, and to have the other necessities which the demesne vassals of the crown were accustomed

* Registr. S. Mariæ de Lanc. MS. fo. 77.

† Rot. Chart. 1 Joh. p. 1. m. 4. n. 29.

‡ Ibid. n. 35; again confirmed 7 Joh. m. 6. n. 53.

§ Rot. Lit. Pat. 4 Joh. m. 12.

|| Testa de Nevill', fo. 371, 401.

¶ Magn. Rot. 3 John 20 a Lanc. Tit. *Nova Oblata*.

to have in the time of king John, during the wars between him and his barons.* Preston Parish.
 Preston in this reign seems to have been one of the chief ports of Lancaster, paying, Confirmation of charters.
 in 11 Henry III., no less a talliage than 15 marks.† In this year the king confirmed the right of pasturage on Fulwood Moor, which had been granted to the burgesses of Preston, by a charter in the 1st of king John, together with as much Fulwood-moor.
 land as they should want out of the forest itself to build their town upon;‡ and a subsequent charter, in the 37th year of Henry III., recites an inquisition of the sheriff of Lancashire,§ from which it appears that an encroachment had been made upon the king's domains to the extent of 324 acres, described as under the hay of Fulwood, and comprising what has since been called Preston Moor, the possession of which *purpresture*, the king, for himself and heirs confirms to the burgesses.||

In 28 Henry III. an extent of the town was made by sir John de Le and eleven other free and lawful men of the wapentake, who returned that the town of Preston was demesne, and made a free borough by the king's grandfather;¶ which sets aside the assertion that Preston was so constituted by a charter of Henry I. Survey of the town.

In 4 Henry III. arose a feud in Preston, in which a member of the ancient family of that name appears to have fallen by the hands of Robert de Hyltun and Brunus de Salford; and a writ from the king, dated 23 September in that year, was directed to the sheriff, requiring "that if Robert de Hyltun and Brunus de Salford, taken and detained in the prison of Lancaster, shall find him 24 good & lawful men of the county, who will engage to have them before the justices itinerant to answer Ancient feud.

* Rot. Lit. Claus. 7 Hen. III. p. 1. m. 18.

† See Vol. I. p. 328.

‡ Rot. Chart. 11 Henry III. m. 18. The knights who perambulated the forests of Lancashire in 12 Henry III. found the men of Preston in the enjoyment of these privileges: "Et homines de Preston debent hñere mñemiũ ad edificia sua et ad comburendũ pasturam auerijis suis."—*Lansd. MS.* 559, fo. 56.

§ Rot. Chart. 37 Henry III. m. 9.

|| In the 51 Geo. III. Fulwood-moor was enclosed, the crown reserving the race-ground and some adjoining closes, of which the Stanleys enjoyed a lease, since surrendered. An allotment was at the time of the enclosure claimed by Nicholas Grimshaw, esq., on behalf of the in-burgesses of Preston, in virtue of their charters and by-laws, which, after some opposition from the commissioners, was obtained, and 67 statute acres were allotted.

¶ A copy is found, in portions, in Dr. Kuerden's MS. Collections in the Heralds' College, Vol. V. fo. 104, b. Vol. VI. fo. 139.

"EXTENTA DE PRESTON. *Ex Bundello Escaet. de Anno 28 H. 3. m. 18.*

"Ista extenta facta per liberos et legales homines de Visneto de Amunderns vid. S^r Jo. de Le, Ri. de Frekelton, Hu. de Mitton, Walter de Barton, Adam de Eccleston, Alan. de Singleton, Will. de Prees, Ad. de Hocton, Rog. de Brochol, W. de Eccleston, W. de Grimsargh et Gilb. de Meles.

"An. R. Hen. 3. 28 die Sabati proximo post clausum Pasche coram vicecom. Lanc. et Dño Jo. de Hasselwell mil. Dño Stephano de S^{to} Albano cler. Attornatis Dñi Jo. Extranei.

"Qui dicunt quod Villa de Preston in Amundernes fuit Dominium et per Dom. Hen. Regem

Preston
Parish.

Henry de Preston, Uctred & Robert, brothers of Henry & of Quenilda de Prestun for the death of the 'aforesaid Walter' brother of Henry, Uctred, and Robert, & husband of Quenilda, whereof they appeal them, then he the sheriff shall deliver them to the 24, until the arrival of the justices."* Robert de Hyltun, or Hulton, as the name became subsequently written, was at this period steward between the Ribble and Mersey for William Ferrers, earl of Derby; and as he was deputy sheriff of the county, for the same nobleman, in 1225,† it may be presumed that the preceding charge was satisfactorily answered.

Monas-
teries.

Preston had two monastic institutions: first, an ancient hospital dedicated to St. Mary Magdalen, mentioned in the Lincoln Taxation of 1291; and second, a Franciscan convent of Grey Friars or Friars Minor, built by Edmund, earl of Lancaster, son of Henry III., in 1221,‡ to which Robert Holland, knight, who impeached Thomas, earl of Lancaster, of high treason, contributed largely, and was buried here. The site of this monastery was granted on the dissolution, in the 32d Henry VIII., to Thomas Holcroft.§ The first of these religious foundations stood in the Maudlands, on the eminence now occupied by Tulketh Hall, in Ashton upon Ribble, and was used as a temporary residence for the Cistercian monks, while their magnificent abbey in Furness was building; and the latter stands a little to the west of Friargate, to which street it imparts the name. Leland, the itinerant, in the reign of Henry VIII. gives the following account of this religious house:—

The Pres-
tons.

"The Grey Freres College in the north west side of the Toune of Preston in Amundrenes was sett in the soile of a gentleman caullid Prestun, dwelling yn the Toune self of Preston, and a Brother or Sunne of his confirmed the first graunt of the site of the House, and one of these two was after

avum Dñi Regis nostri facta fuit liberum Burgum et concess. dictæ villæ Burgensibus tenend cū oñibus pertinentijs, 9suetudinibus et exitibus terræ pro xvñs per annum.

"And the said liberi homines say that if it were yet a dominium as formerly it hath been it were to be extended ad hunc modum.

"In toftis et terris adjacentibus 6^{lb}, excepting the church lands and other lands given to pious uses.

"Ad Aratrum 4 carucat.

"In Piscarijs 6^{lb}.

"In Molendinis 2^{lb}.

"In Pratis 5^s 4^d.

"In Stallagijs 10^s.

"In Perquisitis et Plitis 1 marc.

"In Escaetis ½ marc. que fuit in manu Dñi Regis. Examined by W. Ryley. Conuenit cum Recordo. "W. COLET."

* Rot. Lit. Claus. 4 Henry III. m. 3.

† See Pedigree of Hulton of Hulton, Vol. III. p. 40.

‡ See Vol. I. p. 127.

§ Ibid. p. 491.

a great man of possessions, and Vicount of Gurmaston, as I hard say, in Ireland. Diverse of the Prestons were buried yn this House. But the original and great builder of this House was Edmund erle of Lancastre, sunne to Henry the thynde. Syr Robert Holand, that accusid Thomas erle of Lancastre of treason, was a great benefactor of this House, and ther was buried. This Holand, as I hard, was founder of the Priory of Holand, a place of Blake Munkes by Latham in Lancastreshire. Ther lay in the Grey Freres at Prestun divers of the Shirburns and Daltuns gentilmen.”*

Preston Parish.

The friary, in its original state, was a small square collegiate building, with a chapel attached to its quadrangular cloisters. By the mutations of time, it became first a residence of the Breres of Hammerton, in Bowland, of which Oliver Breres,† recorder, and one of the council named in the charter of Elizabeth, was a member, and next a house of correction, to which use it continued to be applied till the prison at the bottom of Church-street was erected, in 1790. It is now divided into habitations for cottagers; but the shell of the chapel, as well as some remains of three arched windows painted, may still be traced. At a short distance from this ruin there was anciently a well, called “Lady Well,” frequented, within living memory, by the devout. An impression of the seal of this house is preserved in the Augmentation Office,‡ and Dr. Whitaker has engraved the fac-simile of a blank form of ecclesiastical absolution, together with a grant to Laurence Horrobys, Margery his wife, and their children, by Brother James, warden of the brethren of Prestone, of liberty to choose a confessor who may absolve each of them, once in the year, beginning April 4, from all crimes, excesses, and sins, and enjoin them salutary penance. *In articulo mortis*, the same or another confessor is empowered to give them plenary remission of all sins. This record of ancient manners is dated Prestone, the last day of the month of February, A. D. 1479.§

The Gray Friars.

In 20 Edward I. a plea of quo warranto was moved before the justices itinerant in Lancashire, between the king and the burgesses of Preston. A writ of *certiorari* issued to remove the plea into the court of king’s bench: in that writ the townsmen are stiled burgesses of Preston in Aundernessee. Adam, son of Ralph, and Robert, son of Roger, bailiffs, and other men of Preston, for the community of the borough, appear and plead in the court of king’s bench, and the townsmen rejoin to the king’s attorney at law, by the name of the bailiffs and community. The question at issue was their right to have a free borough in Preston, market, fair, gallows, infangthef, tumbrel, pillory, and assize of bread and beer, and to be quit of fines amercements,

Quo warranto trial of privileges.

* Itin. Vol. IV. p. 22.

† A record preserved by Dr. Kuerden, states that he held the site and house, called the Gray Freres, besides other property in the town and neighbourhood of Preston. MSS. Vol. IV. fo. B. 1. In the Heralds’ College.

‡ Dugd. Monast. Anglic. Vol. VI. p. iii. p. 1513, by Ellis. § Richmondsh. Vol. II. p. 428, 9.

- Preston Parish.** tolls, and stallage. The bailiffs and representatives of the community of Preston produced the charter by which king John, when earl of Moreton, confirmed his father's grant of liberties, and by which he himself granted them all the toll of the wapentake of Amoundernes, a fair at Preston at the Assumption of St. Mary, free to last eight days, the pasture of the forest of Fille Wode,* and as much of that forest as was necessary to build their town. They also produced a charter, dated 1 John, confirming the preceding grants. They claimed by these charters all the above liberties except gallows and infangthef, which they claimed by antiquity, and a market every week on Wednesday, though held on Saturday. For these liberties they paid £15 a year to Edmund, the king's brother. The judgment in this case was, that the bailiffs and community were in fault as to this matter, and that the liberties should be seized into the king's hands. The sheriff was directed to make an extent and valuation, but the bailiff gave 10 marks to the king for a respite.* On the trial of the right of Preston to free fishing in the Ribbel, the same bailiffs alleged that it was held in common with Henry de Lacy, earl of Lincoln, and was divided in equal shares, on which they were discharged.† In the same year the king sued his brother Edmund for the castle and honor of Lancaster, the wapentake of Amoundernes, and the manors of Preston, Rygeby, and Singleton, which Edmund claimed by charter from king Henry their father. The pleadings were adjourned to Appelby in the octaves of St. Michael.‡
- a Fulwood.**
- First election.** In 23 Edward I. when two burgesses were elected to serve in the first parliament, for which a return of Lancashire members is extant,§ a native of the king's, of his manor of Preston is mentioned.||
- Royal visit.** In this reign the king visited Preston on his march to Scotland, and from hence issued two proclamations, the first dated at Preston, the 2d of July, 1306, appointing the archbishop of York and the bishop of Coventry and Lichfield his wardens during

* Plac. coram Rege an. 21. incipiente 22 Edw. I. Rot. 59 a.

† Plac. de Quo Warr. 20 Edw. I. Rot. 12 d. By a claim without date, the following liberties are enumerated as the right of the town:—

“PRESTON. Maj. Bal. et Burgēs villæ de Preston clam. se hab. 1 mercatū qual. sept. die Sabat. ac duas ferias sc. 1 in fest. Assump. B. M. et p 8 dies prox. seq. durat. et aliam feriam in vigil. et festo Symon et Judæ p 3 dies durat. cum oīn lib. ad dict. merc. et fer. pī et hab. totum Theol. wapentag. de Amoundernes et visum Franc. pleg.—lib. piscariam in aqua Reg. de Ribel et furcas et Infangthef Tumbrell. et Pillor. et quieti esse de oīn finibus et amerc. com. et sectis com. et wapentag. Theol. et stallag. p totum Regn. Angliæ ac oīn lib. quas H. rex. prim. concess. Burgeus. de Novo Castello subtus Lymam—hab. 1 maj. 2 Seru. ad clauam.”—Kuerden, MS. 4to. fo. 52. In the Chetham Library.

‡ Placit. de Quo Warr. 20 Edw. I. Lanc. Rot. 13 d.

§ See Vol. I. p. 294.

|| Mem. Scacc. Trin. T. 23 Edw. I.

his absence in Scotland; and the second bearing the same date from the same place, addressed to his holiness the pope, "on the malignity of the archbishop of Canterbury," and beginning, "The king to the pope—devout kisses to your blessed feet."*

Preston
Parish.

The repeated invasions of the Scotch, whose footsteps were marked with blood and desolation, plunged the northern part of the kingdom into a state of abject poverty; and in the 16th Edward II., during the octaves of the nativity of St. John the Baptist, one of the most tremendous of their visitations befell this town and county: "Robert Bruce," says Holinshed, "entered into England by Carlisle, kept on his way through Cumberland, Westmorland, and Lancaster, to Preston, which town he burnt, as he had done others in the counties he had passed through, and, after three weeks and three days, he returned into Scotland without engaging." The Ribble seems to have been the line of demarcation, beyond the southern banks of which the invaders did not pass, but upon Clitheroe and Ribchester, as well as upon Lancaster and Preston, they poured out the vials of their indignation. The battle between the adherents of Adam Banastre and those of Thomas, earl of Lancaster, in the vale of the Ribble at Preston, and its results, have already been detailed.† In this year, the tithes of Merescogh, Fulwood, and Hyde Park, were restored to the rectories of Preston and Lancaster;‡ and it may be mentioned, that the sale of a burgage in Preston, belonging to Adam Simple, was confirmed to the priory of Burscogh.§

Scotch in-
vasion.

1323.

Letters patent for the paviage of the town of Preston in Amundernes, with the powers to collect the requisite tolls, were granted in 8 Edward II.;|| and in 10 anno Ducatus, Henry the good duke of Lancaster, granted a paviage for Preston, and a rate on merchandise, in aid thereof.¶

In the next reign the tide of victory turned against the Scots; Edward III. advanced to the north to chastise the spoilers, and in his route halted at Preston, where a remembrance of past wrongs, and a strong feeling of national animosity, conspired to recruit his army, and to swell his military trophies. The sequel is written in the general history of both countries. Sir William de Clyvton was rewarded in 1 Edward III. with the castle, manor, and hundred of Halton, in the counties of Chester and Lancaster, for his services to queen Isabella, who had promised to provide him with £200 per annum in land, in consequence of which he had placed himself under the king's standard.**

Royal
visit.

* Rot. Pat. 34 Edw. I. m. 5.

† See Vol. I. p. 275-6.

‡ Reg. S. Mar. de L. MS. fo. 22.

§ Chartul. de Burscogh, fo. 56 a.

|| Rot. Lit. Pat. 8 Edw. II. p. 1. m. 16.

¶ See Vol. III. p. 350.

** Rot. Pat. 1 Edw. III. P. 3. m. 20.

Preston
Parish.

Charter,
Edw. III.
First
Guild
Merchant.

In 2 Edward III. the former grants to the borough of Preston were confirmed, and an additional privilege, dated 27th November, was conferred, permitting a market on Wednesday, and a fair of five days' duration, commencing with the vigil of the apostles St. Simon and St. Jude.* In this, and in the 7th year of Edw. III. letters patent were granted for the improvement of the town.† The guild merchant, granted by Henry II., in the 12th century, was first celebrated at the commencement of this reign.

Sir Wil-
liam de
Clifton.

From Preston, the intrepid monarch [Edward III.] advanced into Scotland, and at Halidown Hill (July 19, 1333,) overthrew the Scottish army under Douglas, slew or captured all the nobles of distinction, and left 30,000 of their troops stretched upon the field of battle.‡ Four years after this event, sir William de Clifton, having a dispute with the abbot of Vale Royal respecting the church of Preston, flogged the abbot's secretary through the streets of the town.§ In 13 Edward III. the manor of West Preston was taken into the king's hands "on occasion of the war between our lord the king and him, who calls himself king of France."|| During this reign the county of Lancaster was erected into a palatine, under the "thrice noble" John of Gaunt, duke of Lancaster, the king's fourth son,¶ and Preston was constituted the chief seat of the duchy and palatine courts. The house of Lancaster, so renowned in British history, held this place in high estimation, and nothing but the local situation of their baronial castle on the banks of the Lune, prevented them from establishing the capital of the county where it ought to have been fixed—on the banks of the Ribble.

In the 35 Edward III. John of Gaunt duke of Lancaster had the lordship of Preston, and the church.

Grants
and Pa-
tents of
Rich. II.

Richard II. confirmed the liberties of Preston in his second year, and Henry IV granted that if the burgesses of their predecessors by any chance had not fully used any of the preceding liberties, customs, and grants, they might notwithstanding fully enjoy them.** In 2 and 4 Henry IV. letters patent were granted for the pontage of the river Ribble juxta Preston;†† and in 9 Henry IV. similar letters were issued for the pavage of bridge of Ribell.‡‡ A confirmation of former charters, and allowance for neglect, or, in legal phraseology, non-user, was made by Henry V.§§ Henry VI. confirmed the previous charters.

* Rot. Chart. 2 Ed. III. n. 6. † Rot. Lit. Pat. 2 Ed. III. P. 1. m. 3. n. 37—7 Ed. III. P. 1. m. 20.

‡ Hemingford, p. 275—277.

§ Ormerod, Chesh. Vol. II. p. 72.

|| Inquis. ad Quod Damnum, 13 Edw. III. n. 49.

¶ See Vol. I. p. 351.

** Rot. Chart. 2 Hen. IV. P. 1. n. 8.

†† Rot. Lit. Pat. 2 Hen. IV. P. 1. m. 32.—4 Hen. IV. P. 2. m. 20.

‡‡ Ibid. 9 Hen. IV. P. 1. m. 27.

§§ Rot. Chart. 1 Hen. V. P. 3. n. 3.

In "Aprille, 2 Richard III." it was granted that "the maire and burgesses of Preston in Amondernes haue iij^l duringe iij yeres, and a perdonne of xv^l due from them.*" This record is unaccompanied by any explanation. Preston Parish.

Sir Alexander Hoghton, by a deed dated at Legh, 12th October, 1498, appointed William Galter to officiate as chaplain at the altar of the crucifix in the chantry, ordained in the parish church of Preston, by Richard Whalley, deceased, who gave it to sir Alexander his feoffee. This chantry was known by the name of the Hoghton Box.†

After the Reformation, when the nation had regained its former tranquillity, Leland, "the king's antiquary," at the command of his royal master, Henry VIII. undertook his tour through the principal counties of England, and his description of Preston and its neighbourhood, now nearly three centuries ago, is sufficiently interesting to be transcribed:— Leland's description.

"Within a Mile of Preston," says he, advancing from Chorley, "I came over *Darwent* River, the which at *Penwardine* Paroche, a celle to *Evesham* goith into *Ribel*. This *Darwent* devidith *Lelandshire* from *Anderness*,‡ and a mile above beyond the Place wher I passid over *Darwent* Mr. Langton dwellith, at *Walton-on-Darwent*, and is Baron of Newton in Macrefield.—Half a Mile beyond *Darwent* I passed over the great Stone Bridge of *Rybill*, having a v. great Arches. From *Rybyl* to *Preston* half a mile. *Preston* hath but one Paro Chirch. The Market place of the Toun is fair. *Ribil* goith round aboute a greate Peace of the Ground aboute Toun, yet it touchith not the Toun self by space of amost half a Mile. *Penwardine* semid to me more then half a mile from *Preston*, and ther goith *Ribil* standing in respect of the Toun of the farther side of *Ribil*, the wich ther dividith the Diocese of *Chestre* from the Diocese of *York*. *Penwardine* is a Paroch Chirch and Celle to *Evesham* Abbey, and standith in *Chester* Diocese. *Preston* is in *York* Diocese.§"

Philip and Mary, in the 4 and 5 years of their reign, by a charter dated 30 June, confirmed all preceding charters to Thomas Walle and the burgesses, and their heirs and successors.

In 1 and 2 Elizabeth, the mayor of Preston having committed one Gregson, for misbehaviours to him the said mayor, complained to the court; but, on a debate of the matter, it appeared by grants to the town that they had "oīes oīd securitates Pacis," and that the mayor had continually used to take sureties of the peace in Preston. It was, therefore, ordered that the said Gregson should give the customary sureties.|| Question of the mayor's privileges.

* Harl. MS. 433, fo. 100 b.

† Dr. Kuerden's MSS. Vol. III. fo. H. 7. In the Heralds' College.

‡ The Itinerant is mistaken—the *Derwent* never did divide *Anderness* and *Leland*.

§ Itin. Vol. V. fo. 84. p. 91. || Duchy Records, e Libro "Orders and Decrees," p. 104.

Preston
Parish.

Camden's
description.

Camden, in this reign wrote an account of Preston, more antiquarian than that of his predecessor Leland :—

“ Since Ribchester,” he says, “ in length of time was ruined by war, or, as the common people think, by an earthquake, lower down, where the Ribill receives the tide, and is called by the geographer *BELLISAMA ÆSTVARIUM*,” (or rather the *Portus Sistuntiorum*) “ near Penwortham, where in the conqueror’s time was a castle, as appears from that prince’s survey, out of the ruins of Ribchester, arose *Preston*, a large and, for these parts, handsome and populous towne, so called from religious persons, as much as to say *Priest’s Town*. Preston is vulgarly called Preston in *Andernesse*, for *Acmundesse-nesse*; for so the Saxons called this part of the country, which runs out with a long compass between the *Ribill* and *Cocar*,* and forms a promontory resembling a nose, and afterwards called Agmondernes.”

Queen
Elizabeth’s
charter.
Corporation
appointed.

From Queen Elizabeth, Preston received its great charter, which ratified and extended the grants of former sovereigns, and placed this borough among the most favoured in the kingdom. This charter ordains that henceforth Preston should be a free corporate borough of one mayor, 2 bailiffs, and 2 sub-bailiffs or sergeants, with perpetual successive power to implead and be impleaded, and to have a common-council of 24 burgesses, with power to make by-laws. By this charter Evan Walle was appointed mayor, clerk of the market, coroner, and justice of the peace. A certain house, commonly called “ The Tole Booth, otherwise the Motehall,” was also appointed to be the common-hall of the borough : one of the bailiffs was to be called “ the town’s-baylie,” and the other “ the town’s-sergeant.” A mercatorial guild, assize of bread, wine, and other victuals, a court every three weeks, view of frankpledge, weekly market on Saturday, and two annual fairs, viz. one of eight days, beginning with the Assumption, and the other of seven days, beginning on the eve of Sts. Simon and Jude, were granted, together with a court of pie-powder,† and piccage, stallage, &c. The office of Seneschal, Recorder, or Common Clerk, is recognized by this charter.

Royal
visit.

Aug. 14,
1617.

During the next reign Preston had the honour to receive another royal visitor His majesty, James I., on his return from Scotland, in 1617, took up his residence in the hospitable mansion of sir Richard Hoghton, baronet, at Hoghton Tower, and before his departure from Lancashire, the king and his royal retinue became the guests of the mayor and corporation of Preston.‡ In the midst of all the hilarity which distinguished the royal visit into Lancashire, the materials for civil war were silently accumulating, and that fatal publication, called *The Book of Sports*, suggested, if not written, on the banks of the Darwent, was one of the great superinducing causes of the effusion of British blood, which flowed so copiously during the

* The nose is formed, not by the *Cocar*, but by the *Wire*.

† Pat. 8 Eliz. Pars 4.

‡ See vol. I. p. 619—20. Nichol’s Progress, vol. III. p. 397.

following reign.* Another of the local causes of the civil wars, was the star-chamber, a branch of which existed at that time under the authority of the court of the duchy of Lancaster,^a and was probably held at Preston.

Preston
Parish.

^a 16 Car.I.
cap. 10.
Petition
against
clerk of
Market.

In the early part of the reign of Charles I., the gentlemen of the county addressed a petition to the honourable Edward lord Newburghe, chancellor of the duchy, and to sir Thomas Trevor and sir Humphrey Davenport, knts., as judges of assize at Lancaster, alleging that the clerk of the market had sent a deputy into the country, who, under colour of office, and under pretence of punishing offenders against the statutes of weights and measures, had gone to Preston, Manchester, Wigan, Ormeschurch, and other towns, and caused persons to bring in their cloth-yards, and measures for corn, and other weights and measures, to have them sealed ; levying and amercing monies for the same, and thereby praying remedy.†

A dreadful epidemic, designated by the name of “ the great sickness of the plague of pestilence,” ravaged this town in the early part of the reign of Charles I., of which eleven hundred persons died, within the town and parish of Preston, between the 10th of November, 1630, and the 10th of November, 1631 !

Plague.

The history of “ The Great Rebellion,”^a as far as the county of Lancaster was the scene of its operations, is already written, and will be found in the second volume of this work. No sooner had Charles I. issued his memorable commission of array at York, than James, lord Strange, heir-apparent to the earl of Derby, quitted that city, in obedience to his sovereign’s command, and erected the royal standard in Lancashire. To give effect to his services, his lordship raised a species of *levy-en-masse*, by mustering the county in three separate places, namely, on the heaths of Bury, the moor of Ormskirk, and the moor at Preston, assembling at each place, according to Seacombe, 20,000 men at the least, most of them armed with sharp pikes, muskets, or other weapons.‡

^a Clarendon.

Civil
Wars of
Chas. I.

* See vol. I. p. 621.

† This is an original document, signed by twenty-four justices of the peace, and others, and is unaccompanied by any other instrument. Duchy Records, Red Repert. Bundle S, No. 1. On reference to a collection of records in Great Ayloffe, p. 163 b., it is found that Edward lord Newburgh was chancellor of the Duchy in the 5th year of Charles I.

‡ A very different version is given of this memorable meeting on Preston Moor, by Alexander Rigby, esq. M.P., who was himself present : the number of persons assembled was, he says, about 5,000, including the high sheriff, (sir John Girlington) Lord Molyneux, sir Alexander Radcliffe, Mr. Tildesley, of Myerscough, and Mr. William Farrington, all supporters of the royal cause. “ The High Sheriff,” he adds, “ exhibited the commission of array, and exclaimed, ‘ For the King ! ’ ‘ For the King ! ’ On which about 400 persons joined in the exclamation, but the others ‘ prayed for the King and the parliament.’ ” “ We advised them,” he continues, “ not to suffer themselves to be drawne into armes without direction from the Parliament, and sowe dismissed the assembly. Sir George

Preston
Parish.

Meeting
on Preston
Moor.

On the 10th of December, 1642, a meeting was held at Preston by the right honourable James, earl of Derby, lord-general of the county, sir John Girlington, the high sheriff, and many other gentlemen, who then agreed to a series of resolutions, of which the first was to raise £8700. by assignment upon the several Hundreds, for the payment of 2000 foot and 400 horse. Sir John Girlington, Adam Morte, gentleman, maior of the towne of Prestone, and William Farington, esq. were appointed treasurers. At this meeting collectors for each hundred were appointed, and a rate of pay for the forces was adopted.*

At the commencement of the contest, the mayor, and the constituted authorities of the borough, espoused the royal cause, and the town was held in the name of his majesty Charles I. Sir Thomas Fairfax,† on his arrival in Lancashire, soon became aware of the importance of occupying the strong holds of the centre, and sir John Seaton, a major-general in the parliamentary army, advanced from Manchester on the 10th of February, 1643, against Preston. Sir John was accompanied by serjeant-major Sparrow, colonel Holland, captain Booth, and serjeant-major Birch, and with them three companies of foot; together with as many more from Bolton, who all rendezvoused at Blackburn, where they were joined by four or five

Midleton, and Master Thomas Tildesley of Mierscough, and Master Thomas Prestwiche, whose wives are Popish Recusants, and Master William Farington, a Justice of Peace, were in our Judgements, the most busie and active, and they assisted, countenanced, and abetted the Sheriffe in all the afore-said passages, and therein pressed and urged him forward, who of himselfe was therevnto sufficiently enclined; and whilst these things were in acting upon the Moor, Will Sumpner, servant to Master William Farington, who during his late Deputy Lieutenancy, had placed in a private house in Preston, about 13 barrels of Gunpowder and some quantity of match, did secretly convey about 6 barrels thereof in Packcloaths upon Packhorses, and the next morning about 6 of the Clocke, and before we had notice in whose house that Powder and Match was lodged, the Sheriffe did convey away out of the Towne and Liberties of Preston the residue of the said Powder and Match, which being made knowne to me, I forthwith repayed to the Sheriffe, and shewed him the order of the Lords and Commons, made the 10 May last, for disposing of the Magazines, and also a deputation from the Lord Wharton, authorizing his deputy Lieutenants, or any 2 or more of them, to dispose of the Magazines of Lancashire, and then desired him to cause that Powder to be returned to Preston but he answered that he would not returne it, but would keepe it and defend it with the power of the country, and the Sheriffe and Sir George Midleton then said that that order should not be obeyed, and I thought it not meet for so small a quantity of powder and match, though indeed a very considerable quantity for the time and place, to endeavour a returne thereof by force, so that it now remaineth unknowne to me where they (who took it) have disposed it: in the last place I make bold to present my opinion that the Malignant party could not, by any passage at the assembly on Preston Moor, distinguish that the affections of any considerable part thereof inclined unto them, and I verily believe that we lost not, but gained by that day's work, for the safety and peace of the King and Kingdome."—*Letter to the Speaker of the House of Commons, dated June 24, 1642.*

* Fairfax's Memoirs, Appendix, p. 207.

companies from Blackburn hundred, under the command of captain Nowel, of Mearley, with some other officers, and about 2000 clubmen.

Preston
Parish.

This force arrived before Preston on the night of the 12th, and, on reconnoitring the place on the following morning, they found it well fortified with a brick wall, both outer and inner. Undismayed by the difficulties which presented themselves, captain Booth scaled the walls, and, rushing forward into the town at the head of his three companies, exclaimed, "Follow me, or give me up for ever!" The gallant conduct of the captain inspired his troops with heroic ardour, and, advancing into the town, the different companies emulated each other in situations of danger. The garrison, not less resolute, fought with undaunted spirit; after the outer wall had been carried, they maintained the inner wall "with push of pike," and for a considerable time bravely defended the breach with their swords. At this moment, sir John Seaton, having entered the town at the end of Church-street, drove the troops of the garrison from their posts, one of the principal of which was the church steeple. The fight continued with the greatest courage and resolution for near two hours, at the end of which time the assailants became masters of the town. A number of the combatants fell on both sides and, amongst others, Adam Morte, the mayor of the borough,* a man of the most resolute courage, who had, in the ardour of his zeal, declared "that he would fire the town rather than surrender it into the hands of the rebels, and that he would begin with his own house." This intrepid royalist fell in a charge made upon colonel Holland's company; and his son, a bold and enterprising youth, was killed by his side. The brother of sir Gilbert Hoghton, a captain of horse, serjeant-major Purvey, and doctor Thomas Westby, of the Westby of Mowbreck family, a physician, and several officers, were likewise slain. Captains Farington and Preston, with Mr. Anderton, of Clayton, the commander of the garrison, Mr. George Talbot, the son of sir John, Mr. Richard Fleetwood, Mr. Blundel, Mr. Abbot, Mr. Mausley, Mr. Thomas Hoghton, and captain Hogh-

The town
stormed
and taken.

Death of
Adam
Morte, the
mayor.

* So he is styled in sir Thomas Fairfax's dispatches, in the resolutions of the meeting at Preston, at which he was appointed one of the treasurers, and in other records of the times. Angier mentions that the mayor of Preston was killed, but he does not state his name. It appears from the records of the corporation, however, that though he was elected to that office in 1642, he was fined one hundred marks for refusing to serve the office, and that Edmund Werden, esq., his predecessor, by the advice of council, continued to discharge the duties of chief magistrate until William Cottam, esq. was chosen mayor on the following charter day. Mr. Morte was of the family of Morte of Dam House, in the parish of Leigh. The following memorandum relating to him is contained in the Records:—"Adam Mort gent' is admitted this 4th of Aprill 1636 to bee free of the Company of Draps having served his apprenticeship in drapery and being a Free Burgesse of this incorporation
 £ paid for his inroulement iijs iiij^d.
 and for the augmentacōn of the Stocke of the Company iijs iiij^d."

Preston
Parish.

ton, sir Gilbert's nephews, R. Langton, John Watham, and William Selby, esquires, all men of quality, and about two hundred others of meaner condition, were made prisoners; while sir Gilbert Hoghton, of Hoghton Tower, and Mr. Towneley, of Towneley, escaped only by flight. Lady Hoghton and Lady Girlington, who happened to be in the town at the time, were both taken by the parliamentarians, and served to swell the number of prisoners.

The puritanical author of "*Lancashire's Valley of Achor*," in a brief but characteristic account of this victory, mentions several incidents, unnoticed by other writers of the time:—"The seventh and eighth of February were devoted to God in fasting and prayer in Manchester, to succeed our forces that were upon their march. The first day was spent, and gave strength to our men to march all night, and to set upon Preston the next morning; the second day of fasting, when some of our men soon advantaged themselves by taking of Ribble Bridge, and with unspeakable courage set upon the town, well fortified and manned, which God gave them in two hours, as a present return of prayers. Such courage was raised in the souldiers, that they dared to take hold of their enemy's musquets put thorow the loop holes, as if the miracle of mercy had been again revived. Psal. 91. 9, Thou shalt tread upon the lyon and the adder. And when the pikes kept them off from the mud walls, yet by breaking thorow an house some twenty entered the towne; which small number drew down a troop of horse to take a prey. But Moses, Aaron and Hur being on the top of the hill, whilst Joshua was fighting in the valley, the captaine of the horse was killed, and the troop scattered. Then came up the rest of our men, killed the major and some others, charged the enemy, and commanded the towne. Here Divine Providence took a noble captaine off his feet before the dangerous discharge of a bullet, he stood not to fall, but fell to rise. We lost few men in this dangerous assault, took store of prisoners and arnes, and came in the nick of time to relieve the well-affected in Preston, and thereabouts, upon whom the army were prepared to impose an oath and heavy taxations. This prey God plucked out of the teeth of the lyon and paw of the bear."*

This victory was considered by sir Thomas Fairfax as of great importance to the parliamentary cause, inasmuch as it secured an advantageous station to their forces, and interposed a barrier against the royalist troops marching from the north to join their sovereign in the midland counties. The booty secured by the parliamentary force is not mentioned, but a supply of ordnance, amounting to nineteen pieces of brass and two pieces of iron cannon, was taken from a royal store-ship, which had foundered, probably at the mouth of the Ribble, along with a considerable quantity of gunpowder and small arms. Lord Strange, now become the earl of Derby, arrived

* *Lancashire's Valley of Achor*. Lond. 4to. 1643.

on the coast at the head of a considerable force on the following day, in time to take possession of the ship, but the kernel was gone, and the enterprising Roundheads had left for the gallant Cavaliers only the shell. A detachment of the parliamentary troops next marched to Lancaster, and took the town almost without resistance.

Preston Parish.
Lancaster takey.

The earl of Derby solaced himself for his disappointment with a nobler prize. Accompanied by lord Molyneux, his lordship marched after sun-set from Lathom House to Lancaster, in the night of the 17th of March, 1643, and carried that garrison by a sort of *coup de main*. Three days afterwards, the noble lords advanced to Preston, and sent a summons to Edmund Werden, esq. the chief magistrate, to surrender the town to his majesty. The mayor refused to obey the summons, and the earl gave orders forthwith to assault the works in three places, by captain Chisnal, captain Radcliff, and captain Edward Rosthorne. For about an hour the battle raged with great fury, and with dubious success, but at length the garrison surrendered, after sustaining a loss of about six hundred killed, and the remainder taken prisoners, with the exception of those who escaped out of the town, and secured their retreat by fording the Ribble. The earl of Derby, apprehending that the place might again fall into the enemy's hands, demolished the works, which service being effected, his lordship and his gallant associate in arms quitted the town for Manchester.^a

Preston retaken by the earl of Derby.

On the return of prince Rupert into Lancashire, after the disastrous battle of Marston Moor,^b fought on the second of July, 1644, he marched into Preston, where he seized William Cottam, esq. the mayor, and William Patten and James Benson, the bailiffs of the borough, and marched them off on the 1st of September, 1644, to Skipton castle, in which fortress they were confined twelve weeks, probably on account of their attachment to the cause of the Parliament. The fortune of war having at length effected their liberation, the council of the corporation, conceiving themselves "bound in conscience to see them eased in regard of their imprisonment, and the expense they had incurred, ordered ten pounds to be paid to the mayor, and five pounds each to the bailiffs."^c

^a Sea-Combe Page 79.

^b See v. i. p. 65.

^c Records of the corporation.

Meanwhile, in the month of August, colonels Doding and Shuttleworth, having intelligence that lord Ogleby, col. Huddleston, and others, were on their way from Westmorland to Chester, marched with their forces to oppose them.* Col. Shuttleworth's despatch dated from Whalley, thus briefly narrates the particulars of this "sharp fight:"

Col. Shuttleworth's despatch.

"Right Honorable.—Upon Thursday last marching with three of my troops upon Blackburne towards Preston where the Enemie lay, I met 11 of their Colours at Ribble Bridge within a mile of Preston, whereupon after a sharp fight we took the Lord Ogleby a Scotch Lord and Col. Ennis, one

* Three Great Victories, &c. Printed Aug. 27, 1644.

Preston Parish. other Col. slaine, one major wounded, and divers officers and souldiers to the number of 40 in all taken, besides 8 or 9 slain with the losse of 12 men taken prisoners, which afterwards were released by Sir John Mildrum upon his coming to Preston the night following, from whence the enemy fled.

“Your humble servant, NIC. SHUTTLEWORTH.”

Battle of Ribblesdale.

For upwards of four years afterwards, no military event of any great importance took place in this borough; but, in the summer of the year 1648, the fate of the Scotch army under duke Hamilton, and of the English army under general Langdale, both engaged in the royal cause, was sealed on the plains of Preston, and in the valley of the Ribble, by the skill and prowess of the most renowned of the parliamentary generals, Oliver Cromwell. The battle took place on the 17th of August; and the scene of operations extended from Ribbles-ton Moor to the north bank of the Ribble. After a sanguinary engagement of four hours, fought in the fields and lanes, the duke's troops began to give way, and were charged through the streets of Preston at the point of the bayonet. Being driven out of the town, they retreated over Ribble bridge at Walton-le-dale, to the banks of the Derwent, where the battle was renewed,

“And Darwen stream with blood of Scots imbrued.”

Night coming on, the hostile armies took up their quarters within musket-shot of each other, without being able precisely to ascertain their relative situation. Immediately after the battle, Cromwell wrote an account of his victory to the committee then sitting at Manchester, describing the battle as decisive, and attributing the victory to God's blessing.*

The Corporation (Malignants) of Preston, as they are called, steadfast in their loyalty, assembled at the Market Cross in July, 1649, the year of the execution of Charles I. and proclaimed his son Charles II. king of England without opposition.†

The next morning, Friday, disclosed the fact, that the royal army had lost about one thousand men slain, and four thousand taken prisoners.‡ The operations of this day are briefly described in a letter to sir Ralph Ashton, member of the house of commons:—“Yesterday being Friday, Lieutenant-Generall Cromwell having kild & taken diverse of the Scots, dispersed their body severall wayes. The greatest part of them fled towards Warrington, & ovr Forces still pursuing them; divers of the Country Forces being joyned to assist Lieutenant-General Cromwell.§ Some of the Scots were last night at Lansford on Cheshire side, our Army is at their heels. The greatest execution Yesterday was about Standish Moore, where divers were kild & taken, & amongst them many considerable men, both Scotch & English. Duke Hamilton was last night at Wygan.”

* See Vol. II. p. 45.

† Whitelock's Memorial, p. 413.

‡ See Cromwell's Dispatch to the House of Commons, Vol. II. p. 46. § See Vol. III. p. 665.

On the following day the engagement was resumed at the pass of Winwick,* with so much success on the part of Cromwell, that, though a part of the duke's army "reeled on" into Staffordshire, it was finally overthrown at Uttoxeter, and the duke himself made prisoner.

Preston Parish.
Winwick fight.

Sir Marmaduke Langdale, who was captured at Nottingham, in an interesting account of this short but decisive campaign, attributes the loss of the day, in the battle of Preston, to want of co-operation on the part of the Scots at critical periods of the battle.†

Sir Mar. Langdale's letter on the defeat of the royal forces.

The official return of the killed, wounded, and prisoners in the battle of Preston, and in the battles of the two preceding days, as exhibited by the parliamentary records, is 2500 slain, and 2000 taken prisoners, exclusive of 10,000 taken in the retreat, making, in the whole, an aggregate of nearly 15,000 men, exclusive of booty in horses, cattle, and money.

The memorial preserved by the corporation of Preston, of this the most sanguinary campaign in the annals of Lancashire, is expressed in these glowing terms—

“ MEMORANDUM.

“ *Decimo Septimo die Augusti, 1648, 24 CAR.*

“ That Henry Blundell, gent. being mayor of this town of Preston, the daie and yeare aforesaid, Oliver Cromwell, lieutenant-general of the forces of the Parliament of England, with an army of about 10,000 at the most, (whereof 1500 were Lancashire men, under the command of Colonel Raph Assheton, of Middleton,) fought a battaile in and about Preston aforesaid, and overthrew Duke Hamilton, general of the Scots, consisting of about 26,000 and of English Sir Marmaduke Langdale and his forces, joined with the Scots, about 4000; took all their ammunition, about 3000 prisoners, killed many with very small losse to the Parliament army; and in their pursuit towards Lancaster, Wigan, Warrington, and divers other places in Cheshire, Staffordshire, and Nottinghamshire, took the said Duke and Langdale, with many Scottish earls and lords, and about 10,000 prisoners more, all being taken [or] slayne, few escaping, and all their treasure and plunder taken. This performed in lesse than one week.”

The cost of carrying on this campaign was ruinous to the royalists, and distressing to the parliamentary party. A letter from sir Richard Hoghton and five other gentlemen, addressed to the treasurers of the sequestrations, Guildhall, London, says—“ Wee have thought fitt to certify you that all the profittes arriseinge out of the Sequestracons are disposed of for the vse of the souldierie of this Countie by ordinance of Parliam^t. And in regard of the late imminent danger threatened to this countye by that great and potent Armye of the Scottes & Englishe wee were inforced to raise such a considerable number of Forces for the mutuall defence of the Kingdom our selves and neighbor counties that the maytenāce therof hath occasioned the expence of a vast so^me of monye over above and above the profittes arriseinge

* Ibid. p. 628.

† Sir Marmaduke Langdale's relation of the late fight at Preston, 1648.

Preston Parish. out of the Sequestracons. And the arreres of the Souldierie are soe greate that wee are vtterly disabled to sattisfie their iust demande in any reasonable measure w'hout some further supply."*

Renewal of civil wars. The defeat of duke Hamilton's army was the last military operation in Lancashire, during the civil wars of Charles I. But on the return of the earl of Derby from the Isle of Man, whence he was summoned by his sovereign Charles II. in 1651, to lend his powerful aid in restoring the Stuart dynasty, his lordship issued warrants by royal authority through Lancashire, requiring all the friends of the king to meet him in arms at Preston. This call was made with little effect. His lordship had brought with him three hundred followers from the Isle of Man, with which he marched to the south; and, soon after his departure from Preston, he sustained a signal defeat in Wigan Lane.† This fatal campaign was terminated by the battle of Worcester; and the earl of Derby, having been made prisoner on his return into Lancashire, was brought to trial at Chester for high treason against the Commonwealth. A military tribunal cut short all legal difficulties in the way of conviction, and, in a few days afterwards, his lordship underwent the same fate at Bolton‡ which had, three years before, overtaken his royal master at Whitehall.

Change of ecclesiastical government. The ecclesiastical, as well as the secular government of the country, was now changed, and the presbyterian superseded the episcopal form of church government. For the due administration of spiritual affairs, each county was divided into classes, composed of ministers and people, and Lancashire was one of the first counties in England to adopt the new system. Preston, from its central situation, was selected as the place for holding the first Lancashire Assembly of Divines,§ and the meeting took place here in the month of November, in the year 1646.

Sequestrations. Not only the Lancashire assembly of divines, but the Lancashire committee of sequestration, also held their sittings in Preston during the Commonwealth, and it was here that the "delinquent" lords, knights, and gentlemen of this county, compounded for their estates, in the year 1646, &c. conformable to the list inserted in the 35th page of the second volume of this work.

A fee farm of £15, reserved by Henry II. and payable at the feasts of St. Michael and the Annunciation, was purchased by the corporation, under an act of the Commonwealth, for £127, and conveyed 23d July, 1650: and again purchased for £247. 10s. after the Restoration. The conveyance, dated 16th June, 1676, states, that the "said premises were parcel of the Landes and Possessions of the late Dutchy of Lancaster, in the county of Lancaster aforesaid, and were by Letters Patent of the late King Henry 2d granted to the Burrough and their suc-

* Aynscough's MS. 5494. fo, 133. in Brit. Museum.

† Ibid, p. 60—62.

† See Vol. III. p. 545.

§ See Vol. II. p. 38.

cessors for ever." The corporation, encouraged by the flatteries of judge Jefferies, it is said, paid dearly for his majesty's favours in this instance.

Preston
Parish.

When prelacy again resumed its authority, on the restoration of Charles II. a number of the clergy, comprehended in the Lancashire classical Presbyteries, were ejected from their churches;* and many of the laymen, who were generally men of influence in their respective neighbourhoods, espoused the cause of non-conformity, which from that time took deep root in the county of Lancaster.

Ejected
ministers.

In this reign two royal charters were granted to Preston, by each of which the privileges and immunities of the corporate body were extended. The first of these charters is dated on the 22d of March, 14 Charles II., and the second, the 14th January, 36 Charles II. This latter charter is preserved in the Duchy Office, and consists of five skins of parchment tied together, to which is appended a curious note thus expressed:—

Royal
charters.
Chas. II.

Anecdote
respecting
them.

"M^d. that the charter for Preston passed the Greate Seale according to the date but by reason M^r James Ashton who su'd it out did not pay the Fees due to the Chancello^r of the Duchy he refus'd to put the Dutchy or Co. Pal. seale to it, wher'upon M^r Ashton tooke it with him to Preston and there procured the Co. Pal. Seale to be put to it, for which he was turn'd out of his Place this was soe sealed a few days before king Cha. the second dy'd.

"In Easter Terme following viz the begining of June the Fees for both Seales were paid, at which tyme or two or three dayes after, the Dutchy Seale was put to the said Charter.

"This Memorand was made the 13th day of June 1685

"by me
"BEN. AYLOFFE."†

In 1659 the corporation of Preston began to enforce the absurd prohibition against merchant strangers, contained in their earliest charter, and reiterated in every subsequent grant in times of gross ignorance of the interests of that trade, which they were intended to protect. The submission and apology of two tradesmen is entered upon the books of the corporation, February 6th, 1659, in these terms:—

Corpora-
tion Re-
strictions
on Free
Trading.

"Whereas y^e day abouesaid wee James Coulters of Halifax in y^e Countie of Yorke Clothier, and Jn^o Braithwaite sonne of Nathan Braithwaite of Ovendall in y^e County affores^d Cloathier, each of vs hauinge forfeited an Ende of Cloath to y^e Companie of Drap pt by sellinge & exposeinge the same to sale Wee are sorrye for y^e same and doe pmise hereby for y^e future not to offende in y^e Like."

Ten years afterwards, Peter Ryecroft of Leedes, clothworker, promises to forfeit to the company of Drapers Twenty poundes if he

"doe att any tyme or tymes hereafter sell or expose to sale any woollen Cloth or other Comodity (Bellonging to y^e trades of any of y^e foresaid Company) vnto any person within the Corpora^on aforesaid except it bee to y^e member or members of y^e foresaid Company or Society." Dated Jan. 8, 1669.

* See Vol. II. p. 58.

† Red Reper. Bundle T. No. 1. The provisions of this charter will be found in the recapitulation.

Preston
Parish.

In 1685 and 1686 the wardens of the company are ordered to distrain upon persons named in the respective records,

‘ for the sume of fourty shillings A month for one month by past, & soe for the like sume of fourtey shillings for every month hereafter that they shall use the Trades they now follow, contrary to the orders of the said company.”

These orders, it appears by another record, were made by virtue of a grant from the mayor and corporation confirmed by the judges of assize.

In 1662 a singular regulation in reference to the time of closing shops in the town, was made by some of the incorporated companies :—

“ December the 5th, 1662. Whereas vpon serious consideration of the companie of Mercers, Grocers, Ironmongers, Haberdashers, and Salters, It is thought that the keepinge of Shopps open in the Eveninges vntil nine or Tenn of the clock is imprudent, vnprofitable, and discomendable. For reformeinge whereof, Wee the severall Wardens and Masters Tradesmen of the severall Companies abovesaid, doe hereby volluntarily and freely agree, and do hereby covenant conclude and bynde our selves, that from henceforth, neither wee ourselves nor anie for vs, shall keepe open our Shopp windowes, or doares, after eight of the clock betwixt the 25th of March and the 29th of September, and after six of the clock betwixt ye 25th of September and the 25th of March, vpon paine of everie one of vs to forfeite for everie such offence five shillings. And that y^e wardenes for the tyme being shall destraine the goodes of such offenders vnless the ptie offending doe presentlie paie soe much forfeited. And that everie pson that shall offer to opose rescue, disturbe or sue, anie such warden that shall destraine the saide forfeiture and execute this Order, everie such pson shall forfeite for everie such offence Fower poundes Tenn shillings of currant money of England for the vse and improvement of the comon Stock of the companie abovesaide by distresse vpon their goodes or by action in our owne Townes Court in the name of the wardens for the tyme beinge. And it is hereby further agreed, that y^e Wardens for the tyme beinge shalbee harmelesse Losslesse and indemntified by the companie abovesaide for anie thing they shall doe in the execution of this Order. In witnesse whereof wee doe hereby severally bynde ourselves and have subscribed our names to this order the daie and yeare first above written.”

“ W. SUDELL, }
JOHN SUMPNER, } Wardens.”
and others.

Dr. Kuerden's Description.

In 1686 a literary gentleman resident in the town, wrote his Description of the Borough of Preston, intended evidently as a portion of his History of the County Palatine of Lancaster.* Passing over the Doctor's allusions to his theory, by which he erects Preston into a Roman station, the Ribodunum of Ptolemy, already treated sufficiently at large, he says that at that time “the entrance to the town from the

* Kuerden's MSS. Collection in the Heralds' College, London. Mr. Taylor conjectures that the MS. published by him is of the date of 1682, but it is evident that it was written at least four years after that time, seeing that the municipal government described by Dr. Kuerden is that established by the charter of Charles II. granted in 1685.



south vnto the townes end, on the north is a full statute mile, although it be not altogether so much from the eastern part to the western thereof. The borough is much beautifyed and adorned with its large square, cald the market place, as likewise with the large streets thereof, well paved and cleanly, which are so spacious frō the one end thereof vnto the other, that few of the corporations in England exceed the same either for the cleannes and neatnes of the streets and market place generally at times and seasons kept cleane and easy to walk upon by men or women.”

Preston
Parish.

“ In the middle of the sayde borough,” he continues, “ is a fayre built square of houses or shops, very spacious towards the market place, and at the west syde thereof an ample antient and yet well beautified Hall, cald the Gyld or Town Hall or the Toll Both, to which at the south thereof is annexed a fayre and large room for a councill house or chamber for the Capitall burgesses, or Jurors at their Court days or publiq meetings for consultation, secretly to be had from the mob or coñion burgesses as occasion shall require.”

The learned antiquary then proceeds to describe the courts held in this hall, namely,—The Port Motes for the Leet days—The Court of Coñon Pleas—The Court of Chancery for the County Palatine—the Quarter Sessions—The Court for the election of Burgesses to serve in Parliament—The adjourned Polles from Lancaster for Knights of the Shire—And the Court for opening the Gylds held every 20 years.

“ Round about under this Hall are ranged rows of butcher’s shops on either side and end, where victuals are exposed for the vse of man. And upon Saturday as soon as light appears in the morning, is there a market held for linen cloth, when ended, yarn appeares & carts of butter & cheese as formerly.”

Then follows the description of the other markets.

“ The streets,” says Dr. Kuerden, “ belonging to this towne or borough are very spacious, here and there interwoven with stately fabricks after the modish mañer extraordinarily adorning the streets which they belong unto.”

He next perambulates the principal streets and roads, which have varied little in name in the course of the 150 years since this MS. was written.*

“ As to the borough in general,” says he, “ this borough is likewise adorned with a spacious well-built, or rather re-edified church, adjacent on the south side of Church-street, where of late, for the more commodious solemnization of religious rites and instruction of the people in sound and healthful doctrine ; for the more eas of the people, there hath lately been built on the south side of the church a large spacious and well-adorned gallery, for the gentry of the town who were farmers.

“ The next is a remarkable school house, not far distant, on the south side, with sufficient retirement from publiq concourse ; and there has been annexed to it an

* See “ Brief Description of the Burrough and Town of Preston,” with occasional Notes, by John Taylor, Esq. pp. 8—16.

Preston
Parish.

handsome fabrick adjoining to it as a fitting habitation for a schoolmaster, for convenience and ease over the school, a fitting place for the scholars' retirement, for making their exercises, as likewise upon occasion if needful for a scrivener to make use of with least prejudice to the scholars, as to their absence or attendance."

A list of the public Hospitals or Almshouses for the Poore then follows:—

" 1st. At the East end of the town for 8 or 10 almspeople.

" 2d. Next near the end of St. John Street out of Lemon's Charity.

" 3d. At the end of Fishergate, consisting of 8 rooms, erected by the Widow of Bartho: Worthington & Eliz. Harrison, Widow.

" And there was lately erected a publiq Workhouse to employ poor Women and Children in the worsted trade."

The Marsh and Moor are then mentioned—to the former of which it is said vessels of reasonable burthen come up at high-water; and the latter is called "a large More or Coñion of 324 acres of pasture belonging to the borough for the cattel or turbary, in the which together with the said Marsh all the inhabitants [Burgesses et Inhabitantes] are free to put their cattel for the greater benefitt of the burgesses."

Bounda-
ries of the
borough.

The boundaries confining the franchises and liberties of the borough of Preston, are thus described:—

"Begining upon the south side at the much famed river of Ribell, at a place cald the Washing-stood, they thence ascend up easterly, by a little rill or rivulet called the Swillbrooke, cross the London road and pass upward to the head thereof, till they come over against the Town of Fishwick, from which this brooke parteth the burrough aforesaid; and from thence the bonds pass to the northward, to the entrance upon Ribleton More, nere, if not close by, the crosse upon the highway leading to Ribchester towards the citty of Yorke; and from this crosse, passing by the west side of that more still norward, thorough some few closes unto Eavs brook, and thus it is separated from the village of Ribleton; upon the east from thence, passing down to the Eavs brook untill it falleth into the water of Savock, and thus it parteth from the forest of Fullwood, and Cadily more; so discending the water Savock to a certain old ditch which is the bondary betwixt Preston and Tulketh; so following that old ditch southward, by Lancaster-Lane, untill you arrive at Preston Marsh, a little west from the Water Milne; and so following the Milne streame westward, after the north side of the Marsh till it crosses up southward towards Rible, but following that streame to Rible water; and so following Rible eastward, by the midst of that water, untill it come past the Boat over against Preston, to the afore mentioned washing stood into Swillbrook."

Our learned predecessor next proceeds to describe the government of the borough, then recently settled by the act of the 36 Charles II., as already stated, and to treat of the method of holding or solemnizing the Preston Guild Merchants, too

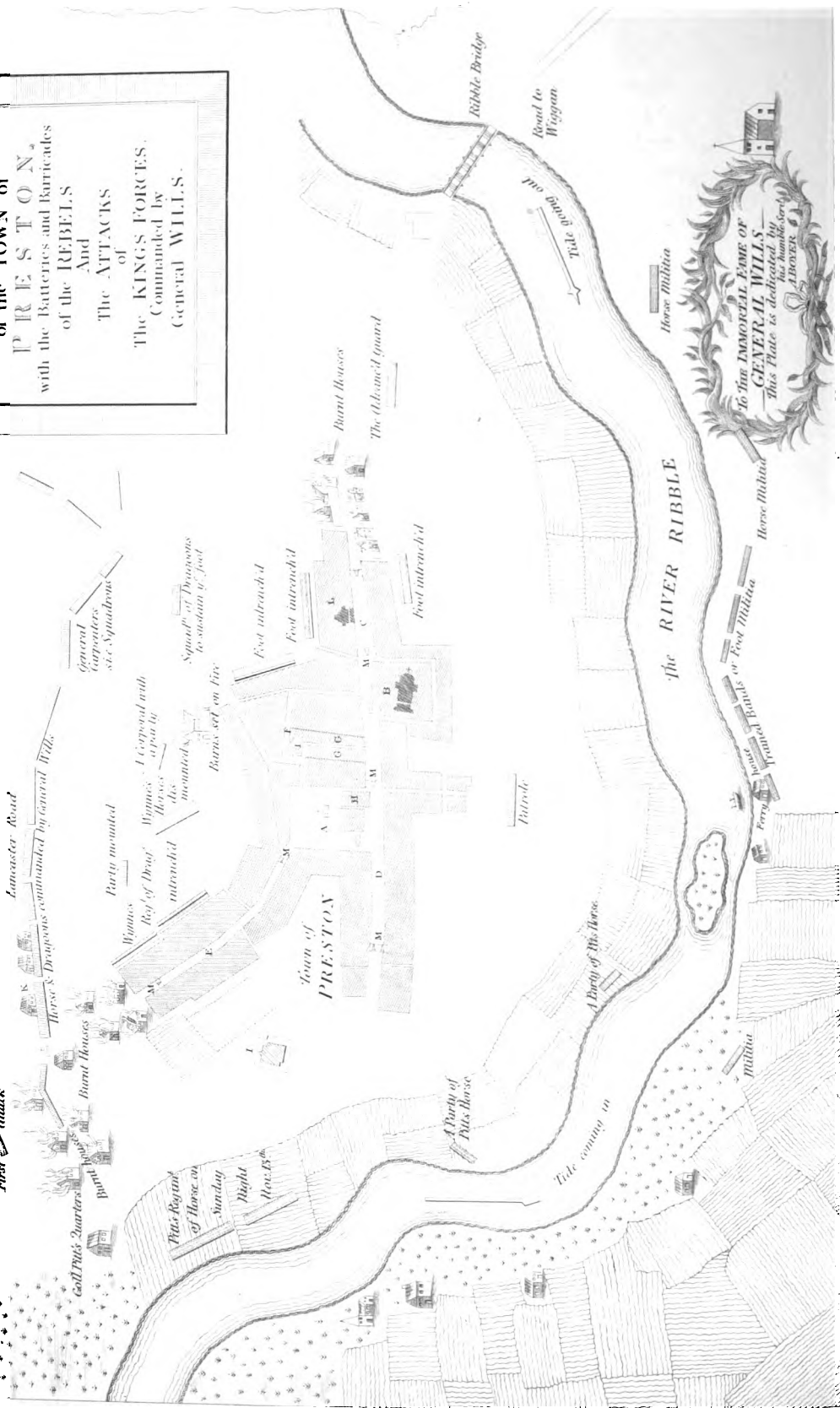


THE REBELLION HAPPILY SUPPRESSED AT PRESTON BY GENERAL WILLS

| REFERENCES | |
|------------|--|
| A | The Market Place |
| B | The Church |
| C | Church Street |
| D | Fisher Street |
| E | Fryer Street |
| F | New Street |
| G | New Shambles |
| H | Old Shambles |
| I | House of Correction |
| K | General Wills's Quarters |
| L | Sir Henry Hughson's House |
| M | The Batteries & Barricades of the Rebels |

Old Guard
Wills's Horses
dismounted

A MAP and PLAN
of the TOWN of
PRESTON,
with the BATTERIES and BARRICADES
of the REBELS
And
The ATTACKS
of
The KING'S FORCES
Commanded by
General WILLS.



Done by Charles St. Clare, 1819

The above is an exact copy of an old Plan of the town of Preston &c. in 1715.

copiously by far for ordinary limits, but with that simplicity of style and internal evidence of correctness which impart interest to all his writings.*

Preston Parish.

The visit of James II. to Chester, the year before he abdicated the throne of England, called forth expressions of loyal attachment from the corporation of Preston to that monarch, and a deputation, with five aldermen at its head, was appointed on the 25th of August, 1687, to proceed to that city to present the address. Three days before, the corporation voted the sum of five shillings each to two afflicted females, the daughters of indigent burgesses, "towards their charges in going to Chester to get the *king's touch*!"

Address to James II. by the corporation of Preston.

The revolution of 1688 does not appear to have produced any strong sensation north of the Trent; but in the early part of the following century, a rebellion, arising out of this great political change, originated in Scotland, and spent its fury in the town of Preston. It has already been seen,† that, in the year 1715, a desperate effort was made by the partisans of the house of Stuart, to replace that family on the throne which James II. had reluctantly abdicated, and that with this view a small army, commanded by a gentleman of Northumberland, of the name of Foster, with the earls of Derwentwater, Wintoun, Nithsdale, and Carnworth, and lords Kenmure, Widdrington, and Nairn in his train, marched into England. Having traversed the counties of Cumberland and Westmorland, the rebel army reached Lancaster on Monday, the 7th of November, where they secured a supply of cannon, and from which colonel Hoghton and his militia retired on their advance, as did colonel Stanhope and his dragoons on their approach to Preston, from the impossibility of offering to them any effectual resistance. On Wednesday the 9th, the rebel force marched into Preston, to the music of the bagpipes, with the intention to advance to the south in a day or two, for the purpose of taking possession of Warrington bridge and securing the two important towns of Manchester and Liverpool, where they were encouraged to believe that the surrounding country would flock to their standard. The first care of the rebels was to proclaim the chevalier de St. George, by the title of James III. This ceremony was performed with great pomp at the obelisk in the centre of the market-place, in the presence of the principal part of the army.‡ All this military array spread considerable alarm, not only in the town, but in every part of the county, and the wealthy inhabitants had quitted Preston on the approach of

Rebellion of 1715.

* See "Brief Description," pp. 20—89.

† See Vol. II. p. 68.

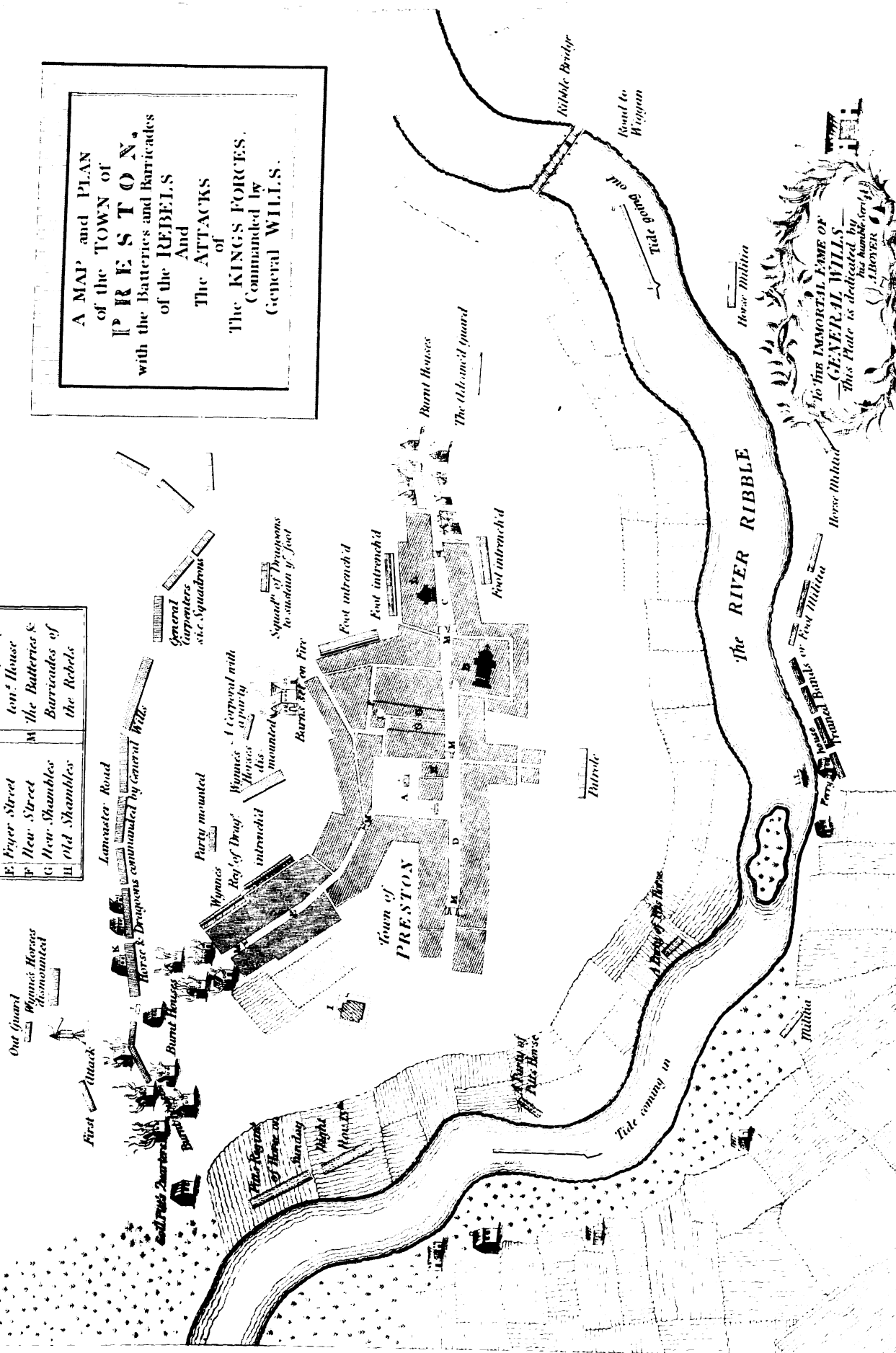
‡ The Rev. Samuel Peploe, at this time vicar of Preston, displayed so much fearless zeal as to read the prayers for the Brunswick family in the parish church, while the adherents of the Stuarts were present in arms; this devotion to the royal cause was duly appreciated by his sovereign George I. by whom he was rewarded, first with the wardenship of Manchester, in 1717, and afterwards with the bishoprick of Chester, in 1725.

REBELLION HAPPILY SUPPRESSED AT PRESTON BY GENERAL WILLS

REFERENCE S

| | |
|---------------------|---|
| A) The Market Place | House of Correction |
| B) The Church | General Wills's Quarters |
| C) Church Street | |
| D) Fisher Street | Sir Henry Dugden's House |
| E) Fryer Street | The Batteries & Buricades of the Rebels |
| F) New Street | |
| G) New Shambles | |
| H) Old Shambles | |

A MAP and PLAN
of the TOWN of
PRESTON.
with the Batteries and Buricades
of the REBELS
And
The ATTACKS
of
The KINGS FORCES.
Commanded by
General WILLS.



The above is an exact copy of an old Plan of the town of Preston &c. in 1715.

Done by Charles St. Clare, 1819.

copiously by far for ordinary limits, but with that simplicity of style and internal evidence of correctness which impart interest to all his writings.*

Preston
Parish.

The visit of James II. to Chester, the year before he abdicated the throne of England, called forth expressions of loyal attachment from the corporation of Preston to that monarch, and a deputation, with five aldermen at its head, was appointed on the 25th of August, 1687, to proceed to that city to present the address. Three days before, the corporation voted the sum of five shillings each to two afflicted females, the daughters of indigent burgesses, "towards their charges in going to Chester to get the *king's touch*!"

Address to
James II.
by the
corpora-
tion of
Preston.

The revolution of 1688 does not appear to have produced any strong sensation north of the Trent; but in the early part of the following century, a rebellion, arising out of this great political change, originated in Scotland, and spent its fury in the town of Preston. It has already been seen,† that, in the year 1715, a desperate effort was made by the partisans of the house of Stuart, to replace that family on the throne which James II. had reluctantly abdicated, and that with this view a small army, commanded by a gentleman of Northumberland, of the name of Foster, with the earls of Derwentwater, Wintoun, Nithsdale, and Carnworth, and lords Kenmure, Widdrington, and Nairn in his train, marched into England. Having traversed the counties of Cumberland and Westmorland, the rebel army reached Lancaster on Monday, the 7th of November, where they secured a supply of cannon, and from which colonel Hoghton and his militia retired on their advance, as did colonel Stanhope and his dragoons on their approach to Preston, from the impossibility of offering to them any effectual resistance. On Wednesday the 9th, the rebel force marched into Preston, to the music of the bagpipes, with the intention to advance to the south in a day or two, for the purpose of taking possession of Warrington bridge and securing the two important towns of Manchester and Liverpool, where they were encouraged to believe that the surrounding country would flock to their standard. The first care of the rebels was to proclaim the chevalier de St. George, by the title of James III. This ceremony was performed with great pomp at the obelisk in the centre of the market-place, in the presence of the principal part of the army.‡ All this military array spread considerable alarm, not only in the town, but in every part of the county, and the wealthy inhabitants had quitted Preston on the approach of

Rebellion
of 1715.

* See "Brief Description," pp. 20—89.

† See Vol. II. p. 68.

‡ The Rev. Samuel Peploe, at this time vicar of Preston, displayed so much fearless zeal as to read the prayers for the Brunswick family in the parish church, while the adherents of the Stuarts were present in arms; this devotion to the royal cause was duly appreciated by his sovereign George I. by whom he was rewarded, first with the wardenship of Manchester, in 1717, and afterwards with the bishoprick of Chester, in 1725.

Preston
Parish.

the enemy, taking with them the most valuable part of their effects. The municipal authority knew as little as the rest of the inhabitants where to look for succour; and it was not till Friday, and till the insurgent force had been joined by a number of neighbouring gentlemen—the tenants and servants of the Roman Catholic persuasion—that news arrived that the king's forces, under the command of general Wills, were advancing by way of Wigan. This intelligence served only to increase the general consternation; and, as orders were instantly given by the Jacobite commanders, to mount the cannon taken at Lancaster, and to erect barricades at the entrances of the town, in Church-street, Friargate, and Fishergate, it became evident that this place was once more to be made the scene of a military engagement. "Every street," says one of the witnesses, in his evidence before the House of Lords, "was barricadoed; and, to strengthen the defences, two cannon were placed in each street." In the morning of Saturday it was announced that the king's troops were within a few miles of the town, and at mid-day general Wills, with the regiments of dragoons of Wynn, Honeywood, Munden, and Dormer, together with Preston's regiment of foot, crossed the bridge over the Ribble, at Walton, without resistance, and marched to the front of the town, where the forces were drawn up. While viewing the town to discover its vulnerable points, some shots, fired from the garrison, struck two of the general's dragoons, and killed them dead on the spot. This incident seems to have precipitated the attack, and general Wills gave orders to carry the place by storm. The attack at Church-street bar, then opposite Water-street, was led by brigadier Honeywood, accompanied by lord Forrester, who commanded Preston's regiment of infantry, and took possession of the two large houses at the entrance to the town, belonging to sir Henry Hoghton and Mr. Eyre. A simultaneous attack upon the barricado on Friargate brow, was made by the squadrons of Wynn, Dormer, and Stanhope, commanded by brigadier Dormer, supported by the regiments of Pitt and Munden. Thus the whole of the troops were brought into action, and the engagement, which was continued till after midnight, was fought with determined resolution on both sides. At the extremities of the town the first barricadoes were carried, and a number of houses were set on fire, but the rebels still maintained possession of their inner works, and had inflicted upon the assailants a loss in killed and wounded of about two hundred men. Brigadier Honeywood received a contusion on the shoulder by a musket-shot, and major Bland a slight one on the arm, having had his horse shot from under him by a musket-shot. In the attack on the Church-street barricado, were killed two captains, one ensign, and twenty-two privates, exclusive of the wounded; and in the attack at the head of Friargate brow, nine privates were killed; brigadier Dormer received a shot in the leg, and one colonel, one lieutenant, one captain, and thirty-nine privates were

wounded. The loss suffered by Preston's foot regiment, which sustained the principal fire, exceeded the whole of the loss of the dragoon regiments. The near Preston
Parish. approach of another army to reinforce the royalists induced them to desist from any further attack. At ten o'clock on Sunday morning, general Carpenter arrived, with the dragoon regiments of Cobham, Churchill, and Molesworth. The place was now invested on every side, and a council of war was called within the town, at which all the noblemen in the rebel army and all the principal officers attended. At this meeting it was determined, against the wish of the Scots, to sue for a capitulation; and, at two o'clock in the afternoon, general Foster despatched colonel Oxburgh, with an offer on the part of the garrison to lay down their arms, and to become prisoners of war, on condition of mercy. To this overture it was replied, that they must submit at discretion; that, as rebels, they could not be treated with; and all that could be promised to them was, that the soldiers in the royal army "should not cut them to pieces till further orders!"* Some further negotiation took place, which was concluded by a message from general Wills, to the effect, that, if they did not immediately surrender, he would attack the town, and put the garrison to the sword. This threat had the desired effect on the refractory, and the rebel army, which amounted to from fourteen to fifteen hundred men, became prisoners. The duty of taking possession of the town, and disarming the garrison, devolved upon lord Forrester. On repairing to the Mitre Tavern, he arrested the seven noblemen who had accompanied this ill-fated expedition, and they were despatched to London, where they were marched through the streets to the Tower in chains, like so many malefactors. Here they remained close prisoners till the early part of the year 1716, when they were impeached before the House of Lords, on a charge of high treason, and all of them convicted. The earl of Derwentwater and lord Keumure paid the price of their treason on the block; earl Nithisdale and earl Wintown escaped at different times out of the Tower, not without some suspicion of connivance, and to lord Widdrington, the earl of Carnwath, and lord Nairn, the royal clemency was extended. General Foster, Mr. Mackintosh, and several other officers of inferior note, were also tried in London, but the general escaped from Newgate, and arrived on the continent in safety; and Mr. Mackintosh and some others seized their keeper, and, with the assistance of their friends, effected their escape. Four others, less fortunate, amongst whom was colonel Oxburgh, were executed at Tyburn.

"From the Preston rebellion," says a political writer, "accrued this benefit to the publick, that by the forfeitures of lands in Scotland, and by the alterations made in the tenures of vassalage there, the Jacobite portion then at full balance have been weakened in that kingdom, whilst the Whigg party have been proportionably

* Evidence of general Wills before the Lords.

Preston Parish. strengthened, and by their acquisition of land and property have distanced the Tories, and the king is secure without the least competition, which he could not be so long as the Whiggs and Tories were upon the least equality of rivalry."*

Execution of the rebels. The following is a summary of the times and places at which the unfortunate insurgents, who suffered in Lancashire, were executed:—†

| | | |
|----------------|---|---|
| Dec. 1, 1715. | Major Nairn, Captains Lockhart, Shaftoe, and Erskine, shot at <i>Preston</i> | 4 |
| Jan. 28, 1716. | Rich. Shuttleworth, of <i>Preston</i> ; Roger Muncaster, of <i>Garstang</i> , Attorney; Thos. Cowpe, of <i>Walton-le-Dale</i> ; Will. Butler, and Will. Arkwright, hanged on the Gallows Hill,‡ at <i>Preston</i> | 5 |
| Feb. 9, — | Rich. Chorley, esq.,§ James Drummond, Will. Black, Donald M'Donald, John Howard, Berry Kennedy, and John Rowbottam, hanged at <i>Preston</i> | 7 |
| Feb. 10, — | James Blundell, James Finch, Jno. Macgillivray, Will. Whalley, and James Burn, hanged at <i>Wigan</i> | 5 |
| Feb. 11, — | Tho. Sudell, Will. Harris, Stephen Sagar, Jos. Porter, hanged at <i>Wigan</i> ; and John Finch, hanged at <i>Manchester</i> | 5 |
| Feb. 14, — | Allan Sanderson, Tho. Cartmel, Tho. Gorse, and Jos. Wadsworth, hanged at <i>Garstang</i> | 4 |
| Feb. 24, — | James, Earl of <i>Derwentwater</i> , & Lord Visc. <i>Kenmore</i> , beheaded on <i>Tower Hill</i> | 2 |
| May 8, — | Messrs. <i>Collingwood</i> , <i>Burnet</i> , <i>Drummond</i> , and <i>Hunter</i> , hanged at <i>Liverpool</i> | 4 |
| May 14, — | Colonel <i>Oxburgh</i> , hanged at <i>Tyburn</i> | 1 |
| May 25, — | Mr. <i>Gascoigne</i> , hanged at <i>Tyburn</i> | 1 |
| July 13, — | Rev. Mr. <i>Paul</i> and John <i>Hall</i> , esq. executed at <i>Tyburn</i> | 2 |
| Oct. 2, — | Capt. <i>Bruce</i> , Jno. <i>Winckley</i> , Tho. <i>Shuttleworth</i> , Geo. <i>Hodgson</i> , and — <i>Charnley</i> , hanged at <i>Lancaster</i> | 5 |

A note appended to this curious list, in which are contained several Lancashire names, says, "I am certain that four more were executed at *Lancaster*, of whom I remember the names of two, viz. Mr. *Crow*, an *Aberdeen* Scot and a mathematician, and — M'Intosh, whose names were fixed over the castle gates."||

* *Free Briton*, May 11, 1732, No. 128.

† See the sheriff's charges attendant upon these executions in the present volume, pp. 88-9.

‡ On cutting through the Gallows Hill, in May, 1817, the workmen discovered two coffins, in which the headless bodies of two of the rebel chiefs executed here, were, no doubt, deposited. According to tradition, the heads were cut off at the time of execution, and exposed on poles in front of the town-hall.—Taylor's Notes on a Brief Description of *Preston*. The name of Gallows Hill is still preserved, though the hill has nearly disappeared.

§ This gentleman's son, Charles Chorley, was tried and found guilty at *Liverpool*, but died in gaol.

|| The names of Ralph Standish, of Standish, esq.; Francis Anderton, of Lostock, esq. erroneously styled sir Francis; John Dalton, esq.; Richard Townley, esq. married to lord Widdrington's sister; and Edward Tildesley, of the Lodge, esq., with Gabriel Hesketh, esq., the father, and Cuthbert Hesketh, the son, all occur amongst the persons brought to trial, and the first mentioned of whom were convicted, but none of them were executed.

The rebellion having been finally suppressed both in England in Scotland, the English parliament in the following year passed two acts, the object of which was to indemnify the public and individuals, who had suffered loss during the short campaign, for the injuries they had sustained, "out of the estates of certain traitors and popish recusants," and "for vesting the forfeited estates in the hands of trustees, to be sold for the use of the public, and for giving relief to lawful creditors by determining the claims." The commissioners in their report, bearing date the 4th of February, 1718, state—That the registered claims made on the forfeited estates of the several attainted persons in England, amount in number to 1696; that the commissioners and trustees first opened their commission in London, and that from thence they adjourned to Preston, in Lancashire, for the greater dispatch of business. That the several claimants in the borough and parish of Preston have made claims pursuant to a clause in the act, for repayment of the losses they sustained, amounting in number to 226, and in value to £6462. 8s. 10½d. The commissioners and trustees, after having heard and determined the several claims, made an order to sell the estates of Richard Chorley, of Chorley, and such part of the estate of William, the late lord Widdrington, as is situated in the county of Lincoln, and no appeal having been made from their determination, they proceeded to the sale, and report that they were sold as follows:—

| Persons Forfeiting. | Estate at, | Purchaser's Name. | Price sold for. |
|---------------------|--|-------------------|-----------------|
| Richard Chorley | Chorley and Walton- cum- Fazakerley } Lincolnshire | Abraham Crompton | £5,550 |
| Lord Widdrington | | Thos. Chaplyn | £32,400 |

"A list of the Papists, who registered their estates, and the respective value thereof," then follows, from which it appears, that the number of the Lancashire estates amount to 465, valued at £27,903. 7s. 9½d., and that those of the other counties in England amount to £375,284. 15s. 3d., while the value of the forfeited estates in Scotland is estimated at £27,771. 7s. 7d. The following is a list of the Lancashire estates, of the estimated value of £100 or upwards:—

| £. | s. | d. | £. | s. | d. |
|--------------------------------|-----|-------|--------------------------------|------|--------|
| Anderton, Sir Lawrence . . . | 621 | 16 10 | Bellassis, Rowland | 400 | 0 0 |
| Anderton, Margaret, Dame . . . | 486 | 8 3½ | Blundell, Nicholas | 482 | 12 2½ |
| Blundell, Mary, Dame | 200 | 0 0 | Barlow, Anthony | 171 | 9 0 |
| Bellassis, Rowland | 300 | 0 0 | Cornwallis, Mary | 100 | 0 0 |
| Brockholes, John | 522 | 19 1 | Clifford, Hugh, Lord | 163 | 6 10 |
| Butler, Mary | 100 | 0 0 | Clifton, Thomas | 1548 | 16 10½ |
| Butler, Catherine | 537 | 0 0 | Culcheth, Mary | 150 | 0 0 |

| Preston Parish. | | | | | | |
|--------------------------------------|-----|----|-----|--------------------------------------|------|-------|
| | £. | s. | d. | £. | s. | d. |
| Carus, Frances | 100 | 0 | 0 | Ince, Christopher | 163 | 4 4 |
| Curnen, Henry | 141 | 10 | 0 | Molineux, Sir William, Bart. | 2346 | 16 2 |
| Dickenson, Agnes | 200 | 0 | 0 | Molineux, Robert | 309 | 8 2 |
| Eccleston, Thomas | 341 | 5 | 11 | Massey, Richard | 352 | 0 9 |
| Eccleston, Eleanora | 100 | 0 | 0 | Molineux, Richard | 1100 | 0 0 |
| Fazakerley, Robert | 187 | 10 | 10½ | Nelson, Maximilian | 100 | 18 10 |
| Faulconberg, Lord Viscount | 356 | 0 | 9 | Riddle, Edward | 119 | 3 5 |
| Fowler, John | 233 | 16 | 10 | Scarisbrick, Frances | 320 | 1 6 |
| Gerrard, Mary, Dame | 100 | 0 | 0 | Sherburne, Sir Nicholas | 1210 | 6 3½ |
| Gerrard, John | 114 | 18 | 4 | Stanley, Anne | 118 | 15 0 |
| Gerrard, Evan | 112 | 12 | 3 | Standish, Cicilia | 415 | 0 8½ |
| Gerrard, Sir William | 247 | 6 | 11 | Townley, Mary | 150 | 0 0 |
| Golden, Thomas | 128 | 1 | 11 | Townley, Ursula | 400 | 0 6 |
| Gerrard, Thomas | 345 | 14 | 2 | Townley, Richard | 991 | 13 5½ |
| Gerrard, Richard | 150 | 0 | 0 | Trafford, John | 303 | 2 7 |
| Harrington, Charles | 197 | 3 | 6 | Tildesley, Edward | 720 | 9 2 |
| Harrington, Mary | 200 | 0 | 0 | Walmsley, Richard | 205 | 4 6 |
| Harrington, Dorothy | 107 | 12 | 6 | Westley, John | 119 | 11 1 |
| Hesketh, William | 198 | 3 | 4½ | Westley, John | 230 | 5 1½ |

Rebellion
of 1745.

The rebellion of 1745, though much more formidable in itself than that of 1715, was viewed in Preston with more composure. The history of that insurrection will be found in the second volume of this work; and it is only necessary to say here, that on the 3d of October, after the defeat of sir John Cope at Preston-pans, and during the occupation of Edinburgh by prince Charles Edward, the young Chevalier de St. George, who was preparing to march southward, the nobility, clergy, and gentry of Lancashire met at the Town-hall of Preston, and, after an excellent speech made by the earl of Derby, which was seconded by Mr. Bootle, entered into an association to raise five thousand men for the defence of the government.*

The insurgent army, about six thousand strong, with prince Charles Edward at its head, marched through Preston, on the 27th of November, on its route to London, to the animating tune of "The king shall have his own again." After advancing by Manchester to Derby, the prince and his followers, to avoid being surrounded and made prisoners, commenced their retreat to Scotland, and on the 12th of December, at nine in the morning, they again passed through this town, to the less agreeable, but equally appropriate, sounds of "Hie thee, Charley, home again."

On the following day, at noon, the Georgia rangers arrived at Preston in full pursuit, and were soon afterwards followed by a party of the duke of Kingston's horse,

* Page 68—71 and 295—302.

commanded by lieutenant-colonel Mordaunt, and the captains lord Robert Manners ^{Preston Parish.} and lord Byron. General Oglethorpe, entering the town with detachments of horse from marshal Wade's army, having marched from Doncaster in three days, above one hundred measured miles, over snow and ice, detached the Georgia rangers after the rebels, and followed them himself the next day.

The pursuit of general Oglethorp's dragoons hastened the movements of the rebel army, and, had the duke of Cumberland arrived a few days sooner, Fulwood moor would probably have witnessed the scene which, in the month of April following, took place on the heath of Culloden.

In the midst of these agitations, the ladies of Preston were by no means inactive, when the safety of their own families, or the welfare of the public, required their exertion; and it is related of Mrs. Grimshaw, the mother of the worthy Mayor of the Guild, on the best authority, that while her husband, the under-sheriff of the county, was at a distance providing for the safety of a part of his young family, she raised a sum of several hundred pounds, demanded from the inhabitants, and presented with her own hands the price of the public safety to the Scottish chiefs, at their head-quarters, the White Bull inn.

An institution of a singular kind, connected with the political history of these times, was set on foot in the year 1701, by the duke of Norfolk, the earl of Derwentwater, sir Thomas Sherburne, sir William Pennington, and a number of other gentry of the Jacobite party in Lancashire.* Under an appearance of jollity and conviviality, a political purpose was concealed, and the members constituted themselves into a sort of mock corporate body, by the designation of *The Mayor and Corporation of the ancient Borough of Walton*, taking their denomination from Walton le Dale. The meetings were held at a small public-house in that village, now called the Unicorn, and the proceedings were conducted with a kind of ludicrous formality. Their register contains a record of such of the transactions as it was judged prudent to commit to paper; and a mace, a sword of state, and four large staves covered with silver, served to keep up the mystery and whimsicality of this *coterie*. They had also a hunting rod, mounted with silver, and inscribed, "The gift of Bannister

Mock corporation.

* In 1709, says Dr. Whitaker, the mayor was the most noble Thomas, duke of Norfolk; sir Nicholas Sherburn, of Stonyhurst, mayor's boy; sir W. Pennington, bart., town's bailiff; Charles Townley, of Townley, esq., deputy mayor: in 1711 the mayor was the unfortunate James, earl of Derwentwater; in 1715 no meeting was held. In the accounts of 1745 is the following entry: "Pd 2^d 6^d for fixing the plates upon the staves, which were taken off on account of the *Rebels* coming hither;" but the word, rebels, is written upon an erasure, and I suspect upon the word duke. They were only become rebels after their defeat. The year 1766 is the last in which the meeting continued to be respectable. It has since fallen into the hands of inferior tradesmen, who are still possessed of the ancient insignia of office, and who continue to assemble with some of the old formalities, but with neither the danger nor the dignity of their predecessors. Hist. Richmondsh. Vol. II. p. 429.

Preston
Parish.

Parker, of Entwistle, Esq. for the use of the Corporation of Walton, 1721." Each of the staves has a silver top and hoop, on which are engraved the names of the mayor and other officers of this self-created corporation. On the first staff, upon the top the inscription is, "W^m Farington, Esq. mayor of Walton, y^e 13th Nov. 1701." Round this, "The Rt. Hon. James Earl of Derwentwater, Viscount Ratcliffe Langley, and Baron Tindale, mayor; John Walmsley, Esq. recorder; Rich. Assheton and Robt. Parker, Esqrs. bailiffs; Wm. Cooten, chaplain; John Dale, deputy mayor." In the following year, under the mayoralty of Edmund Trafford, esq., two sergeants and a house-groper were added to the corporation. In 1705 appear a physician, taster, mace-bearer, poet-laureate, and town-clerk. Afterwards, a huntsman, slut-kisser, custard-eater, sub deputy-mayor, and others, increased the number of officers, who consisted of the representatives of the most ancient and distinguished families in the county. The hoops for the eventful years 1715 and 16 are, it may readily be conceived, *lost*. The rebellion of 1715 took off some of the most efficient of the members, but the mock corporation continued to exist;* when its essential functions had passed away, and the register and staves were in the possession of sir Henry Philip Houghton, bart.*

* Till 1500

Early
trade and
popula-
tion.

For upwards of a century, after the year 1660, the borough of Preston remained stationary, and at least four generations of men were born and died without materially affecting the amount of the population, which fluctuated during that long period between five and six thousand souls. Owing to the increased difficulties of navigating the Ribble, Liverpool and Lancaster had begun to divide the commerce of the county, to the exclusion of Preston; the only manufacture was linen, from yarn spun with the distaff and the spindle; and a few worsted fabrics; the courts of justice and public offices, however, served to keep up the consequence of the place, and, if the expression may be allowed, law was then the staple commodity.

Great
election.

At the period of the memorable contest, called in this town *The Great Election*, an enterprising genius, a native and a free in-burgess of Preston,† then in the humble situation of a barber, prepared to give an impulse to the cotton business of England, which has continued to operate with augmenting force to the present hour, and has contributed essentially to render this branch of manufacture the most considerable in the world.‡ It appears from the evidence of John Kay, a mechanic, delivered on oath before the court of king's bench, the 25th of June, 1785, on a legal inquiry into the subject of the patent right of spinning machines, that in the year

Cotton
manufac-
ture.

* Sir Henry died at Walton Hall on the 27th of November, 1835, aged 67 years.

† Certificate from the parish register of Preston church:—"Richard, son of Thomas Arkwright, born December 23d, 1732, baptized December 31, 1732; dated 7th of September, 1824." Signed, "EDWARD M. HALL, curate." There are reasons for believing that he was born either in the house now occupied by Mr. Clare, hosier, or that adjoining, in Lord-street.

‡ See History of the Cotton Manufacture in Vol. II. p. 397—530.

1768 this deponent accompanied Richard Arkwright* to Preston, at the time of Burgoyne's election, bringing with him two models of a spinning jenny, invented by Thomas Highs, a reed-maker at Leigh. Some time before the election commenced, Arkwright was actively employed in preparing for his manufacturing operations, and his first rude spinning machine was fitted up in the parlour of the house belonging to the Free Grammar School, which was lent to his friend and future partner, Mr. Smalley, for the purpose, by Mr. Ellis Henry, the head-master of the school. At that time the wardrobe of the future knight was in so tattered a condition, that a number of persons subscribed to put him into decent plight to appear in the poll-room. As soon as the election was over, Richard Arkwright and Kay left the town, and Mr. John Smalley, a liquor merchant and painter, accompanied them into Nottinghamshire, where they soon after erected the first spinning manufactory ever established in England. At that time there prevailed a strong prejudice amongst the labouring classes in all parts of Lancashire, against the use of machinery for abridging manual labour, which prejudice existed for many years afterwards, and rose to such a height as to endanger both the person and the works of any manufacturer who might have the temerity to introduce the new machines. This is the true reason why the county of Nottingham, instead of the county of Lancaster, was selected for the erection of the new works; and it was partly owing to this cause, that cotton machinery was not introduced into Preston for nearly ten years after it had become pretty general in some other parts of the county of Lancaster.

Preston
Parish.

The first manufactory erected here for the spinning of cotton, was built by Messrs. Collison and Watson, at the bottom of Friargate, in 1777, but the business of that establishment—"The Factory," as it was emphatically called—though then thought considerable, would now be esteemed as on a small scale. The cotton trade made little progress in Preston till the year 1791, when the late Mr. John Horrocks came to reside in the town, and commenced the muslin manufacture, in a small warehouse at Syke Hill. The skill, enterprise, and industry of this extraordinary man, soon elevated him to eminence in his business, and the manufactories in Dale-street, Friday-street, Frenchwood, Spital-moss and Canal-street, rose in succession under his fostering hand. The character and pursuits of the town now underwent an important change; the gentry, for whom it had been for many ages distinguished, still continued to reside here, but the manufacturing soon became the predominant interest; and Mr. Horrocks, at the head of that interest, supported by the corporation, was elevated, in 1802, to the rank of representative of the borough of Preston in parliament, having for his colleague and co-adjutor lord Stanley, the only son of the earl of Derby. The career of this gentleman was as short as it was prosperous; he only survived his senatorial honours two years, and died in

First ma-
nufactory.

* See History of Sir R. Arkwright, Vol. II. p. 429.

Preston
Parish.

Steam
engines.

London, on the 1st of March, 1804, in the 36th year of his age. He was succeeded in both his business and seat in parliament, by his elder brother, Samuel Horrocks, esq., the head of those great manufacturing establishments in this place, which at the present time afford employment in the spinning and manufacturing businesses to upwards of four thousand of the inhabitants,* independent of those employed in bleaching and finishing the cloth. In addition to the works of Mr. Horrocks,† and his copartners, several manufacturing establishments, belonging to other proprietors, exist in this town and neighbourhood; and there are at present no fewer than forty factories, chiefly engaged in the spinning of cotton, which yield 70,000lbs. of cotton yarn weekly. The total number of steam engines at present in the borough is 47, of the aggregate power of 1288 horses, exclusive of five now erecting for cotton mills, equal to the power of 172 horses, making a total of 52 engines, with a power of 1460 horses. The principal prevailing manufactures are cotton-spinning and manufacturing, together with flax-spinning, in which latter branch there are eight establishments employed. The principal articles produced in the loom are cambrics, calicoes, and heavy cloths. The weavers are very numerous, and almost all the trades connected with the manufactures of Lancashire prevail in this borough.

* At mid-day, on Sunday, the 27th of July, 1823, an attempt was made, by a cotton spinner, of the name of Andrew Riding, to murder Mr. Samuel Horrocks. The assassin having followed his intended victim down Church-street, aimed a desperate blow at his head with a butcher's cleaver, as he entered the area in front of Mr. Miller's house, and cut through his hat behind; on which Mr. Horrocks turned round, and received the second blow upon his left arm, when the instrument fell to the ground, and Riding was apprehended. Having been brought afterwards by the committing magistrate, Nich. Grimshaw, esq. into Mr. Horrocks' bed-chamber, at Larkhill, he gazed upon the wounds with perfect composure! and quitted the room without the slightest expression of compunction! Riding, who was brought to trial at the ensuing assizes at Lancaster, and acquitted on the ground of insanity, but confined for life under an act of the late king, attributed this ferocious attack to some attempt on the part of the manufacturers to reduce the wages of the spinners, which, he conceived, had been unduly promoted by Mr. Horrocks.



† The arms borne by the family of Horrocks, as granted by the Herald's College, are pointedly *allusive*:—Or, a fret, azure, on a chief of the last, a bee volant, between two shuttles in pale of the first. *Crest*. On a rock, an eagle with wings expanded and endorsed proper pendent from the beak a shield gules, charged with a hank of cotton, argent. (Borne by Samuel Horrocks, esq., of Penwortham Lodge, M. P. for Preston, 1825.) *Berry's Ency. Heraldica*. The *motto*, omitted by Mr. Berry, is explanatory of the allusions in the arms and crest—*Industria et Spe*.

From the reign of James I. to the breaking out of the second revolutionary war with France, when England rose in arms to repel the insolent menace of a threatened invasion, it does not appear that Preston had ever the honour to entertain a guest of the blood-royal, (except indeed the young chevalier prince Charles Edward,) but on the 21st of September, 1803, his royal highness prince William Frederick, (late duke) of Gloucester, the commander of the north-western district of England, attended by a numerous suite, came hither from his head-quarters at Liverpool, to review the volunteer corps under the command of lieutenant-colonel Grimshaw and lieutenant-colonel Watson. On this occasion, the freedom of the borough was presented to his royal highness by Samuel Horrocks, esq. the mayor, after an address from James Allan Park (now judge Park,) the recorder, and the corporation displayed their hospitality by entertaining the noble visiter and his suite with a public dinner at the Bull inn. On the anniversary of this visit, in the year following, the duke of Gloucester, brother to his late majesty George III. attended by his son prince William Frederick, inspected the Preston volunteer corps on the Marsh, and was presented with the freedom of the borough by Daniel Lyon, esq. the mayor, in the town-hall, after an eloquent and impressive address from John Grimshaw, esq. the senior alderman, and father of the corporation.

Preston
Parish.Royal
visit.

The edifices devoted to the purposes of religious worship in Preston, consist of four churches and one chapel of the Establishment, two Roman Catholic chapels, and thirteen other chapels, belonging to various denominations of Protestant Dissenters. The parish church, as we have already seen, is of Saxon origin, built the first century after the establishment of the Christian religion in this country, and at first dedicated to St. Wilfrid, archbishop of York. At a later period, probably soon after the Reformation, the Romish saint was discarded, and this parish church is now called St. John's. Roger de Poictou gave the church of Prestone, with the tithe of the lordship and fishery, to St. Martin's of Sees, the Norman abbey, to which the priory of Lancaster was appropriated. The crown in two instances exercised the right of presentation. In 25 Edw. I. William de Dakre held the advowson of Preston church.* The prior and monks, in the reign of Edward II., were involved in litigation respecting the tithes of the forests of Fulwode and Hyde Park, demesnes of the earl of Lancaster, which by decree, dated at York, on Thursday before the conversion of St. Paul, 1323, were restored and confirmed to the priory of Lancaster. In 1359, Henry, duke of Lancaster, held the patronage of this living, which, in 1371, was exercised by John of Gaunt. In the 15th century the patronage of the vicarage was in the dean and chapter of Leycester; in the 16th, in the Bold family. In 7 Charles I. the advowson of the rectory was held by sir Richard Hoghton;† and his

St. John's.

* Escaet. 25 Edward I. n. 51.

† "Tenuit advocacionem Rectoriæ de Preston in Amunderness." Duchy Rec. Vol. XXVII. Inq. n. 13.

Preston
Parish.

descendant, sir Henry Philip Hoghton, bart. patron and lay rector, sold the presentation to the trustees of Hulme's Exhibitions. The successive incumbents, from 6 Elizabeth to the present time, are collected from the episcopal registers of Chester and other authentic sources :—

LIST OF VICARS OF PRESTON,
IN THE DEANERY OF AMOUDERNESSE, AND ARCHDEACONRY OF RICHMOND.

| DATE OF INSTI- TUTION. | VICARS. | ON WHOSE PRESEN- TATION. | CAUSE OF VACANCY. |
|---|--|--|--|
| Sept. 29, 1567 Sept. 4, 14 Eliz. | Nicholas Bradshaw. Roger Chorley Nicholas Danyell | Thomas Patchett . John Bold, of North Meols | Death of Nich. Bradshaw. Resign. of Roger Chorley. |
| Aug. 27, 1580 Dec. 21, 35 Eliz. Feb. 12, 1603 | Thomas Wall William Sawrey John Paler | The king Henry Bold Robert Parker, Yeoman. | Resign. of Nich. Daniell. Death of Thomas Walls. |
| May 28, 1621 July 21, 1623 | James Martin Alexander Bradley . . . | Sir Rich. Haughton King James, patron by lapse of time. | Death of John Paler. |
| May 19, 1625 Nov. 18, 1626 | John Inskip Augustine Wildbore . . . | The king. Sir Rich. Haughton, knt. and bart. | |
| Dec. 2, 1630 | James Starkie Seth Bushell. | The same | Resign. of August. Wildbore. |
| Oct. 12, 1682 May 29, 1700 July 4, 1727 | Thomas Birch Samuel Peploe Samuel Peploe, jun. . . . | Sir Chas. Houghton The same King George | Resign. of Seth Bushell. Death of Thomas Birch. Promotion of Samuel Peploe to the bishopric of Chester. |
| April 30, 1743 | Randal Andrews | Wm. Shaw, for this turn only | Resign. of Sam. Peploe. |
| Oct. 30, 1782 Sept. 26, 1809 | Humphrey Shuttleworth . James Penny | Sir Henry Houghton Sir John Philip Houghton | Death of Randal Andrews. Resig. of Hum. Shuttleworth. |
| March 1, 1817 | Roger Carus Wilson, pre- sent incumbent | Wm. Wilson Carus Wilson | Death of James Penny. |

Descrip-
tion of the
church.

As a fabric, there is nothing about the parish church of St. John to call for particular observation. The body of the church consists of two elevations with castellated parapets. The nave is divided from the side aisles by pointed arches, deeply hollowed, and resting upon octagonal pillars. The present body was rebuilt about 1770, the tower in 1814, the chancel in 1817, and in 1823 the choir was renovated. It is properly described as a good ordinary parish church.^a A handsome organ, presented to the parishioners by the late John Horrocks, esq. M.P. at a cost of 500 guineas, stands in the front of the gallery, and contributes at once to ornament the interior of the church, and to add to the solemnity of its services. There are no very ancient monuments; but the copy of one, which existed some centuries

^a Hist of
Rich-
mond.

ago, has been preserved. It is in memory of one of the Travers, of Tulketh, Nateby, Preston, &c.* The mayor's pew is decorated with the arms of Preston; a paschal lamb couchant, under which are the words, "Insignia Villæ de Preston." "Nicholas Grimshawe, esq." the guild mayor. Preston Parish.

The earliest registers commence in October, 1611, and the following results serve to indicate the progress of the population in Preston:— Parish registers.

| | 1611-1612. | 1700-1701. | 1800-1801. | 1833-1834. |
|---------------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|
| Baptisms | 40 89 | 86 92 | 285 253 | 1036 1112 |
| Marriages | 13 22 | 37 23 | 111 111 | 350 346 |
| Burials | 39 71 | 116 99 | 418 427 | 583 569 |

Since the census of 1801, the town has nearly tripled its population,† in consequence, no doubt, of the flourishing state of its trade and manufactures. Population.

Next to the parish church, St. George's Chapel, situated between Fishergate and Friargate, is the oldest episcopal place of worship in Preston. This plain brick edifice, built in the year 1723, is a chapel of ease to St. John's, and has at all times had a respectable, though not a very numerous congregation. St. George's.

The rapid increase of population towards the close of the last and the beginning of the present century, has led to a corresponding increase of churches, and Trinity Church, St. Peter's, and St. Paul's have all been erected within the last ten years. Trinity Church, consecrated by Dr. Law, bishop of Chester, on the 15th December, 1815, is a neat plain Gothic structure, built at a cost of £9,000, of which sum £4,000 was raised by subscriptions and donations. The site is well chosen between Great Shaw-street and the Back-lane, in an elevated situation, on a plot of ground formerly called Patten-field. A handsome square tower, somewhat deficient in height, stands at the west end of the church, and the interior to the east is appropriately ornamented by a spacious window of stained glass, in five compartments, executed by Mr. William Raphael Egginton, of Birmingham. Trinity.

The foundations of St. Peter's Church, in the Fylde-road, were laid on the 12th St. Peter's.

| | |
|---|--|
| <p>* I Travers by birth a Norman, To gain victorious conquest, With William Conqueror in I came As one chief rol'd amongst the rest. His guerdon was a crown, And ours subjects spoyle, Some ransom'd tow'r & town, Some planted English soyle. Tulketh his castle & herison, My captives maulger were;</p> | <p>His daughter & his heire Dame Alison I spoused to my fere. Thirty winters thus were worne In spousalls, mirth & glee: Four begotten he had & borne, Ere crowned was Beauclerk Henery. Arnold & Jordan Fitz-Travers, The one me succeed. th'other tooke orders; With Constance & Blanch, my daughters The one to spousalls, the other vow'd cloysters.</p> |
|---|--|

John Travers, of Tulkethe, &c., occurs in the Escheats of 36 Edw. III. (P. 2. n. 52.)

† See Vol. II. p. 102.

Preston Parish. of September, 1822, during the festival of the last Preston Guild, by Mr. Justice Park, the recorder of this borough; and the church has been erected by the commissioners for building new churches, at a cost of £6,900,* on a site presented for that pious purpose, along with the land forming the adjoining cemetery, by James Allan Park, esq. the son of the judge. This church contains a handsome east window of stained glass, executed by Mr. Seward, of Lancaster.

St. Paul's. The New Church, dedicated to St. Paul, built by the same commissioners on land presented for the purpose by the late Cunliffe Shawe, esq., is situated near the bottom of Church-street, adjoining Park-road to the east. It is a handsome building of Gothic architecture, and of the style called the early English, or that which prevailed in the 12th century. This edifice is situated in a spacious church-yard, provided as an additional cemetery for the use of the parish. Both this and St. Peter's church do much credit to Messrs. Rickman and Hutchinson, the architects from whose designs they are built. It was generally wished that a spire might be attached to one of the new churches, and that the additional expense should be raised by subscription, but the plans could not be altered. The manufactories still tower over the churches, the highest building in the town being the chimney of a steam-engine; and it is an extraordinary fact, that previous to the erection of the new Catholic chapel of St. Ignatius, and the addition of a spire to the church at Mellor, in Blackburn parish, there was not a spire between the Lune and the Ribble, with the exception of one at Lancaster, nor is there a single spire within fourteen miles of Preston.

Chapels. Numerous as the Roman Catholics have long been in the town and neighbourhood of Preston, it does not appear that, at any period since the Reformation, when the Franciscan Convent was dissolved, and the parish church passed out of their possession into the hands of the Protestants, that they had ever more than one place of public worship in this town, till the year 1793. The original chapel, called St. Mary's, is situated at the top of Friargate brow, and serves as a chapel of ease to their more modern sanctuary, which is dedicated to the early patron saint of the parish church. A well-executed painting of the Lord's Supper hangs over the altar in St. Mary's chapel. On the erection of the new chapel, the old one was converted into a cotton warehouse, to which purpose it was applied for nearly twenty years, when it was again fitted up as a chapel, and has been ever since used by the Roman Catholics for the purpose of religious worship. St. Wilfrid's chapel is a capacious

* It is not generally known that the grant of £12,500 was obtained by the bishop of Chester (Lawe) to defray the expenses of *one* church, St. Peter's, on the representation of Nicholas Grimshaw, esq. and Thomas Troughton, esq.; but that, on the suggestion of the vicar, the commissioners resolved upon the erection of *two* churches out of the original grant, which was effected, exclusive of the burial-ground attached to St. Paul's.

building, capable of accommodating a congregation of 3,000 persons; it is situated in Chapel-street, Fishergate, and was opened on the 4th of June, 1793. High mass is performed here on all the great festivals, and the altar-piece is enriched with several paintings of superior workmanship. Contiguous to this chapel the Benedictine Nuns of Ghent had a seminary, which was opened in the year 1792, but in 1812 they removed to Caverswall castle, in Staffordshire, where the sisterhood are now established. Stonyhurst,* the great English Roman Catholic seminary, is in this neighbourhood, and from thence this town and its vicinity are supplied with Catholic missionaries. The chapel of St. Ignatius, of which the first stone was laid on Whit-Monday, May 27, 1833, is a cruciform structure, with a tower and spire 60 feet high, making a total height of 112 feet.

Preston
Parish.

One of the most eminent of the nonconformist ministers, the reverend Isaac Ambrose, vicar of Garstang, and author of the evangelical treatise on "Looking to Jesus," was settled here at the period of the Commonwealth, and it is probable that a congregation of protestant dissenters was formed in Preston soon after the passing of the memorable St. Bartholomew's act in 1662. The chapel near the bottom of Church-street, built in the year 1718, was first used by the Presbyterians, but has for many years been occupied by the Unitarians. The Friends' meeting-house, in Friargate, was erected in 1784. Before that time, this religious community assembled in a building between Everton-gardens and Spring-gardens, to the east of St. John's-street. The Baptist chapel, at the top of Leeming-street, was erected in 1783; and re-opened 19th February, 1833. There is another Particular Baptist's place of worship in Cannon-street, opened 18th December, 1833; and a Sandemanian, or Scot's Baptist room in Church-street, commenced in 1823. The Methodist (old) chapel, in the Back-lane, now converted into a corn warehouse, was built in 1788, during the life-time of the Rev. John Wesley, and was superseded, in the year 1817, by the more spacious and commodious structure in Lune-street, which is capable of accommodating a congregation of 2000 persons. The Primitive Methodists' meeting-room, Lawson-street, was commenced about 1827. The Protestant Wesleyan Methodist chapel, Chadwick's Orchard, was erected in 1831. The Independent chapel, in Fishergate, built in 1790, was superseded by a chapel in Cannon-street, which was erected in 1825. The Independent chapel, in Grimshaw-street, Church-street, was finished in 1808. St. Paul's chapel, in Vauxhall-road, used in 1814 by the followers of Mr. Alexander Kilham, a sect of seceders from the Methodists, who contend for a more popular form of church government, was purchased by a congregation of semi-episcopalians, in 1819, and the service according to the ritual of the Church of England was performed here for a short time by a

* For a concise history of this collegiate establishment, see Stonyhurst, in Vol. III. p. 372-5.

Preston Parish. minister licensed at the quarter-sessions, but not ordained by the bishop ; it was then purchased by the Wesleyan Methodists, who left it about two years ago, and it was occupied for a short time by the General Baptists. It has now reverted to the semi-episcopalians. The Countess of Huntingdon's connexion opened a temporary meeting-room in Cannon-street, in 1814, but now hold their meetings in a chapel in Pole-street, which was opened 9th April, 1816.

Charities. The following is a brief summary of the objects and amounts of the Preston charities, derived from Report XI. of the Parliamentary Commissioners for inquiring concerning charities.*

* P. 321—
352.

Parish of Preston. *Free Grammar School.*—There are no documents relating to the foundation, which is, with probability, attributed to the corporation, from whom the head master receives a salary of £45, and the usher £40. The school is open to the sons of freemen ; and there are about 36 boys, about the half of whom receive a classical education. To this school belongs a field, let upon ground-rents amounting to £46. 3s. bequeathed in 1663, by Bartholomew Worthington, for the support of a school, and the reversion purchased by the corporation in 28 Charles II. The interest of £180, paid by the Lancaster Canal Company, under act of parliament, is received by the schoolmaster.

Blue Schools.—In 1702 Roger Sudell devised a stable and hayloft in Minsprit Wiend, to be converted into a schoolhouse, with an endowment of £10 per annum, and £2 for books. Subsequent benefactors augmented the funds to £1000, with which, in 1813, stock was purchased. Another Blue School, in Whitaker's-row, was erected out of money collected in the parish church for the use of charity schools. In 1817 it was agreed to unite the Blue School with the National School, then recently established. Since this time the funds have increased, and in 1830 the schoolhouse was re-erected upon the original site in Minsprit Wiend, where education and clothing is afforded to twenty-five boys, and the same number of girls.

Bread Money.—Up to the year 1812, inclusive, £1. 10s. was paid out of the school accounts, and was distributed in bread. After that time the practice was discontinued ; but the vicar determined, in 1828, to revive the charity. In 1710 Mrs Smith left the interest of £10 for bread.

Charities for the Use of the Poor.—Richard Houghton, in 1613, left in rent £2. 10s. per annum ; Cosney, in 1678, £5 per annum interest ; Crook, in 1688, £4 per annum rent ; Hodgkinson, in 1697, £2. 10s. per annum interest ; Dawson, in 1698, £5 per annum interest ; William Rishton, in 1729, £5 per annum interest ; Parker or Chorley, in 1747, £5 per annum interest.

| | |
|-----------------|------|
| Total per annum | £29. |
|-----------------|------|

Rogerson's Charity.—In 1619 a rent charge of £13, of which £9 was directed to be given to the mayor to assist poor apprentices, and the residue to be laid out in meat and drink for poor prisoners in Lancaster castle

| | |
|--|------|
| | £13. |
|--|------|

Banister's Charity.—In 1642, a rent of £16, of which £10 is paid to the vicar, and the remaining £6 is applied, together with the produce of Rogerson's charity, in binding out apprentices. These funds belong to the corporation.

Thomas Houghton's Charity.—In 1649, land for the poor of Preston and Grimsargh, as well as other places. The annual rent is £64, which is divided into four equal parts, of which Preston and Grimsargh receive one. This is subdivided, and two-thirds given to Preston, and one-third to Grimsargh.

- Winckley's Charity*.—In 1710, the interest of £50 for binding poor apprentices. This, and Hodgkinson's charity in 1697, belong to the corporation, and there is an accumulation of interest amounting to £34. 9s. 4d. Preston Parish.
- Addison's Charity*.—In 1729, a rent charge of £5 to 20 poor housekeepers.
- Henry and Eleanor Rishton's Charity*.—In 1738, in trust for the poor, £300. Part of the income is applied annually in binding out apprentices, and the remainder is given to poor persons, in sums of 2s. 6d. each.
- Rigby's Charity*.—In 1741, the interest of £100 to six poor widows £5.
- Donors Unknown*.—Two benefactions, amounting to £70, appear upon a paper, written between 1750 and 1760, and are secured upon a close of land in Kirkham, left at the yearly rent of £7. Two-sevenths of the rent are paid to St. Michael's parish.
- Ann Winckley's Charity*.—In 1779, the interest of £100 to poor widows. Annual produce £5. 2s. 4d.
- Lost Charities*.—Eight benefactions, from the year 1605 to 1631, amounting to £134. Whittingham's, in 1690, the interest of £68. Ingham's and Ashton's, in 1609 and 1709, of £7. 4s. per annum, probably never received.
- Sudell's Charity*.—£5. 10s. per annum, which has not been paid these 60 years.
- Worthington's Almshouses*.—Built in 1663, were taken down about thirty years ago, and the materials sold for £12. 12s.; which, with other money, was applied to building one almshouse on waste land.
- Corporation Almshouses*.—In 1790, six almshouses were built on waste land, and are occupied, rent free, by persons appointed by the corporation. There are also three others at the top of the Clerk-yard, occupied by three persons put in by the mayor.
- School*.—The earliest conveyance of the school property is dated 22 December, 33 Elizabeth. The property consists of six tenements, which let for £127. 12s.; but the whole income is £128. 12s. out of which the upper master has a salary of £50 a year, and the usher £40. The school is free to all children of the chapelry, of whom the average number in the school is between 90 and 100. The Chapelry of Broughton.
- Daniel's Charity*.—In 1656, two parcels of land, of which the rent amounts to £16. 10s., for the use of the poor, deducting a rent charge of £1 to the chapelry school. Township of Broughton.
- Thomas Houghton's Charity*.—See *Preston*. A fourth part of the rent belongs to Broughton township.
- Charities of Boscow and others*.—Bequests of £41 amount, of which no trace can be found.
- Unknown*.—Poor stock amounting to £77. 10s., the origin of which is not known. Township of Barton.
- Houghton's Charity*.—See *Preston*. One-quarter of the rents is received by Alston and Elston, and the latter township receives one-third of the division. Township of Elston.
- Farrington's Charity*.—In 1670, land to the poor of Ribbleton and Elston, which lets for £55. A fall of timber on the estate, in 1800, produced £560. 5s., the interest of which, £24. 15s. 6d. as well as the rent, is divided equally between the two townships.
- School*.—There is a schoolhouse in which a master resides, with a school attached to it, and a garden adjoining. There are 30 or 40 children, all of whom pay a quarterage settled by the master. Township of Grim-sargh.
- Houghton's Charity*.—See *Preston*.
- Charnley's Charity*.—In 1737, the interest of £5 to the chapel clerk, and £1 yearly to poor housekeepers.

- Preston Parish.** *Boylton Rent Charge.*—In 1631, by indenture which cannot be found, £3. 15s. payable from the Boylton estate to the poor of the hamlet.
- Hamlet of Brockholes.** *Lea School.*—Endowed, in 1784, by Samuel Neeld, with a messuage and tenement which let for £90. There is a pew in Preston church, let for 12s. 6d. a year. There are also the school premises and school-house. About 15 children, on an average, are taught here.
- Township of Lea, Ashton, Ingol, and Cotham.** *Farrington's Charity.*—See *Elston*. Besides the moiety of rents and interests before mentioned, there is a sum of £100, which has accumulated out of the share due to Ribbleson. The income of this and the two following charities, amounting annually to £57. 7s. 6d., form one fund, which is distributed to the poor.
- Luck Field.*—A field so called, which lets for £9.
- Rent Charge.*—A sum of £5. 10s., paid out of an estate in Elston called Willacy's Tenement.

There are many other benevolent establishments, for education and other laudable purposes, of modern date, which are, happily, familiar to all.

Recapitulation of charters, & history of corporation.

The corporation is in possession of a certificate, under the hand and seal of sir Thomas Walmsley, chief justice in the time of queen Elizabeth, and recorder of this borough, stating that, amongst other charters to Preston, he had seen one granted by Henry I. in the first year of his reign, the heads of which he recites in his certificate, but no charter of Henry I. is to be found either amongst the records of the corporation, or in the Calendar of the Charter Rolls in the Tower.*

The charter of Henry II.† grants to the burgesses of Preston the same privileges and immunities as those which were enjoyed by the inhabitants of Newcastle-under-Lyne, (though no charter of this date is to be found there,) and the principal of which were, that they should hold a guild merchant in the borough, and that they should pass through all his majesty's dominions with their merchandise, buying, selling, and trafficking freely, without being subject to tollage, stallage, customs, &c. The elective franchise was first conferred upon Preston in the 23d of Edward I. and succeeding charters through four centuries confirmed, and in some degree extended, the privileges of the burgesses; but the charter of queen Elizabeth is the *Magna Charta* of Preston.

In the 14th of Charles II. dating from the Restoration, that monarch granted to the corporation of Preston a charter, which, in addition to their other privileges, gave them the right of acquiring lands and revenues of the annual value of any sum not exceeding £200; but from the caprice of that monarch's councils, and with the assistance of his sanguinary chief justice Jefferies, Preston, in common with most of

* Dr. Kuerden mentions the same fact: "Preston in Amundernes was constituted a borough by Hen. the son of the Empress, as appears ex Bundell. Escaet. A. 1 H. 3. n. 18." MS. Collect. in the Heralds' Coll. Vol. VI. fo. 139.

† The burgesses of Preston paid one hundred marks to Henry II. and the sum of two-pence, with sixty marks and four "chascurs," or dogs, to king John for these charters.

the other boroughs of the kingdom, was divested of its charters in 1684,* and left without any rights or privileges but such as the king would vouchsafe to grant her.^a In this situation the borough remained till within three weeks of the king's death, when the charter of 36 Charles II. was granted, under which the town has been governed from that time to the present.^b This charter, which in some degree remodelled the corporation, gives that body authority to plead by the ancient title—"The mayor, bailiffs, and burgesses of the borough of Preston, in the county palatine of Lancaster," to have a common seal, and to acquire lands. It directs that the election of a mayor shall take place every year, in the week next preceding the feast of St. Wilfrid, by a jury of twenty-four resident burgesses, which jury shall be chosen by two of the more worthy and discreet inhabitants (called *Elisors*) and which officers shall be chosen, one by the mayor, and the other by the aldermen of the borough present at the election. It ordains further, that the bailiffs, aldermen, and capital burgesses shall continue aldermen and capital burgesses, and that the recorder shall hold office for life, unless dismissed for some reasonable cause.

Preston
Parish.

^a Rapin.

^b Decemb.
1835.

This charter grants a power to hold a court in the borough before the mayor and two or three of the aldermen every third week, on the Friday, for the trial of all actions personally arising within the borough. It also grants two markets to be held every Wednesday and Saturday in each week, and re-grants the two customary fairs, one on the Assumption to last for eight days, and the other on the vigil of the feast of Simon and Jude to last five days, and grants a new annual fair, to commence on the 16th of May, to last three days; also, a court of *pie poudre*.—The corporation possess handsome and somewhat superb regalia, of which the large silver gilt mace was presented to that body by his grace, James, the fourth duke of Hamilton, for their courteous attention to his accomplished duchess, lady Elizabeth Gerard, during her abode in Preston.

By the charter of 9 George IV. it is ordained, that, in addition to the mayor, his next immediate predecessor in office for one year after his quitting office, and the senior alderman for the time being, shall be coroners within the borough; and, in addition to the then justices of the peace, every alderman shall be a justice of the peace within the borough. The officers named in this charter are mayor, aldermen, seven besides the mayor, capital burgesses seventeen, recorder, town-bailiff, mayor's bailiff, town's sergeant, mayor's sergeant, and town-clerk. There are seven other officers of the corporation, viz. the mace-bearer, beadle, bellman, gaoler, market-looker, market-keeper, and land-steward. These charters are, in a great degree,

* Jefferies, afterwards George Lord Jeffryes, Baron of Whem in Shropshire, was sumptuously entertained by the corporation of Preston, on his return from the assizes at Lancaster, in the autumn of 1684,—on the principle, probably, that certain of the Indian tribes pay their devotion to the spirit of evil. A letter of the chief justice, in good preservation, is amongst the corporation records, dated 29th September, 1684.

Preston Parish. superseded by the act for the regulation of municipal corporations, which allows the functions, and gives more definite powers to the members of the municipal council.

In the year 1772, the corporation renewed their prosecutions against "merchant strangers," who had established themselves in the town of Preston, without possessing the qualification as freemen of the borough; and in the corporation books of the date of the 6th of April in that year, the following entry appears:—

"Received into stock from the subscribers to Baines's prosecution towards paying Mr. Grimshaw's Bill from Thomas Walshman £47. 7s. 8d."

And on the credit, or opposite side of the Ledger—

"Rec^d 27th April, 1772, from the Mercers, Grocers, &c. Company, within the borough of Preston, the sum of £45, by the hands of Mr. Walshman and Mr. Derbyshire, the wardens, in full for my costs of the Prosecutions against Baines to March Assizes last.

"JOHN GRIMSHAW."

With the history of this prosecution, one of the last remaining vestiges of feudal policy, we have reason to be familiarly acquainted. The effect was to subject Mr. Baines to expenses amounting to several hundreds of pounds, and ultimately to oblige him to remove from Preston to Walton-le-Dale. A short time previously, Mr. Baines had married Jane, the daughter of Edward Chew, esq. a gentleman long engaged in the East India trade, maternally descended from the Rigbys of Middleton Hall; and the author of this work, being the second son of that marriage, was born at Walton on the 5th of February, in the year 1774. Till he had attained almost to manhood, he resided in Preston; he then removed to Leeds in Yorkshire, where he has been long established, but with undiminished attachment to his native county; inspired by this feeling, he seeks to add to any other honours that he may have attained, the proud distinction of "The Historian of Lancashire."

The borough of Preston has the honour to possess no fewer than fourteen royal original charters, or charters of confirmation, viz:—

**Borough
charters.**

ROYAL CHARTERS GRANTED TO THE CORPORATION OF PRESTON.

| No. | Royal Grantors. | Dates. | No. | Royal Grantors. | Dates. |
|------|-----------------|--------|-------|-----------------|--------|
| I. | Henry II. . . | * | VIII. | Henry V. . . . | 1414 |
| II. | John | 1199 | IX. | Henry VI. . . | 1425 |
| III. | Henry III. . . | 1227 | X. | Philip & Mary | 1557 |
| IV. | Henry III. . . | 1252 | XI. | Elizabeth . . . | 1565 |
| V. | Edward III. . | 1328 | XII. | Charles II. . . | 1673 |
| VI. | Richard II. . . | 1379 | XIII. | Charles II. . . | 1684 |
| VII. | Henry IV. . . | 1401 | XIV. | George IV. . . | 1828 |

* The Charter of Henry II. is without date, but in the by-laws of the corporation of Preston, it is said to have been granted in the 10th year of his reign; this, however, appears to be incorrect, for

There are about three hundred resident freemen, and about three thousand non-resident.* Freedom is acquired by birth, and by gift or grant; but it is supposed that in former times almost every respectable housekeeper was a burgess. This opinion, expressed by the corporation commissioners, is formed from a comparison of the number of freemen with the population. There are two descriptions of burgesses: in-burgesses, and foreign-burgesses, these are divided into two others—guild-burgesses; those who have been admitted and enrolled at a guild merchant, and those who have not, the latter being called burgesses by court-roll.

Preston
Parish.

The police, lighting, and paving of the town, are under the superintendence of the commissioners under a local act,^a which establishes two separate funds, one for lighting and watching, and the other for paving, widening, and repairing the streets of the borough.

^a 55 G.III.
c. 122.

The revenue of the corporation is derived from tolls, stallage, fisheries, lands, and houses. The tolls consist of market tolls, let for £80 a year, and stallage and weighing machine in the market, let for £130. Besides these tolls, the corporation are entitled to a toll on all goods bought or sold in the borough, and levied on their going out of the borough. This toll formerly produced an annual revenue of £400; but it is now so generally resisted, that it does not produce enough to pay the expenses of collecting it. The fishery of the Ribble is let for £30. The real property of the corporation consists of the corn exchange, which is let for £531. 8s. 11d. a year, and farms, lands, houses, and buildings, let for £1849. 0s. 3d. per annum, making a total of £2620. 9s. 2d. per annum. This includes the sum of £46. 3s. being the rental of the school fields, which the corporation hold as charity property. Twenty lots of the above property, consisting of houses and plots of land in the town, which are let principally on leases for lives, and produce a total rental of £83. 8s. 6d. are estimated as being worth now £409. 10s. per annum. This increase of value arises from local circumstances, and the property being built on and improved by the tenants. Most of the remaining property is let to yearly tenants at rack-rent. In the year 1831-2, the corporation had a balance of about £600 in hand. In addition to this, the corporation are seised of the town-hall, and certain land which is not productive of revenue, and over part of which the burgesses enjoy the pasturage. This

John of Oxford, bishop of Norwich, who is one of the witnesses to this charter, was not made bishop of Norwich until 1175, about the 21st Henry II. The better opinion, therefore is, that the charter was granted in the 26th year of his reign, 1179 or 1180, in the former of which years he spent his Christmas at Winchester, where the charter appears to have been granted.—See Holl. Vol. III. p. 102.

* Report on Municipal Corporations, co. Lanc', p. 1687.

Preston
Parish.

is called Preston Moor, and contains 239A. 3R. 28P.; the estimated annual value of this, if enclosed, is £500. There is likewise another tract of land, called the Marsh, containing 29A. 3R. 20P.; the estimated annual value of which is £100. The corporation are also possessed of the charity funds, called the School Fields, Banister's charity, and Dr. Shepherd's bequest, with Rigby's charity, Rishton's charity, and Winckley's charity. The debts of the corporation now amount to £16,300. The debt, which was formerly larger, has been reduced by annual payments of £500, and in some years £1000 has been paid off. Of this debt £14,000 was borrowed between the years 1822 and 1824 inclusive, and expended in building the corn exchange. The expenditure consists principally of payments of the interest of the debt, salaries, voluntary allowance to the head and under master of the Free Grammar School of £45 a year. The total amount of receipts for the year ending 12th Nov. 1832, including a balance in hand of £699, amounted to £3559. 9s. 0½d. The total expenditure, to £3179. 9s. 2d.—leaving a balance in favour of the corporation of £380. 9s. 10½.*

The amount of assessed taxes paid in Preston in 1831 was £7405. 15s. 11d. and the amount of assessment for the poor-rate in the borough in 1832-3 was £13,532. 19s. 7d.

5 & 6
William
IV. cap.
76.

The act to provide for the better regulation of municipal corporations in England and Wales,* changes essentially the whole system of municipal law; by this act it is ordained that the borough of Preston, like the other municipal corporations, shall in future be governed under a uniform system; that the governing power shall be in the hands of the mayor, aldermen, and councillors, styled the “mayor, aldermen, and burgesses;” that the borough of Preston shall be divided into six wards, with one mayor, twelve aldermen, and thirty-six councillors; that the councillors shall be chosen by the burgesses, and that every male person of full age, who, on the last day of August in any year, shall have occupied any house, warehouse, counting-house, or shop, within the borough during that year, and the whole of each of the two preceding years, and also during the time of such occupation shall have been an inhabitant householder within the same borough, or within seven miles of the same borough, shall, if duly enrolled in that year, be a burgess of such borough and member of the body corporate. The aldermen to be chosen by the councillors, and the councillors and aldermen to choose the mayor out of their own body, who is to continue in office one year. The councillors were accordingly chosen for the first time on the 26th day of December, 1835, under the authority of an order issued by his majesty in council; the aldermen were chosen

* Report of the Parliamentary Commissioners on Municipal Corporations, 1692-3.

on the 31st day of December in the same year, and the mayor on the first of January, 1836.*

Preston was one of the first boroughs in the county of Lancaster that returned members to the commons house of parliament. The first return is of the date of 23 Edward I.,† when William Fitz Paul, and Adam Russel, burgesses of Preston, were elected, “the aforesaid William being guaranteed to come (as the return has it) by Richard Banaster, and Richard Pelle; and the aforesaid Adam by Henry Fitz Baldwin and Richard Kegelpin.” After exercising the privilege for seven different times, the last return being in 20 Edward II., members ceased to be returned, by reason of the “debility and poverty of the burgesses,” who were required to make payments to the members of 2s. 6d. a day during sessions of parliament, which seldom attained a month’s maturity! In 1 Edward IV. the borough of Preston resumed its electoral privilege, and from that period to the present time it has been continued, with one exception during the Commonwealth, when the return was intermitted.

Till the first year after the restoration of the Stuarts, the right of returning members to parliament for Preston appears to have been exercised chiefly by the select body of the corporation, but not without some exceptions in favour of the

* In the second and subsequent years, the councillors are to be chosen on the 1st of November, to supply the place of those that go out of office; the mayor to be chosen annually on the 9th of November, and the aldermen to be elected triennially on the 9th of November.

A record of the First Council of the Borough, under the New System of Municipal Law, may fairly be considered as matter of history:—

THE COUNCIL OF THE BOROUGH OF PRESTON, 1836.

The Worshipful THOMAS MILLER, Esq. Mayor.

ALDERMEN.

Mr. Dixon—Mr. Gradwell—Mr. Swainson—Mr. Haydock—Mr. German—Mr. Lawe—Mr. Horrocks—
Mr. Taylor—Mr. Paley—Mr. Noble—Mr. Monk.

COUNCILLORS.

St. John’s Ward.—Mr. Joseph Walker; Mr. Livesey; Mr. Munday; Mr. Fallowfield;
Mr. Jacson; Mr. Leece.

Trinity Ward.—Mr. Sleddon; Mr. Proctor Walker; Mr. Garstang; Mr. Knowles; Mr. Holmes;
Mr. Segar.

Fishwick Ward.—Mr. John Swainson; Mr. Samuel Horrocks, sen.; Mr. Samuel Horrocks, jun.;
Mr. Barker; Mr. Shawe; Mr. Horn.

Christ Church Ward.—Mr. Smith; Mr. Hopkins; Mr. Pilkington; Mr. Clayton; Mr. Leach;
Mr. Brown.

St. George’s Ward.—Mr. John Paley, sen.; Mr. Bulman; Mr. Arkwright; Mr. Threlfall;
Mr. Humber; Mr. John Park.

St. Peter’s Ward.—Mr. Swindlehurst; Mr. Mitchell; Mr. Gardner; Mr. Pomfret; Mr. Carter;
Mr. James Park.

† See Vol. I. p. 293.

Preston
Parish.

freemen at large. In the year 1611 the question arose, whether the mayor and twenty-four burgesses only had voices in the election, or whether the right was not in the *inhabitants at large*; on which the committee of the house of commons decided that, "All the inhabitants had voices," and the house confirmed the decision.* Here the attempt to give to the franchise an undue restriction, terminated in giving to that franchise an undue extension, in contravention, as sergeant Merewether contends, of the law.† This decision differs materially from others which aimed at opening boroughs, in the use of the term "*all*," from which the inference was afterwards drawn, that every inhabitant had the right, without any other qualification—this being the only borough in England in which such a right has prevailed. In 1690, the merits of an election petition having been heard at the bar of the house of commons, the candidate who had been returned by a majority of the corporation was defeated.

The same point, with some modifications, was again raised in 1781, when John Fenton, esq., who stood upon the interest of the in-burgesses, petitioned against the return of general Burgoyne; and again in 1784, when Ralph Clayton and Michael Angelo Taylor, esq. petitioned against the return of the right honourable John Burgoyne and sir Henry Houghton, bart., but in each case the result was to seat the members who had the majority of "all the inhabitants."

With respect to the political character of the borough of Preston, the Stanley influence was predominant from the year 1768 until the year 1802, when, by the increase of manufactures and population, occasioned by the introduction of cotton mills into the town, principally through the skilful and successful operations of John Horrocks, esq., that gentleman became a formidable candidate for parliamentary honours. In the year 1796, when Mr. Horrocks was first put forward in the corporation interest, supported by the earl of Liverpool as chancellor of the duchy of Lancaster, he maintained a strong, though unsuccessful contest; but when he again offered himself, in the year 1802, it was thought advisable to accommodate the differences of the contending parties by a coalition, made through the intervention of Thomas Butterworth Bayley, esq., of Hope, near Manchester, and ratified by the signatures of eleven gentlemen in Preston, the leaders of the parties to a written agreement prepared for the purpose; which produced the return of lord Stanley and Mr. Horrocks. For five succeeding elections, the combined strength of the earl of Derby and the manufacturing interest retained the representation in the same parties; but, in 1826, John Wood, esq., an independent member, was returned with the honourable E. G. S. Stanley; and in the two following parliaments, Mr. Henry Hunt, a radical reformer, shared the representation with Mr. Wood. In the first reformed parliament, when the interest of the ten-pound householders obtained the ascendancy,

* Commons' Journals, Vol. VIII. p. 336.

† Hist. Bor. p. 356.

Peter Hesketh Fleetwood, esq. and the hononourable Henry Thomas Stanley ^{Preston Parish.} became the members; and in the election of 1835 the same gentlemen were returned, thus preserving the balance of parties.

By the Act to amend the representation of the people of England and Wales, passed on the 7th of June, 1832,* usually called the Reform Act, the privilege of ^{a 2 W. IV. cap. 45.} returning two members to parliament is continued to the arcient borough of Preston; and by the Act for settling and describing the divisions of counties, and the limits of cities and boroughs, so far as respects the election of members of parliament,^b Preston ^{b 2 & 3 W. IV. c. 64.} is placed in the boroughs in the northern division of the county of Lancaster, and is made to comprehend "the old borough of Preston and the township of Fishwick." By this Act, Preston is appointed one of the places for taking the poll for knights of the shire for the northern division of the county of Lancaster.

MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT FOR PRESTON.

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1295. Willielmus fil' Pauli, Adam Russel. | 1572. James Hodgekinson, esq. Geo. Horsey, esq. |
| 1298. Adam fil' Radulphi, Adam de Biri. | 1585. Edw. Basshe, Reginald Williams, esq. [gent. |
| 1300. Will' fil' Paulini, (The name of the other Burgess is lost.) | 1586. John Brograve, esq. Tho. Hesketh, |
| 1304. Robertus fil' Willielmi de Preston, Henricus fil' Willielmi de Townhende. | 1588. John Brograve, esq. Michael Dough-tie, gent. |
| 1306. Robertus fil' Rogeri, Ricardus Banastre. | 1592. James Dalton, Tho. Balbeck, gent. |
| 1307. Henricus del Kykestyle, Ricardus Banastr' | 1597. John Brograve, esq. John Stanhope, knt. |
| 1326. Laurencius Travers, Willielmus de Graistok. | 1601. John Brograve, attorney of the duchy of Lancaster,—Will. Wood, esq. |
| 1547. Geo. Frevil, esq. John Hales, esq. | 1603. Vincent Skinner, kt. Will. Hall, esq. |
| 1552-3. Anthony Brown, Tho. Fleetwood. | 1614. Edward Moseley, knt. |
| 1553. Will. Gerard, Anth. Browne. | 1620. Edw. Moseley, kt. Will. Pooley, kt. |
| 1554. Tho. Ruthel, esq. Will. Bernere, esq. [esq. | 1623. Edw. Moseley, kt. Will. Harvey, kt. (in place of Will. Pooley, kt. chosen also for Sudbury.) |
| 1554. Rich. Sharborne, kt. John Sylyard, | 1625. Will. Harvey, knt. Hen. Banister, esq. [esq. |
| 1555. John Arundel, esq. John Hearle, esq. [knt. | 1625. Geo. Gerard, esq. Tho. Farnshaw, |
| 1557. Rich. Sherborne, kt. Rob. Southwell, | 1628. Rob. Carre, kt. Geo. Gerard, kt. |
| 1558-9. John Alford, Rich. Cooke. | 1640. Rich. Shuttleworth, esq. Tho. Stan-dish, esq. |
| 1563. Gilb. Moreton, esq. Roger Askham, esq. [liams, esq. | 1640. Rich. Shuttleworth, esq. Tho. Stan-dish, esq. |
| 1571. Edw. Basshe, esq. Reginald Wil- | |

| | | |
|--------------------|---|--|
| Preston Parish. | William Langton, esq. | 1747. The same. The same. |
| | 1653. (No return for Preston.) | 1754. Edward Starkey. The same. |
| | 1654. Rich. Shuttleworth. | 1761. The same. The same. |
| | 1656. Rich. Shuttleworth, esq. | 1762. Nicholas Fazakerley, esq. Edmund Starkie, esq. |
| | 1658-9. Col. Rich. Shuttleworth, esq. Col. Rich. Standish, esq. | Sir Peter Leicester, bart. |
| | 1660. Edward Rigby, Jeffrey Rushton. | 1768. The same. Sir Frank Standish, bart. |
| | 1661. The same. The same. | John Burgoyne, esq. Sir Henry Hoghton, bart. |
| | 1678. The same, Sir Robert Carr. | 1774. The same. The same. |
| | 1681. Sir Jervis Elwys. The same. | 1780. The same. The same. |
| | 1685. Sir John Chichley, Richard Fleetwood. | 1784. Rt. Hon. John Burgoyne. The same. |
| | 1688. James Stanley. Thomas Pattin. | 1790. The same. The same. |
| | 1690. Sir Charles Greenfield, Sir Edward Chisnell. | William C. Shawe, Sir H. P. Hoghton, bart. |
| | 1695. Sir Thomas Stanley, Thomas Molineux. | 1796. Edward Lord Stanley. The same. |
| | 1698. Henry Ashurst, The same. | 1801. The same. The same. |
| | 1701. The same. The same. | 1802. The same. John Horrocks, esq. Samuel Horrocks, esq. |
| | 1702. Sir Cyril Wyche, Charles Stanley. | 1806. The same. The same. |
| | 1705. Arthur Manwaring, Francis Annesley. | 1807. The same. The same. |
| | 1708. The same, Henry Fleetwood. | 1812. Edmund Hornby. The same. |
| | 1710. Sir Henry Houghton. The same. | 1819. The same. The same. |
| | 1713. Edward Southwell. The same. | 1820. The same. The same. |
| | 1714. Sir Henry Houghton. The same. | 1826. John Wood, esq. Hon. E. G. S. Stanley. |
| | 1722. Thomas Hesketh, Daniel Pulteney. | 1830. The same. H. Hunt, esq. |
| | 1727. Sir Henry Houghton. The same. | 1831. The same. The same. |
| | 1734. The same. Nicholas Fazakerley. | 1833. Peter Hesketh Fleetwood, esq. Hon. Henry-Thomas Stanley. |
| | 1741. James Shuttleworth. The same. | 1835. H. T. Stanley. P. H. Fleetwood. |

Preston
guild.

One of the most ancient, and certainly one of the most splendid and elegant festivals in this kingdom, is held in the borough of Preston every twenty years, under the designation of the Preston Guild Merchant. These institutions are of Saxon origin, and Camden describes the *Gilda Mercatoria* as a liberty or privilege granted to merchants, whereby they are entitled to hold certain pleas of land and other possessions within their own precincts, and whereby neighbours enter into associations, and become bound to each other to bring forth him who commits any crime, or to make satisfaction to the injured party. The whole town of Ripon, of which archbishop Wilfrid was the patron, as he was of Preston, formed a fraternity of this nature; and from the time of Alfred the Great to the reign of Charles I., if

any house in that borough was robbed between sun-set and sun-rise, the inhabitants at large, under the direction of their *Wakeman*, or chief magistrate, indemnified the sufferer, and prosecuted the delinquent. It does not appear that the institution of the Guild at Preston has ever been applied to these purposes; but whatever may have been the case before the date of the records that have come down to us, at present its ostensible objects are to receive and register the claims of persons having any right to the freedom or other franchises of the borough, whether by ancestry, prescription, or purchase, and to celebrate a periodical jubilee rendered distinguished by the rarity of its recurrence.*

Dr. Kuerden, in his MS. Collections in the Heralds' College,* has preserved a paper entitled, "First Gild Merchant at Preston, 2 Edw. III.," consisting of a series of curious regulations in the vernacular language, which in this reign began to be employed in the law courts, though their proceedings were recorded in Latin.^b

Preston
Parish.

* Vol. IV.
p. 23.
^b Stat.
36 Edw.
III.
cap. 15.

The ordinances of the first Preston Guild are as follow :—

" FIRST GILD MERCHANT AT PRESTON, 2 EDW. III.

" Aubred the son of Rob. Gild. 2 E. 3.

" A Maire Court holden at Preston in Aundyrness before Aubred the son of Robert Majore, With the son of Rog³ Paulin and Rog³ of the Wyche balifes of the same towne on Monday next after the Feast of S^t John the Baptist the yere of the raigne of King Edward the third, after the Conquest of England the second.

" 1. First hit is ordered be assent and consent of the same maire, baliffes and burges with all the hole coñionalte of the same towne of Preston, diuers points and ordinances for the profit and welfare of the same towne to all manner of burges in our Gild Marchand to have and to use them and their successors for euermore as hit is after written.

" 2. Also the same Maire, baliffes & burges, with all the coñionalte be hole assent & consent have ordered that it shall be lefull to the sayd Maior baliffes and burges there heyres and successors to sett a Gyld Marchand at euery xx yere end or erer if they haue nede to conferme chayrters or other distres that langis to avre Fransis.

" 3. Also the same Maior, Balyffs and Burges be hole assent & consent have ordered that no mayre for the yere being in time of oure Gyld Marchand holding, ne other officer, shall have no manner of fees, but they go hole to the maior at the renewing of the Gyld and refreshing of oure towne.

" 4. Also the same Maior, bal'ues and burges be assent and consent have ordent for euer that ther sal no burges son the which his father is made burges be oure court roll and oute of oure Gyld Marchand, that it be not lefull to none borne to be free in other freedoms ne libertyes that longes

* Though the corporation is by the charter empowered to enact by-laws for the better regulation of the borough, yet these are always made, according to ancient practice, by the mayor, stewards, and aldermen of the guilds, and not in pursuance of the modern charters—*orders of council* are made between the guilds, and if in practice they are found useful, they are enacted at the following Guild. The existing by-laws have not been altered since the Guild of 1742, when they were framed on the most mature deliberation, with the aid of men eminent in the law. An ordinance for inclosing Preston "Moor," passed on the 23d Nov. 1833, is the only exception to this rule on record.

Preston
Parish.

to the enfransys of oure towne, nor his oath to be ressumed in none of^a court till the time be that he has purchest his enfransys at oure Maire Court as his father did before, and if he be sworne his freedome to be of no value.

^a A word illegible, perhaps our.

" 5. Also the same Maire, baliffes and burges with all the coñonalte haue ordent be a hole assent and consent that all manner of burges the which is made burges be court roll & oute of the Gyld Marchand, shall neuer be maire, ne Bale, ne Serjeand, bot onlie the burges the which the name be in the Gyld Marchand last made before; for the king gyues the freedom to the burgesses which arne in the Gyld & to none other.

" Orders of a Precedent Gild.

^b How last Gyld if this was the first?

" 6. Also the same Mayre, Baliffes and Burges be assent and consent have ordent in the tyme of our last Gyld Marchand^b had, that all those that no freedome haue be Gyld Marchand, thay to be fynyt be the Mayre and be the xij of the ^c the wheche the names arryn the said Gyld Marchand before.

^c Contrac-
tion of com-
put evi-
dently for
common-
alty.

" 7. Also the same Maire & baliffes & burges be holle assent and consent, if ther be any burges to oure towne longing that take partie with anne mon to helpe him or to strength him agaynes the Peyce and will not cum to his Mayre to help him and strength hym to make peyce that then hyt be leoull to oure Mayre and to his successors to discharge hym of his freedome for euer and his tol to be taken dayle att hym as a fals untrew and fals forsworne.

" 8. Also the same Mayre, and Burges be a hole assent and consent for euer haue ordent that all our baliffes of oure towne make ther accountys dule and trule within the yere, and after the day of their accountys made, they shal haue xl dayes respyte to gedyr and bring up the coñyn geldys that then it be lefull to our maire, balifs & burges and to their successors to attach their bodyes tyll they haue broght in all the coñyn geldys every peny with the arrerage.

" 9. Also the same maire, balyffes & burges be a hole assent and consent [have ordained] that all manⁿ of burges y^t have bene Mayres and balyffes be foretyme that they shall noght entermeyte ham ne mell ham emong the xxiiij in tyme of our election being, but they resett upon the benche with our mayre as aldermen and if any of ham so do or mell hym emong the xxiiij [shall forfeit] his libertye to the coñyns or els to pay the fyne xx^s.

" 10. Also the Mayre, baliffes and burges be a hole assent and consent haue ordent, if it hap- pyng anne of oure burges fall in age and in necessitye of gooddys that he may noght hold howse, ne craft, ne bying and sellying that he may not be of power to pay his freedome be zeare, yet he shall be free in all our libertyes y^t longys to oure towne and enfransys as he was before it that he be faulyn into that great necessitie of powerte.

" 11. Also the same Mayre, baliffes & burges, be a hole assent and consent, haue grant att owre fayre time that euery potter and panner ane they byg a both in oure pauement that theire toll be xx^d. and euere pewtyrer x^d euere bower x^d euere sadler x^d euere coteler x^d euere pakre iv^d also euere occupation that pays a j^d the toll on a Saturday dowbull at the fayre tyme.

" 12. Also the same Mayre balyffes and burges be assent and consent haue ordent that ther shall be no manner of burges fre to buye ne sell cante trippys of schepe ne harras of horses ne no manner of beastys if he ne be occupied att his hows or in his plogh.

" 13. Also the same Maire, baliffes and burges be assent and consent haue ordeint that no burges ne other man shall haue no schepe ne gayte ne scabbyt horsys in our fylde ne in oure coñyn pastures on payne of j^d as oft as they are taken, a gayt xl^d; a scabbyt horse to be brent.

" Geffyn and Ratifyt in our coñyn selle the place day and yere before sayd."^a

• Vol. IV. fo. P. 23.

The Saxon word *Gild*, in its primary sense, was a payment or prestation, and was transferred to such fraternities as these on account of the contributions required to be made by every member to the public stock; guild and hanse are words of similar import; the Hanse Towns of Germany are towns associated at an early period for the purposes of commerce.

Preston
Parish.

From an examination of the Preston Guild Roll in the time of Richard II. this festival appears to have been held before the mayor, three stewards or seneschals, nine aldermen, and a clerk of the Guild. From that time till the grant of the governing charter, the entries have been in the same form; but since the reign of Charles II., with one exception, (in 1 Anne) all the guilds have been holden before the mayor, the three senior aldermen, who are called seneschals or stewards, four other aldermen, called aldermen of the guild, and the clerk of the guild. The officers of the guilds seem to have exercised at some of these celebrations the whole power of legislating for the body corporate and for the burgesses; but the early entries of proceedings shew that they require a more popular sanction, the terms being with "the consent of the Maire, Bailiffes, and Burgesses, with all the hole Coñionalte of the same towne of Preston."

The guilds form a kind of court of session of corporate legislation, held every twenty years, at which all the laws for the government of the corporation are passed, and at which all the privileges of the burgesses are first claimed, and subsequently renewed. The words of invitation in the original record are these:—

"If any be mindful to be made a Burgess, let him come into the Court and render to the Pretor twelve pence, and take his burgage from the Pretor, and render to the Pretor's servant one penny, and he shall bear witness that he was made a Burgess in this Court."

Early in the guild year the mayor issues a proclamation, giving notice that—

"The Guild Merchant for the Borough of Preston will be opened with the usual solemnities in the Town Hall, on the first Monday after the feast of the decollation of St. John the Baptist, when all persons claiming to have any right to Freedom, or other franchise, of the same borough, whether by ancestry, prescription, or purchase, are to appear by themselves or their proxies to claim and make out their several rights thereto, otherwise they will, according to ancient and immemorial usage, forfeit the same."

The first Preston guild on record was celebrated, as we have seen, in the reign of Edward III. one of the royal benefactors of the borough, and the following is a list of the years in which each successive guild has been held, with the names of the chief magistrates who presided:—

Preston
Parish.

PRESTON GUILD MAYORS.

| | | |
|---------------------------|-----------------------|--------------------------|
| 1329 Aubert son of Robert | 1582 George Walton | 1722 Edmund Assheton |
| 1397 William Ergham | 1602 Henry Catterall | 1742 Henry Farrington |
| 1415 Henry Johnson | 1622 William Preston | 1762 Robert Parker |
| 1459 Robert Houghton | 1642 Edmund Werden | 1782 Richard Atherton |
| 1501 William Marshall | 1662 James Hodgkinson | 1802 Nicholas Grimshaw |
| 1543 Thomas Tipping | 1682 Roger Sudall | 1822 Nicholas Grimshaw.* |
| 1562 Thomas Wall | 1702 Josias Gregson | |

Previous to holding the guild, a court, constituted as already stated, is formed, which sits daily in the town-hall for twenty-eight days, to renew and grant freedoms. The entertainments (for the direction of which a committee of the corporation is always appointed) are generally confided to the taste of the mayor and lady mayoress, subject to the approbation of the committee. The processions are arranged by the mayor, with the concurrence of the committee also, after a communication with the wardens and stewards of the different companies of trade, and the heads of lodges. The duration of the guild, which was formerly for a month, is now only for a fortnight, but for civic purposes the guild books are open twenty-eight days. The nobility and gentry, not merely of the town and neighbourhood, but from the metropolis, and from other distant parts of the country, are attracted by this gorgeous commemoration.

1822.

At the last guild, which may serve as a model of others, from fifty to sixty thousand persons were present. On the first day, Monday the 2d of September, the companies or fraternities began to assemble at eight o'clock in the morning, under their respective banner, which floated in the air, and in their gayest attire. At half past ten they were formed in order by the grand marshal, and the mayor and corporation moved through their lines from the guild hall in procession to the parish church, accompanied by a large assemblage of nobility and gentry, amongst whom were the lord lieutenant and the high sheriff of the county, the earl of Wilton, the earl of Stamford and Warrington, lord Lindsey, lord Aylmer, lord Grey, &c. After divine service the grand procession commenced, and the companies, decorated with the insignia of their trades, and headed by the bands of music, paraded the town in the following order:—1. Tanners, skinners, curriers, and glovers; 2. cotton spinners and weavers, headed by their masters, and accompanied by machines in motion, mounted on stages, by which all the processes of the business were performed, from the steam-engine to the loom; 3. cordwainers; 4. carpenters; 5. butchers; 6. vintners; 7. tailors; 8. plasterers; 9. smiths; 10. gardeners; 11. odd

* NICHOLAS GRIMSHAW, Esq. served the office of Guild Mayor for the second time, of which there is no similar instance on record. This gentleman has also served the office of mayor no fewer than seven times.



N. Grimsham

Engraved by J. Smith



fellows; 12. printers and bookbinders; 13. free masons; the rear of the procession being brought up by the corporation and the gentry. Preston Parish.

But the great attraction of the guild was the procession of the lady mayoress, on the following day, when about one hundred and sixty ladies, headed by the representative of the lady mayoress, supported by the mayor and the mayor's chaplain; the countess of Derby, supported by the earl; the countess of Wilton, by the honourable Mr. Stanley; lady Lindsey, lady Hoghton, the Misses Stanley, and numerous other ladies of distinction, all decorated with towering plumes, and dressed in the full costume of the ball-room, passed in procession from the guild-hall along the principal street to the parish church, where divine service was performed, and afterwards round the market place to the guild-hall. These splendid processions were only the forerunners of other entertainments: for a whole fortnight the town remained full of company; banquets, balls, plays, and races, each in their turn claimed the attention of the visitors. A fancy ball, at which from six to seven hundred of the gentry of the county were present, was given in the first week. The second week was ushered in by an ascent of Mr. Livingston in his balloon; and a series of musical performances of the first order, consisting of oratorios and concerts, with a charity ball and masquerade, served to engage and to delight the company during the remainder of the festival.

It is erroneously supposed by some to be obligatory upon the corporation to celebrate a guild every twenty years; no such obligation exists; the guilds have, indeed, for upwards of two centuries and a half, been held at regular intervals, in virtue of a by-law of the mayor, stewards, and aldermen of the guild, passed in the reign of queen Elizabeth, but this is quite a matter of choice and arrangement; and should the entertainments and processions ever wholly cease, no privilege or franchise would be lost.* When a guild is held, and the freemen are engaged to register their claims, it is obligatory upon them to obey the mandate. Hitherto the purchase of freedom has continued from guild to guild; and if not renewed at each returning celebration, it has been lost. It is difficult to pronounce what modifications the municipal law of 1835 may introduce into the observance of future guilds, but as by that act it is incumbent upon the freemen of boroughs to conform themselves to the observance of any statute, custom, or by-law, in force within the borough at the time of passing this act, in order that they may secure a participation in the corporation property and their parliamentary franchise, it would appear to be necessary to continue the customs and enforce the by-laws of the Preston guild.

The holding of the guild discretionary.

* A guild was omitted in the reign of Henry VI. owing, probably, to the unsettled state of the kingdom, arising out of the "Wars of the Roses;" and again in the reign of Henry VIII. pending the Reformation. In 16 Henry VII. a by-law was made at the guild, William Marshall, mayor, directing the guild to be held every 20 years, and this by-law still exists.

Preston
Parish.

At the conclusion of the guild, the masters and wardens of all the different companies attend, as on the first day of the guild, upon the worshipful the guild mayor, in open court at the guild-hall, along with a number of the burgesses. The companies then have their guild-orders sealed and regularly entered in the books. Proclamation is next made, and the name of each inhabitant burgess called over, when the grand seneschal, or town-clerk, affixes the corporation seal upon the guild-book, which afterwards holding up, he says, "Here is your law." The sergeants then make proclamation in these terms:—

"This grand Guild Merchant's Court is adjourned for twenty years, until a new Guild Merchant's Court be held and duly proclaimed."

Having witnessed two Preston guilds, and arrived within less than seven years of a third, we may be allowed to observe, that the distinguishing characteristic of the guilds is their freedom from excess, and the elegance and refinement of the entertainments. This festival has in it something in common with the carnivals of Italy and the *Saturnalia* of the ancients, but it has none of their grossness; and the difference is principally owing to the part which the ladies take in all the amusements of the guild, and to the chastening influence of their presence and example.

The holding of a guild is very expensive. The one held in the year 1802 cost the corporation £1,302. 14s., and that held in 1822 £1,278. 0s. 4d., exclusive of the cost of wine.* The guilds have also their receipts as well as their expenditure; and at the guild in 1802 there was received at the different places of amusement alone, by the mayor, £1863. 8s. 9d.; and from the sale of articles after the guild, £272. 4s. 2d.

Courts of
law.

Preston, owing to its central situation, which ought to have constituted it the capital of the county, is the place from which a large proportion of the legal processes of the county of Lancaster issue. The court of chancery of the county palatine,† the court of common pleas of the county palatine,‡ the court of general annual sessions, and the sheriff's county court,§ are all held here, and have all been already described. The sheriff's court is held here every month, and adjourned to Manchester on the Thursday following.

The coroner's elections, the general lieutenancy meetings, and all public meetings of the freeholders and inhabitants of the county, when convened by the high sheriff or lord-lieutenant on any public occasion, are likewise held at the court in Preston; and the elections for knights of the shire have formerly been adjourned from Lancaster to Preston, "upon long polles, for the country's ease, it being in the heart of the county, if the contest there be not quickly decided among the gentry."||

* Report of the Municipal Commissioners, p. 1688.

† Ibid. p. 225.

‡ Ibid. p. 228.

† See Vol. I. p. 217.

|| Dr. Kuerden's MS.

The wapentake court of the hundred of Amounderness, for the recovery of small debts under 40s. is held in the steward's office, every Wednesday three weeks. Preston Parish.

The borough court is held in the Town-hall, every Friday three weeks, and has the power first to seize the goods, and finally to attach the body, when the debt has been contracted in the borough, or has been acknowledged within its jurisdiction, if the claim amount to 40s. or upwards.

There are also the courts leet, with view of frankpledge, held twice in the year, at least, for the presentment of nuisances and obstructions, and for the examination of weights and measures; and the court of pie-poudre, having unlimited jurisdiction over all contracts arising within the fairs. The court of the commissioners of insolvent debtors for the borough is held here.

The quarter sessions for the hundreds of Amounderness, Blackburn, and Leyland have been heretofore held here on *Thursday*, in the usual sessions week, but, by a late arrangement, they are now held on the *Wednesday*, by adjournment from Lancaster, in which borough the sessions for Lonsdale hundred commence on the *Monday*. The sessions for the borough of Preston are held each quarter, on the Monday next preceding the sessions for the hundreds.

The prothonotary, the seal-keeper, the cursitors, the registrar of the chancery, the clerk of the crown, the clerk of the peace for the county palatine, and the county treasurer, have their offices here; and the office of the sheriff, whose deputy is always a professional gentleman in Preston, is also held in this emporium of law.

The public buildings in Preston are not very numerous. The Guild-hall was built just before the guild of 1762, and the present Town-hall was finished just before the guild of 1782, upon the site of that which had fallen down; these buildings form a stately pile between Church-street and Fishergate, and are used for the transaction of municipal and other business. The court-house is ornamented with fine full-length portraits of George II. (presented by sir Edward Stanley,) and

Public buildings.

Town hall.



of Daniel Pulteney; and the council chamber, by a portrait of Nicholas Fazakerley, esq. (recorder) all by eminent artists. Over the entrance to the Town-hall is cut in stone, the Paschal Lamb couchant, with the initials P. P.—*Princeps pacis*, strangely combined with implements of war.* A handsome cupola, built in 1814, graces this edifice. The Town-hall stands on the site of the old Town-hall, or "Toll Booth," the roof of which fell in about six o'clock, on the morning of Saturday,

the 3d of June, 1780, after a race ball had been held within the walls on the

* The arms of Preston as emblazoned by Edmondson are—Az. a pascal lamb couchant, with the banner, all ar. round the head a nimbus or; in base, the letters PP of the last.

Preston
Parish.

Thursday night preceding, and from which the company had **not** departed till three o'clock on Friday morning.

House of
correc-
tion.

The building formerly used as a prison at the Grey Friars being found too small for the purpose, the present spacious and strong house of correction was erected in 1790, and encloses within the walls an area of one acre; but the grounds attached measure five acres. The old court-house, in the centre, has now become the chapel; and the prison itself, well regulated, is conducted on the penitentiary plan. Adjacent to the chapel is a tread-mill, which also stands near the dining hall. The court-house, on the south side of the walls, comprises a spacious sessions-hall, fifteen yards square, and numerous apartments for the juries, magistrates, barristers, and others, who have business to transact here. The governor's house, a rustic stone building, decorated with the arms of the duchy of Lancaster, was finished in the year 1834. The other new buildings were opened in October, 1827. The prison contains about 180 cells, of which thirteen are solitary; it is appropriated to the use not only of Amounderness, but also to the hundreds of Blackburn, Leyland, and part of West Derby.

An edifice, formerly much admired for its stately appearance, was the occasional residence of the earl of Derby in Church-street. This mansion was for many years inhabited by the late lord Strange; but it was built originally by the Patten family, and passed by marriage to the Stanleys, sir Edward Stanley having married the heiress of Patten. There were here a number of pictures, open to the inspection of visitors, but they are now removed, and the house itself is dismantled (January 1st, 1836,) preparatory to its removal to form a new street on a line with Grimshaw-street. The Stanley family has long been closely connected with the town of Preston, in which they have considerable possessions. In the year 1730, sir Edward Stanley was elected an alderman of the corporation; and, in 1731, he was elevated to the civic chair; but on the 2d of September, 1740, he was discharged as an alderman, at his own request, having succeeded to the earldom.

Corn
exchange.

The Corn Exchange, Market-house, and Cloth-hall, an ample range of public buildings, situated in Lune-street, consist of a handsome structure of brick, three stories high, of an oblong form, enclosing an open area, 236 feet long by 108 feet wide, ornamented by a stone pediment and cornice. The accommodations afforded to the trade and commerce of the town by this edifice, which was opened in August, 1824, are a corn exchange and corn market, shambles, a range of shops for small wares and trinkets, and a spacious woollen cloth hall for the use of the clothiers at fairs.

Water
works.

There are two public works in Preston of great importance, the Water-works and the Gas-works. The former of these establishments has existed more than a century, and is due to the late Mr. Robert Abbott, who, sensible of the advantage of an ample supply of fresh water, of its influence upon the domestic comfort of the

inhabitants, and of the security it imparts to the town against the ravages of fire, erected the water-works in 1729, in company with Mr. Woodcock ; and though from that time to the present the name of "The Folly"* has attached to their labours, time has shown the folly not to have been in the projector, but in those who applied a name of opprobrium to one of the first instances of enterprise and public spirit displayed in modern Preston. These works having been found insufficient to accommodate the increasing population, and the proprietors having dwindled to the number of eight, a new company, incorporated by an Act^a for the better supplying the borough of Preston and Fishwick with water, has been established, and three considerable reservoirs, of which two are upon Longridge Fells, and one about three miles from Preston, will henceforth supply the town with this important element. These reservoirs cover about twenty statute acres, and the new works will be brought into operation in the present year (1836.)

Preston
Parish.

^a 2 and 3
Will. IV.
cap. 27.

The Preston Gas-Light Company was the first establishment formed in any provincial town in the kingdom for the supply of coal gas to the inhabitants. The subscription was opened in May, 1815, and the first issue of gas was made in the February following. The works were first undertaken with a capital of about £2,500, which was afterwards augmented to £12,000 ; and part of the profits is allowed to accumulate to swell the capital to £20,000.

Gas
works.

The history of the public press of Preston is contained in a narrow compass. In the year of the rebellion of 1745, the first newspaper ever published in this town appeared, under the title of *The Preston Courant*, published by Robert Moor, and afterwards by James Stanley and John Moor ; but, from lack of patronage, this journal was, at a subsequent period, discontinued. At the breaking out of the revolutionary wars between France and England, when the thirst for news was ardent in the extreme, the late Mr. Thomas Walker established a newspaper, entitled *The Preston Review*, the first number of which was published in 1793 :^a after languishing through a few years with indifferent success, this journal ceased. The next effort to supply the inhabitants with a medium of intelligence and of commercial and professional annunciation, was made, with better success, by Mr. Thomas Croft, who issued the first number of his publication on the 7th of February, 1807, under the title of *The Preston Journal* ; and this newspaper is still continued on the Saturday, by Mr. Isaac Wilcockson, under the altered title of *The Preston Chronicle*, which it took on the 5th of September, 1812. A newspaper, called *The Preston Sentinel*, was published by Mr. L. Clarke, from Saturday the 7th of April, 1821, to Saturday the 30th of March, 1822, when it was discontinued ; but, on the 1st of

The press.

^a June 1st.

* Country villas were in those days almost as rare in the vicinity of Preston as public works, and hence a neat house, with plantations, erected near the Marsh, by Mr. John Nocks, obtained the name of "Nocks' Folly."

Preston
Parish.

January, 1825, another newspaper was issued from the same office, called *The Preston Pilot*, which is also published on the Saturday. No works of any great note have been printed in this town, though several men of literary eminence have received their education here.*

a Dated
June 18,
1759.

Literary
establish-
ments.

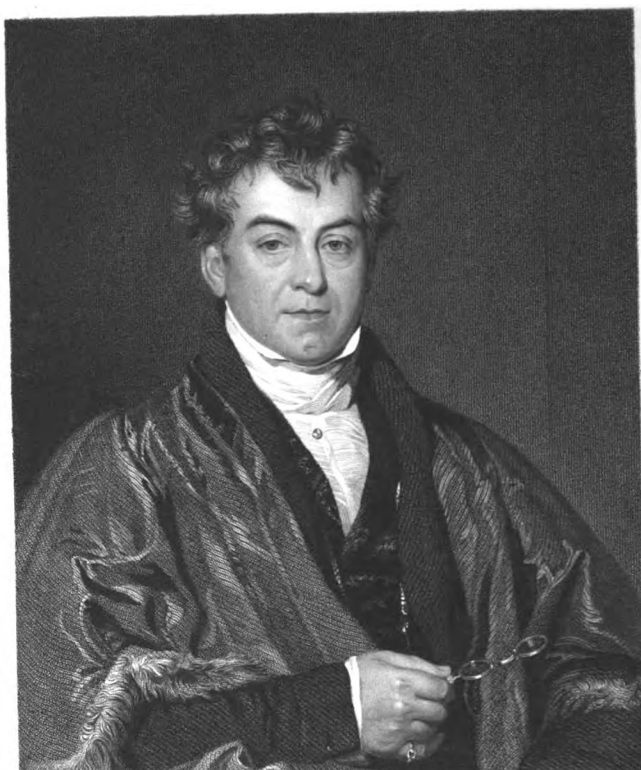
The town of Preston is deeply indebted to an alderman of this borough, of the name of Shepherd, a physician of eminence, who died on the 4th of December, 1761, bequeathing, by will,^a "all and every of his books, of what nature or kind soever, to his executors, in trust, for the mayor and aldermen of the borough, or corporation of Preston;" and confiding to the said mayor and aldermen the power to give to any person they should direct, the privilege to read or inspect such books. The testator further bequeathed £200, to be placed out at interest, and to be applied by the mayor and aldermen to the purpose of paying the librarian's salary; and the interest of the residue, being £1000, arising out of his personal estates, he directed to be applied by them in purchasing books for enlarging and increasing the library. Some years ago a spacious library room, for the reception of these books, with a private reading room attached, was erected adjoining the free school in Preston, which is open at stated hours for the admission of persons by ticket from the mayor or any of the aldermen. Important as was this munificent donation, it must be obvious that Dr. Shepherd's library, even if it was open without restriction, would by no means be equal to the literary requirements of a town like Preston. Under the influence of this persuasion, a public library was established in 1825, in Fishergate, named the "Palatine Library," which already numbers 120 subscribers, and consists of about 1500 volumes.

The Preston institution for the diffusion of knowledge resembles in its principal features a mechanic's institute. This excellent establishment consists of a library with 2300 volumes, a museum of natural history and miscellaneous rarities, and a large collection of insects formed by Mr. William Helme, a weaver, and a reading and lecture room for the accommodation of the members. The hall of the society is in Cannon-street, and was opened in October, 1828. The number of subscribers exceeds 300. There is also a law library, established in 1833, in which a society for the discussion of legal subjects holds its meetings.

It may not be improper to mention in this place, that Dr. Benjamin Franklin, the great transatlantic philosopher, twice visited Preston; first in the year 1771, and afterwards in 1775, and that he was closely connected with one of the most

* Dr. John Preston, the father of the nonconformists, descended from the de Prestons; John Weaver, the author of the *Funeral Monuments*; and the Rev. John Arkwright, were all of Preston. It has been supposed that the Chief Baron Tomson was a native of Preston, but this is an error; the learned baron was born at Camberwell, near London, on the 6th of January, 1745, and died on the 15th of April, 1817. He had a sister, who took up her abode in Preston when it was "the resort of well-bred but ill-portioned old maids and widows," and hence the mistake.





Engraved by H. B. Monro. From a portrait by Sir Martin Myddelton, Bart. R.S.A. in the possession of the Hon. Wm. Pitt Rivers, Esq.

HENRY FISHER, OF THE COMMON COUNCIL, CITY OF LONDON.

H. Fisher

1841

respectable families in the place, Mr. Richard Bache, having married his only daughter. There is in the possession of Mr. William Taylor, of Moss Cottage, a rude musical instrument, constructed by Franklin in one of his visits to Preston. The instrument is formed of nineteen pieces of wood, and is supposed to have been the germ of the harmonicon. Another printer, of considerable eminence in his line, Mr. Henry Fisher, of the Caxton Office, was born and educated at Preston.

Preston
Parish.

An agricultural society for the hundreds of Amounderness, Leyland, and Blackburn, instituted in 1810, under the auspices of sir Henry Philip Hoghton, bart. and called the Preston Agricultural Society, has, by exciting a spirit of emulation, tended essentially to improve the agriculture of Mid-Lancashire.

The places of public amusement in Preston are, the theatre, at the bottom of Fishergate, built by subscription, in shares, previous to the guild of 1802, and opened with that jubilee; the assembly-room, within the court of the Bull Inn, erected and fitted up at the cost of the earl of Derby; and the cockpit, in the lower part of the same court, formerly used at the races for the great mains of cocks, now generally appropriated to the meetings of the temperance society. There is also a public bath, situated at the foot of a hill, called the Spaw Brow, near the Marsh. In the year 1726, races were established on Preston Moor, but they were discontinued in 1791; and on the 7th of August, in the year 1786, the races on the moor forming part of the ancient forest of Fulwood, and passing over a section of the road called Watling-street, were established by the earl of Derby. These latter races are still continued, under the designation of Preston races, from which town the course is distant only two miles, though it is, by a strange anomaly in parochial arrangement, within the parish of Lancaster.

Places of
amuse-
ment.

Avenham Walk, the joint property of the corporation and the trustees of Goosnargh Hospital, is situated on the summit of the hill which rises from the banks of the Ribble, and affording a most delightful promenade, is one of the places of public resort for pleasure and exercise. Wood, water, hill, vale, extension, in short every thing that is necessary to adorn a prospect, unite here; and one thing more than is necessary, namely, the vicinity of a steam-engine, and an iron railway, erected in an evil hour, instead of an aqueduct over the Ribble, to connect the two branches of the Lancaster canal. The neighbouring buildings having injured Avenham Walk, a design for another public walk has been submitted to the corporation, whose approbation it has received. This new promenade it is intended to construct along the banks of the Ribble, and to skirt the high grounds on the declivity of the hill from Fishergate to Ribblesdale Place, a distance of three quarters of a mile, curving from west to south. The corporation are effecting a still greater improvement by disposing of Preston Moor (now called "MOOR PARK") into public walks and pleasure grounds, which when finished will rival, indeed excel, the pleasure grounds open to

Public
walks.

Preston
Parish.

all classes in any of the manufacturing towns in the kingdom. The inclosure of the common commenced last year. The moor contains 250 acres, 100 acres of which will be reserved as pasture for the use of the cattle of the freemen, and will be belted by plantations, diversified by a lake, and ornamented by villas and promenades, with a monumental pillar to the memory of Mr. Horrocks.*

River
recrea-
tions.

At all seasons of the year the river affords sources of amusement to the young men of Preston; fishing, bathing, skating, and sailing, are resorted to, each in its turn, by the votaries of these healthful and innocent pleasures; but a melancholy event arising out of the use of one of them is still fresh in the remembrance of the inhabitants, and ought to operate as a perpetual warning against persons venturing in boats without the requisite skill to manage them. On the 24th of April, in the year 1822, four fine youths, just rising into manhood, two of them sons of Nicholas Grimshaw, esq. at that time mayor of the borough, a third the son of Henry Hulton, esq. treasurer of the county, and the other a son of Mr. James Kay, manufacturer, embarked in a small sail-boat on an excursion of pleasure: after amusing themselves for some time, a sudden gust of wind upset their boat in the middle of the river, a little below Penwortham Bridge; and they were all drowned before any assistance could be afforded to them. A plain marble monument in the choir of the parish church records this catastrophe,† which involved the bereaved families in the deepest grief, and filled all classes of the inhabitants with commiseration.

Markets
and fairs.

The principal market-place of Preston, celebrated by Dr. Kuerden, consists of a spacious well-paved square, near the junction of all the main streets of the town, surrounded with handsome shops, and ornamented in the centre by an obelisk of clustered gothic pillars, at the top of which is placed, at an elevation of thirty-six feet from the street, a large glass vase, lighted by night with gas, which illuminates the whole area of about four thousand square yards. Within this square the principal market business of the town was formerly transacted; but since the opening of the new market in Lune-street, the business has been a good deal divided, to the inconvenience, it is said, of both the seller and the buyer. The principal market day is on the Saturday, but markets are also held both on Wednesday and Friday, for fish, butter, and vegetables. A regulation of rather a singular kind prevails here for the government of the markets, the object of which is to prevent regrating and fore-stalling. At nine o'clock in the morning a bell rings, to announce that the inha-

* The first suggestion of this plan was made by William Taylor, esq. to the town council of Preston, in 1833, by whom it was cordially received and unhesitatingly adopted.

† "In memory of Henry William Hulton, aged 21 years, Nicholas Charles Grimshaw, aged 20 years, George Henry Grimshaw, aged 17 years, and Joseph Kay, aged 20 years, who, in a moment of youthful enjoyment, were drowned in the river Ribble by the oversetting of a boat, 24th April, 1822."

bitants of the borough may begin to make their purchases, and till the hour of ten no huckster or new resident can, according to this regulation,* be allowed to buy any commodity in the market for the purpose of resale by retail. At ten o'clock the restriction is relaxed, and from that hour all persons are permitted to buy and sell without limitation. There are four annual fairs here, namely, the great horse fair, in the week ending on the first Saturday after Epiphany, which is called "Great Saturday;" the spring fair, of three days, on the 27th, 28th, and 29th of March; the summer fair of eight days, from the 26th of August to the 2d of September, both inclusive; and the winter fair, of five days, commencing on the 7th of November.

Preston
Parish.

Preston was formerly a port of more importance than at present. It has now become a creek of the port of Lancaster. With the aid of the spring tides, which flow higher than the bridge at Walton, vessels of 150 tons burthen can navigate the Ribble as far as the quay at Preston Marsh, but the sloops, called lighters, usually employed here, do not in general exceed 60 or 70 tons burthen. Previous to the year 1798 the total amount of tonnage is calculated not to have exceeded 6000 tons of merchandise annually. About the year 1802, a more extensive trade, hitherto confined to the coast, was established between Preston and Drogheda, which proved very beneficial to the town. The annexed table shews the amount of tonnage for the last seven years:

Port of
Preston

A RETURN OF THE AMOUNT OF TONNAGE ENTERED INWARDS AND CLEARED OUTWARDS AT PRESTON, (INCLUDING THE WHOLE TRADE IN THE RIBBLE,) IN THE SEVEN YEARS ENDED THE 5TH JANUARY, DISTINGUISHING EACH YEAR.

| Year ending. | Inwards. Tons. | Outwards. Tons. | Year ending. | Inwards. Tons. | Outwards. Tons. |
|-----------------------|-------------------|--------------------|-----------------------|-------------------|--------------------|
| 5th January, 1827 . . | 28,080 . . | 20,159 . . | 5th January, 1831 . . | 84,869 . . | 32,499 . . |
| . . . 1828 . . | 24,940 . . | 19,659 . . | . . . 1832 . . | 42,021 . . | 32,106 . . |
| . . . 1829 . . | 33,264 . . | 28,791 . . | . . . 1833 . . | 30,131 . . | 29,417 . . |
| . . . 1830 . . | 39,595 . . | 32,420 . . | | | |

By a return at the Custom-house, which is now stationed at Pulton-in-the-Fylde for the ports of the Ribble and Wyre, it appears that between the 5th of January, 1833, and the 5th of January, 1834, there were imported 33,857 tons of merchandise, chiefly grain, and exported 25,192 tons, chiefly coal, into and from the Ribble and Wyre, exclusive of 10,000 tons imported into Glasson, and forwarded to Preston. The Ribble is capable of much improvement: about seven years ago, an attempt was made to ply a steam vessel to Lytham; but the project failed, not for want of support, but owing to a defect in the construction of the engine. The attempt, however, is likely to be revived.

* These antiquated restrictions, so inconsistent with the principles of free trade, are now becoming obsolete.

Preston
Parish.

a 46 G. III.
c. 121.

In the year 1806, an act of parliament was passed, under the authority of which, certain tonnage rates have been levied ever since, by “the company of proprietors of the undertaking for the improvement of the navigation of the river Ribble,” but nothing has been done towards the improvement of the navigation, except the fixing of a few buoys at the entrance of the channel, elevating a wooden perch about ten feet high, and setting up a pole near the mill at Lytham, upon which an oil-lamp is occasionally hoisted. It requires little skill in nautical affairs, or in modern engineering, to see that this river is capable of great improvement, and that, by the combined efforts of the steam dredging-machine, and a judicious system of embankment, the channel might be confined and deepened, so as to admit vessels capable of navigating the Atlantic ocean up to the quay at Preston Marsh. The saving of land by these operations, added to the existing rates, would probably defray the expense, exclusive of the advantage to be gained from an increase of trade in the river. Had the execution of the measure for improving the navigation been confided to the commercial men with whom the design originated, great public benefit would have been the result; but it unfortunately passed into the hands of the principal land-owners on the opposite sides of the river, who employ themselves in throwing out wears and embankments at various places between Penwortham-bridge and the Naze Point, and thus puzzle their own heads, and those of their farming stewards, by torturing the poor unfortunate river, which occasionally revenges itself by sweeping away some acres of their fine alluvial soil. And thus it must proceed, till some practical engineer of comprehensive mind be called in, to lay down an uniform and consistent plan, the expense of which would readily be advanced by the merchants of Preston, if they were allowed to undertake the execution of the works. The example of the Clyde is before them; and it is not improbable that Preston, Freckleton, and Lytham, might be made to rival Glasgow, Port Glasgow, and Greenock, as they are similarly situated with respect to each other. But if the land-owners and “the company of proprietors” continue blind to their own interest, and to the interests of the community, it is not improbable that the principal part of the coasting trade, and that now carried on between Preston and Ireland, which employs upwards of forty vessels, averaging about seventy tons each, will be transferred to Glasson Dock, near Lancaster, from whence to the Lancaster canal, at Galgate, a navigable communication has been making for some years, but which is yet incomplete.*

* To facilitate the communication between the Ribble and the town of Preston, a company of merchants have obtained a lease from the corporation of a portion of waste lands, at the southern point of the marsh, and have purchased from individuals certain lands adjoining, with the intention of excavating a dock and erecting a new quay, which is to communicate with a spacious road through

On the 24th of July, in the year 1834, a public meeting was held at the Town-hall in Preston, at which it was resolved to establish a joint-stock company, to be called "The Preston and Lytham Ship Canal Company," for the purpose of constructing a canal for vessels of 250 tons burthen, from Lytham to Preston Marsh. The capital proposed to be employed was estimated at £105,000, to be raised in £50 shares; but the project languishes, and the time does not seem to have arrived for its completion.

Preston Parish.

Ship canal.

Much unnecessary danger has arisen to vessels navigating this coast, from the want of a lighthouse and the erection of some distinctive marks at the entrance into the Ribble, by which seafaring men might be able instantly to distinguish between this estuary and that of the Mersey; as it is no uncommon thing for ships bound to Liverpool, which have not taken a pilot on board at the Ormshead, to over-shoot the Mersey, when the wind blows fresh from the south, and to sail by mistake up the Ribble. The precautionary measures here recommended should be pressed unceasingly by the undertakers for improving the navigation of the Ribble,* and by the authorities of the county of Lancaster, upon that department of his majesty's government to whom it belongs, to provide for the safety of mariners, and to watch over the commercial interests of the country.*

Light-house.

a Und. 46 Geo. III.

Returning from this digression, it may be observed, that Preston, in addition to its river, enjoys the advantage of a medium of inland navigation afforded by the Lancaster canal, which will, when completed, open a line of water communication not only between the lime-stone and the coal districts, but also with all the principal trading counties of the kingdom. One important branch of this canal remains yet to be executed, namely, to sweep away the rail-road from the bason at Preston to Clayton-green, and to make the canal continuous in its whole line; when that work is accomplished, an additional source of wealth will open upon this highly-favoured

Canals.

Friar's lane; and the works will be so constructed, that, in the event of a canal being cut from the Ribble to the basin of the Lancaster canal, a distance of only 600 yards, the vessels may sail through the new dock.

* The course of the water in the bed of the Ribble is said to be subject to preternatural interruptions; in the annual Register for 1774, it is recorded, that on the 24th of December, in that year, "the River Ribble stood still, and for the length of three miles there was no water except in deep places;" but adds the chronicle, "in about five hours it came down with a strong current, and continued to run as usual." A more recent account says, that on the 8th of March, 1821, the Ribble ceased to flow for the space of three hours,^b according to observations made at the ford in the township of Alston, in the parish of Ribchester. The chronicles of the day record that, "on the 28th of August, 1736, a man passing the bridge over the Savock, near Preston, saw two large flights of birds meet with such rapidity, that 180 of them fell to the ground, and that he took them up, and sold them the same day in Preston market.

^b Whittle's Preston, p. 322.

Preston Parish. town. In 1794, two years after the act for cutting this canal was passed, the late Mr. Rennie made an estimate of the cost of a stone aqueduct over the Ribble, to consist of three arches of 116 feet span each, with an embankment to the full height of the Lancaster level, which together amounted to £94,979; and Messrs. Jessop and Rennie, by their joint report of 1801, recommended that plan to be carried into effect, which they conceived might be accomplished for less than Mr. Rennie's estimate; but the funds were not then forthcoming, and the railway was adopted as a temporary expedient. The consequence has been, that, in addition to the loss, inconvenience, delay of unloading and re-loading coal and lime, the carriage of corn and other agricultural produce, as well as of iron work, cotton wool, manufactured goods, and general merchandise, is nearly, if not altogether, lost to this canal company, and the advantage of the inland navigation so far lost to the public. Packet boats of unusual swiftness ply daily upon this canal, from Preston to Lancaster and Kendal.

Fishery. There is in the Ribble a very ancient fishery belonging to the borough of Preston within the boundary of its jurisdiction. This river abounds with salmon, of delicious flavour, smelt, plaice, and eels; and every day during the season it affords its supplies. Preston market is also abundantly supplied with fish from Lytham, North Meols, and Heysham, and with shell-fish from the sands of the Ribble, Wyre, Lune, Leven, and Duddon. Sometimes herrings and other fish are brought from the Isle of Man; it is, however, a little extraordinary that the direct supply from this quarter is not more abundant, as the towns of Preston, Chorley, and Blackburn, with their populous neighbourhoods, would afford excellent markets for the Manx fishers, did not a superstitious horror of some imaginary dangers in the navigation of the Ribble disincline them to visit this part of the coast. The quantity of salmon derived from the estuaries of the rivers of Lancashire might be greatly increased by a judicious revision of the laws relating to fisheries.

Railways. On the 23d of April, 1831, an act of parliament was passed for constructing the Preston and Wigan Railway, or North Union Railway, as it is frequently called; and another act was passed in 1834,^a for incorporating the Preston and Wigan and the Wigan and Newton railway companies. The railway to Wigan, of the length of thirteen miles and a quarter, is now constructing with a double line, and the estimated cost, including carriages and other necessary outfit, is £320,000. This railway, after crossing Fishergate, will be carried over the Ribble by a viaduct of five arches of 120 feet span each, "leaving 600 feet clear water-way in times of flood; at other times, the three middle arches will take the water of the river, leaving one arch on each bank for the roadways. The bridge will be built entirely of stone, and when it is considered that the height from low-water mark to the key-stone

of each arch will be 50 feet, some idea may be formed of the stateliness of the structure." On leaving the Ribble, the road will pass through the townships of ^{Preston Parish.} Penwortham, Farrington, Leyland, Euxton, Charnock Richard, Coppal, Worthington, and Standish-cum-Langtree to Wigan, where it will join the Wigan branch railway to the Manchester and Liverpool line.

On the 13th of October, 1834, at a public meeting in Preston, it was resolved to raise a capital in order to construct a railway from that town to the Wyre, and, in the session of parliament of 1835, an act was obtained for this purpose.

Preston is approached from the south by Walton bridge, and from the west ^{Bridges.} by Penwortham bridge, both over the Ribble, at a distance of a mile and a half from each other. The ancient county bridge mentioned by Dr. Kuerden, called Ribble bridge, stood at Walton, about fifty yards below the present site, but, owing to its "decayed and dangerous state," it was taken down in 1782, and the present handsome and substantial structure of three arches erected in its stead. Penwortham bridge is not a county bridge, but was built in the year 1759, under the authority of an act of parliament, passed some years before, and still in force, which authorizes the commissioners to levy a toll for its repairs. This toll, when enforced, extends to foot passengers as well as to horses and carriages, with the exception of the freemen of the borough of Preston, who are exempt. This edifice stands on the site of an ancient bridge, which fell down just after the Rev. Randle Andrews, the vicar of Preston, had passed over it. From a spirit of misplaced economy, the new bridge, instead of passing over the river in a direct line from Fishergate-lane to the foot of Penwortham brow, was placed at a distance of nearly half a mile up the river, and stands directly at right angles to the principal roads; the consequence is, that every person travelling that way towards Liverpool is thrown nearly a mile out of his road, and in rainy seasons, and when high tides prevail, the approaches are frequently flooded, and rendered impassable.* A temporary wooden bridge has just been erected over the Ribble, at Brockholes, on the line of the new road from Preston to Blackburn.

The situation chosen by our remote ancestors for the erection of *Priest's Town* ^{Situation.} evinces the discriminating eye of a priest, and shows that, whether the monastic orders required a site for an abbey or for a city, they were equally felicitous in their selection. Placed at a convenient distance from the sea, upon the elevated banks of one of the first rivers in England, with a mild climate and a dry soil, and commanding a rich assemblage of picturesque views, in one of the most interesting

* This bridge has begun to exhibit symptoms of decay in the foundations of the piers, and is inconveniently narrow, and dangerous from the want of foot-paths. Prior to the erection of the former bridge, about the year 1750, which only stood for a few years, owing to a defect in one of the arches, the river was passed by a ford, as is shewn in the military plan of 1715.

Preston Parish. portions of Ribblesdale, the spirit of St. Wilfred himself, the most accomplished ecclesiastic of his age, must have animated the mind that fixed upon this spot; and the structure of the town, its well-built houses, spacious streets, and handsome approaches, are in unison with the taste of the founder. For many ages Preston took the lead of all the towns of the country, as the resort and residence of persons of birth and polished manners, and the number of professional gentlemen attached to its various courts have always given to this place a character of superior intelligence. A material change has, however, taken place within the last fifty years, by the introduction of the manufactures; and the claims of gentility have been materially abated by the presence of an active and enterprising industry, which has served to place Preston more on a level than it formerly stood with the larger towns of the county.

Manners and morals.

When drunkenness was a fashionable foible in the upper classes of society, Preston, always inclined to gentility, was much addicted to this vice. Happily, men of condition can now assemble at the convivial board without measuring their respective merits by the capacity of their stomachs. Hence, in what is called good company there is little excess, and the recent introduction into Preston of Temperance societies—some of them imposing upon themselves abstinence from all ardent spirits, and others binding themselves by a written declaration to refrain from all intoxicating liquors—has done much to improve the character, increase the happiness, and diminish the privations of the operative manufacturers and their families. The vice of drunkenness is, however, by no means eradicated in this place, for the magistrates still complain that they are daily called to punish offences of this nature, always aggravated by breaches of the peace.

Population.

In the year 1780 the number of inhabitants in this place did not exceed 6,000; twenty years afterwards they were swelled to nearly 12,000, and the scale of increase has proceeded in a geometrical progression till, in 1821, they amounted to upwards of 24,000; and now (1836) exceed 36,000. This is a ratio of increase scarcely to be equalled even in this county, where men multiply faster than in any other portion of the kingdom. In the notes on the census published by the house of commons in 1821, it is stated, that the extension of trade is the cause of these augmented numbers; but the question arises, to what is this extent of trade owing, seeing that Preston is at a distance from the mines which supply the manufactories with fuel, and that no other town in the county has been able to flourish to any great extent, as a manufacturing station, under the same disadvantage? A combination of causes have doubtless conspired to produce this effect, but the principal are probably to be found in the central situation of the town, in the united advantages of river and canal navigations, and in the skill, capital, and enterprise of the principal manufacturers.

Dr. Whitaker, in his History of the Parish of Preston, indulging in a strain of unqualified aristocratical invective, asserts, "That the manufactories have debased the manners of the lower orders more rapidly than they have increased the population of the place;" and that, "while they tend to multiply the numbers, they ruin the principles of our species." That there is more profligacy in Preston with its 36,000 inhabitants, than existed amongst the 6000 of former times, must be admitted, but that it has increased six-fold, is extremely problematical. With the enlargement of the population, many counteracting causes are at work—the increase of Sunday schools, the spread of religious instruction by the preaching and the pastoral visits of ministers distinguished for the fervour of their piety, the simplicity of their manners, and their easy access to the dwellings of the poor, with the establishment of societies for the increase of knowledge, all tend to produce this effect; and little discrimination is evinced by those who, while they censure in the gross the confessedly demoralizing influence of a system which sanctions and even requires the congregating together of large masses of the youth of both sexes in manufacturing establishments, do not place in the opposite balance these counteracting influences. Without pronouncing dogmatically upon the balance of good and evil, we may be permitted to say, that as the moral principles and habits of the work-people are exposed to more than ordinary danger in manufacturing establishments, it is the incumbent duty of parents employed in the mills, and of the employers by whom they are put in motion, to use all the means that their influence and property have put within their power, to guard against the natural tendency of a system, that may be regulated and improved, but that no wise man would wish to see destroyed, except he could point out other means of affording labour and subsistence to the tens of thousands of the people who are dependent upon its continuance for their daily bread.

The time is within our recollection, though, probably, the fact was not within the knowledge of the reverend divine whose observations have elicited these remarks, when a system much more debasing than the factory system existed in this borough; when the labouring part of the population, under the contrivance and instigation of the middle and upper ranks, both Whigs and Tories, were drenched every week, for months together, before and after contested elections for members to serve in parliament, either to induce them to vote, or to reward them for having exercised their franchise according to the wishes of those who administered these doubly polluting bribes. There is nothing in the factory system half so bad as this political and moral debasement, which has now passed away; and yet these were the halcyon days that are brought in contrast with the age of manufacturing demoralization!

Preston
Parish.Manners
& Morals.

Preston
Parish.Extent
of the
borough.

The parish of Preston extends in length, from Ashton-upon-Ribble on the S.W., to Elston on the E.N.E., eight miles ; and in breadth, from Preston on the S., to Barton on the N., seven miles, comprising an area of 12,588 statute acres, thus estimated—

| | |
|--------------------------------------|---------------|
| Area of the out-townships | 10,597 acres. |
| of the township of Preston | 1,991 . . |

This parish contains nine townships, exclusive of the township of Preston, each maintaining its own poor, namely,

| | | |
|---|---------------|------------|
| LEA, ASHTON, INGOL, and COTTAM, forming one township, | | |
| BROUGHTON, | ELSTON, | RIBBLETON, |
| BARTON, | GRIMSARGH, } | and |
| HAIGHTON, | BROCKHOLES, } | FISHWICK. |

Lea,
Ashton
&c.

LEA, ASHTON, INGOL, and COTTAM.—These four hamlets, situated to the N. W. of Preston, constitute for parochial purposes one township. A charter for a carucate of land in Estone, Tulket, and Ingole, in 1 John, was granted to Arthur de Estone.* Sir Richard de Hocton, son of Adam de Hocton by his wife Avicia, widow of Roger de Ashton, married Sibilla, daughter of William de Lea, and heir of Henry de Lea, 2 Edward II., and he occurs in the Duchy Feodary, as holding the manor of Lea by the service of 3s. 4d. per annum, and a moiety of the town of Ashton by the service of 5s. yearly.† The other moiety was then held by Lawrence Travers and William Lawrence, in right of their wives. Ashton-upon-Ribble and Lea are both manors belonging to the knightly family of Hoghton, and are subject to one manor court, a court leet, and court baron.

Tulketh-hall, within Ashton, having in 1124 been the seat of Marmaduke Tulketh, became the property of Lawrence Travers, of Nateby near Garstang ; and in 36 Edw. III. John Travers held forty acres of land in this township, and a certain place of land and meadow called Tulkethe.‡ William Travers was living in 1613. The Werdens succeeded this family, and were followed by the Rawstornes, from whom the estate passed to the Heskeths, who occur as of Tulketh in 1687, when a confirmation by a Catholic prelate was performed here in the domestic chapel of the hall. This venerable house, now occupied by Miss Hesketh, aunt to Peter Hesketh Fleetwood, esq. M.P. for Preston, is in the castellated style, having the principal front flanked by two embattled towers. Tulketh is remarkable as the spot on which the monks of Furness were first seated, in an ancient hospital dedicated to St. Mary : vestiges of the chapel belonging to this hospital were visible in the last century, and part of the fosse surrounding the monastery, which was abandoned in July, 1127, is yet perceptible. In Ashton, a custom as ancient as 2 Henry VI. still prevails, of granting three roods of land, by the lord of the manor, to one of the tenants “for upholding a common bull, for the use, benefit, and behalf of the tenants of Ashton and Ingol, on the rent of one red rose yearly, if demanded.”

* Rot. Chart. 1 Joh. m. 40. n. 30.

† It was an escheat of the crown from the earl of Ferrers, at the compilation of the Testa de Nevill'. Vide fo. 372, 401.

‡ Escaet 36 Edw. III. P. 2. n. 52.

Lea-hall was the scene of the memorable feud in 23 Elizabeth, between the baron of Preston
Newton and Mr. Thomas Hoghton, in which the latter was slain.*
Parish.

Cottam gave name to an ancient family, of whom Geoffrey de Cottam, in a deed without date, acknowledges himself to hold some land here of H. de Hydok, by an annual rent of 15d. and half a pound of cumins : †—

“ Rank smelling rue and *cumin*, good for eyes.” *Spenser*.

Cottam-hall, (a purchase from lord Gardiner and Mrs. Cayton,) probably erected by a descendant of Geoffrey de Cottam, is constructed purely of timber, and is the property of Mrs. Cross, relict of the late William Cross, of Redscar, esq. Ingol is divided amongst several proprietors.

BROUGHTON, to the north of the town of Preston, is a township, containing five hamlets; Brough-
the Church, Ingol Head, Lightford Houses, Dorton, and Sharrow Green; and constitutes a ton.
parochial chapelry, comprising Broughton, Barton, and Haighton. Dr. Whitaker supposes that Broughton being near the Roman road from Manchester to Lancaster by Blackrode, received its name from a small Roman fort.‡ In the reign of king John, Theobald Walter claimed against Ralph, son of Utred, and Robert his brother, the whole town of Brocton, namely, 1 carucate of land, which the king had given, and, says the record, Ralph shall take nothing. Another record of pleas at Easter Term, 9 John, states, that Richard, son of Utred, offers 40 marks for 1 carucate of land in Brocton, which is his right, and of which Theobald Walter, when he held Amounderness, unjustly deprived him: and the land, worth 60s. is in the king's hands. In 32 Henry III. a writ of inquiry, whether the land held by Master William le Sauter was the inheritance of Theobald le Butler, or he had it by gift of one of the bailiffs of the king's predecessor; and also, whether king John took the land into his hands, was directed to the sheriff, who held an inquisition at Lancaster on the morrow of St. Matthew the same year, by Adam de Hocton and seventeen others. The jurors returned, that it was not his hereditament, that he took it from Richard, son of Hutred, who was in seisin, and had not it by gift from the king's bailiff; and that John, king of England, took that land into his hands for several trespasses in Amounderness; concluding their verdict by pronouncing that Theobald has no right in the said land of Brocton, which is worth 2s. 2d. per annum for all issues.§ The manor of Brocton, however, was found in his possession a few years afterwards.|| Edmund, earl of Lancaster, brother of Edward I. derived a rent of 8s. from Broughton.¶ In 19 Edward II. Gilbert de Singleton held one messuage, 50 acres of land, two mills, and a close called Farnihalgh, in Broghton.** The messuage was probably Broughton Tower, a strong heavy structure of stone, which was taken down about thirty years ago, and on its site a farm-house erected, on the grounds of which a moat is visible. This property passed to the Rawstornes of Penwortham, who sold it to James Rothwell, of Hoole, esq. in Leyland, by whose heirs it is

* See Vol. I. p. 560. Vol. III. p. 346, 347.

† Richmondsh. Vol. II. p. 433.

‡ Escaet. 45 Henry III. n. 37.

** Ibid. 19 Edw. II. n. 67.

† Kuerden's MS. Collect. Vol. IV. fo. C. 25.

§ Kuerden's MS. Coll. Vol. IV. fo. B. 33.

¶ Ibid. 25 Edw. I. n. 51.

Preston
Parish.

now possessed. Broughton Hall, or Broughton Row, an old dwelling, formerly belonged to the Atherton family. Alexander Haliburton, of Wigan, esq. is the present owner. The township is chiefly held in freehold lots. The body of the parochial chapel, or church, as it is usually called, was rebuilt in 1822, when the greater part of the antiquities were destroyed, and with them the chancel with its two chapels; that to the north the work of Thomas Barton, of Barton; and that on the south, of Singleton, of Broughton Tower. On the roof of the chancel was the date 1537. The clerk possesses a rude carving on oak, giving in characters the figures 1539. The ancient tower of the old fabric, though in a very dilapidated state, has been preserved. The arms of the Singletons, Langtons, Bartons, and Redmaynes, which, with their initials, decorated the old chapel, are placed on the exterior of the eastern gable. Bank Hall, once the abode of the Crookes, is now the property of Mr. Wilson and Mrs. Threlfall.

At Fernyhalgh, in a remote and obscure situation, is an ancient Catholic chapel, existing in the 15th century,* and rebuilt about forty years ago. A cross is still remaining in the garden of the old chapel, at the head of a small eminence. The following note is copied from a memorandum of the Rev. J. Gillow, of Fernyhalgh:—

“ On Monday June the last, 1718, the two chappells at Holywell were visited by twenty soldiers sent from Preston by the commissioners, mounted on hired horses, and conducted by Mr. Hitchmugh; the value of the booty is variously reported, but much less considerable than at first it was said to be, as not exceeding 100l.”

This appears to refer to a search made for Christopher Tootel, the Catholic minister, who had not taken the oaths required by law, and who had been twice ticketed to appear before the commissioners at Preston, viz. on the 16th and 21st of July, 1718.†

Barton.

BARTON.—The manor of Barton, to which a court leet appertains, was held by the family of Barton from a very early period. Grimbald de Barton was on the inquisition, 32 Henry III. to try Theobald le Botiler's right to Brocton. It continued in his successors until Fleetwood, sole daughter and heiress of Richard Barton, of Barton, esq., transferred the estate by marriage to Richard, afterwards sir Richard Shuttleworth, of Gawthorp, attorney-general and chief justice of Chester. Barton Hall is now a farm-house, and Barton Lodge has become the manorial residence. In 1833, James Shuttleworth, esq. lord of the manor, sold the whole estate to Mr. George Jacson, of the firm of Horrocks, Jacson, and Co. of Preston.

* In the Duchy Office is an original “ Award of the Lord Strange touching Farnehagh Chapel,” dated 26 Henry VII. Sir George Stanley, Lord Strange, having been appointed arbitrator in a dispute between Richard Singleton and his uncle John Singleton, awarded, among other things, the performance of conditions in a deed of lands, tenements, &c., made by Thomas Bolton, vicar of Preston, and Edward Balle, chaplain of Robert Singleton, which lands, &c. were given to find a priest in Fernyhalghe. The instrument consists of nine draft sheets, in the Red Repertory, bundle R. n. 31.

† See *Catholicon* for October, 1816, p. 129, for a “ Traditional Account of Our Lady's Well” and “ Our Lady's Chapel,” in Fernyhalgh. Whittle's *Hist. Preston*, p. 182—183.

HAIGHTON.—An ancient building, called Haighton House, was occupied in the last century by Henry Haighton, gent. who was doubtless the representative of the local family. By the inquisitions in the duchy office, Haighton appears to have been held, as it is at present, by several proprietors. There are two mansions which are named Haighton Hall; one is the property of Richard Newsham, esq. of Preston, purchased from the heirs of Edward Pedder, late of Lancaster, esq. and the other is the residence of Mr. Anderton, who purchased the estate of Evan Richard Gerard, esq. of the Gerards of Holt, in Brindle.

Preston
Parish.

Haighton.

ELSTON.—The ancient name of the township of Elston was Etheleston; and, says Mr. William Elston, a descendant of the local family living at the beginning of the 17th century, "It was once told me by Mr. Alexander Elston, who was vncl to my father, and sonne to Raph Elston my great grandfather, that the said Raph Elston had a deede or a coppie of a deede in the Saxon tongue, wherein it did appeare that king Ethelstan lyinge in camp in this county upon occaçon of warrs, gave the land of Etheleston vnto one to whom himselfe was Belsyre."* Mr. Elston, whose object was to prove the antiquity of the family possessions, without relying implicitly upon this Saxon deed, contentedly cites another instrument, dated 45 Edward III. which "had a faire scale with an eagle displayed with two heads in a scuchion, and there was engraven about plainely to be read these words, *Sigillum Johis de Etheleston.*" This John de Etheleston was the last of the family connected with Elston,† the land having, Mr. Elston thinks, passed to an heir general, and that "one Mr. Harrington was the lord thereof, who had nine daughters, and left to every one of them lands worth 25 markes p annum, and shee that had Elston married Mr. Hylton of Farneworth." Elston passed in marriage of Jane, daughter of Mr. Hilton, to Roger Ashaw, of Shaw, in whose family it continued until Anne Ashaw married sir John Radcliffe, of Ordsall, whose son sir John sold it to sir Thomas Walmsley. One part of Elston was conveyed in marriage by Anne, second daughter and coheir of sir James Harrington, of Wolphege, 14 Henry VII. to Thomas Assheton, of Ashton-under-Line, one of whose daughters married sir Richard Hoghton, 8 Henry VIII. About 1615, Mr. Edmund Bryers bought both portions, and having in 1624 passed the estate over to Roger, brother of Thomas Charnock, of Astley, esq. died May 8, 1625. Mr. Charnock, at the time Mr. Elston wrote his curious memoir, was meditating the sale of the estate, which, it may be presumed, he effected to a member of the Walmsley family, for the principal owner of Elston at present is Thomas Walmsley, of Ashton House, near Preston, esq.

"Report
of Ethel-
ston K. to
incamp in
Elston."

GRIMSARGH.—Under the first duke of Lancaster, William de Eton, whose ancestor Nicholas married Joan, the heiress of Robert de Stokeport, lord of Wood Plumpton, in 23 Henry III. held the town of Grymesargh by the service of three shillings per annum. At the same time Roger de Etheleston was a tenant in the town of Grymesargh by the service of three shillings per annum. The manorial rights were long vested in the family of Hoghton, and were sold by sir Henry Philip Hoghton, bart. together with Alston, &c. to the late William Cross, of Red Scar, esq. Grimsargh Hall belongs to the Rev. Thomas

Grim-
sargh.

* Mundana Mutabilia, or Ethelestophylax. Harl. MS. 1727, fo. 336.

† In 20 Edward III. William de Etheleston held lands here for the abbot of Whalley as of the scatle of Cliderhou. Escaet. 20 Edw. III. n. 62.

Preston
Parish.

Shuttlesworth Grimshaw; and Red Scar, an elegant modern building, in the Elizabethian style, was erected by Mr. Cross, and is now occupied by his heirs. The episcopal chapel, dedicated to St. Michael, is a small rural fabric, erected by subscription about 1716, and enlarged about 1815. Grimsargh with Brockholes form one township.

Brock-
holes.

BROCKHOLES.—The barons of Manchester held the lordship of Brockholes at a very early period.* In 38 Henry III. Roger de Brochol married Mabil, sister of Huctred de Bradsae, who gave him lands in frank marriage, situate in Bradsae. His great-grandson, Adam de Brochol, living 23 Edward III. had a son Nicholas, lord of Brocholls, who gave the manor of Brockholes in trust, 20 Richard II.† and 2 Henry IV. and who left two daughters his coheiresses; one married to Thomas, father of Nicholas Singleton, of Brocholes; and Margaret, the eldest, married to Roger de Etheleston, of Ribbleton. Of this family, but probably descended from the second son of Roger and Mabil, was Roger de Brocholes, knight of the shire in 50 Edward III.‡ The manor of Brockholes,§ and a capital messuage, named Brockehall Hall, together with the fishery of Brokhole,|| became the property of the Singletons; while the Elstons had an estate called Brockholl, within the township of Elston.¶ Robert Singleton, of Brockholes, was living in 1613. Subsequently Brockholes passed to the Winckleys of Preston, of whom were Thomas, living in the early part of the 18th century; John, living in 1749; the late Thomas Winckley, of Brockholes and Catterall, esq., married Lady Hesketh, the mother of Sir Thomas, and the issue of that marriage was an only daughter, Frances, who conveyed the estate by marriage, 2d June, 1807, to sir John Shelley, bart. the present proprietor. Here are two old halls, called Higher and Lower Brockholes. Over the principal door of the latter are carved in stone the arms of the Brockholes in alto relievo, three bucks or badgers. The name of Winckley's Whim is given to a fanciful building in a wood, at Lower Brockholes, erected as a summer-house and prospect tower.

Ribble-
ton.

RIBBLETON.—From several ancient deeds copied into Mr. Elston's MS. it appears that the manor of Ribbleton, in the reign of Henry III., was held by Avicia de Ribbleton, who, he conjectures, "was heire generall of the Mano^r & tooke the name of Ribleton from the place whereof shee was owner; but of w^t Ancesto^r she descended or with whom she married it appeth not by any evidence which I have seene." Her grandson, Robert, gave to Roger de Etheleston all his land, buildings, and gardens in Ribbleton to be held of the chief lords, and from this time, the Ethelestons or Elstons became seated in Ribbleton, though their connexion with their patrimonial estate of Elston did not cease until the reign of Edward III. Ribbleton in these deeds is sometimes called Ribleton Scaldis, and the local family is as frequently called by one name as the other. In 11 Edward II. William, the son of Roger del Scales, senior, gave the manor of Ribleton to Roger de Etheleston. John de Etheleston, of Ribbleton and Brockholes, married Agnes Fleetwood, 6 Henry IV., and

* See Vol. II. p. 185.

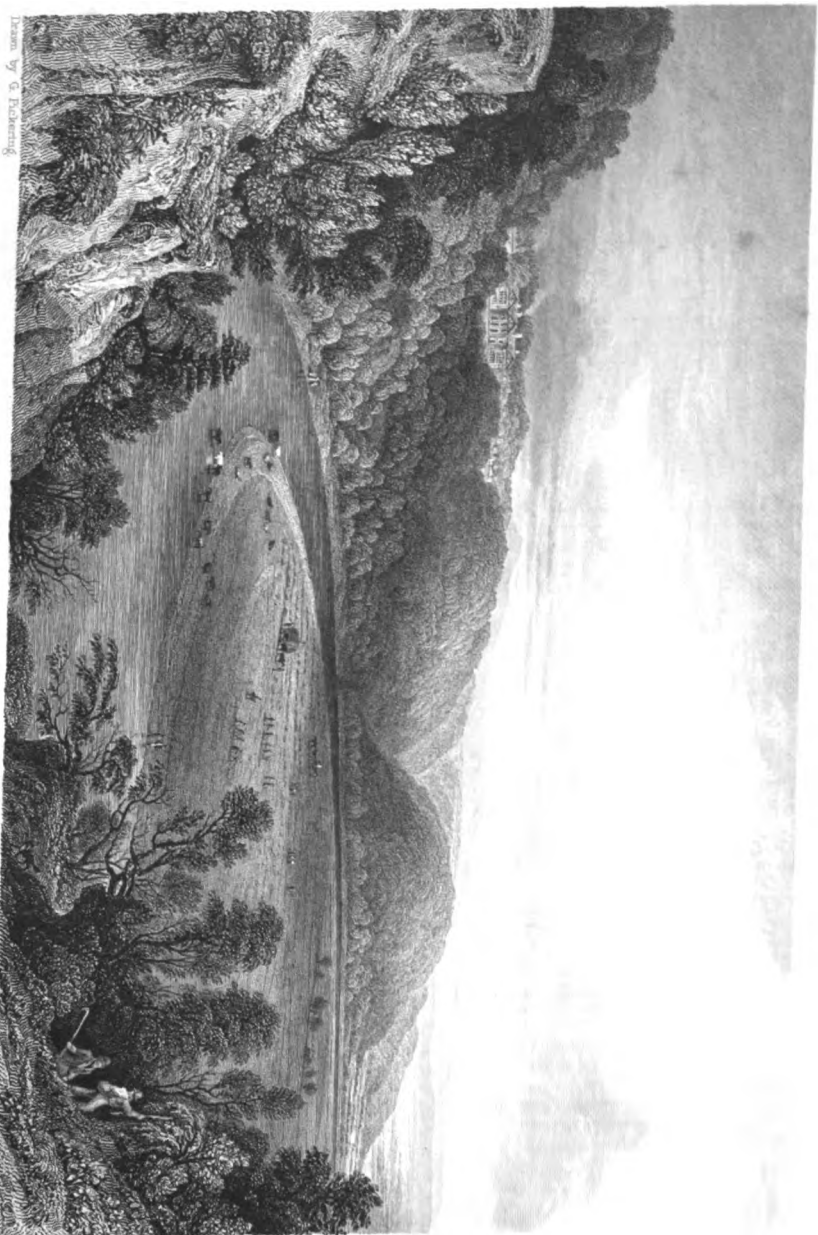
† Dr. Kuerden's MS. Collect. Vol. IV. fo. B. 14.

‡ See Vol. I. p. 307.

§ Duchy Records, Inq. Vol. III. 15 Henry VII. n. 52. VI. 20 Hen. VIII. n. 64, &c.

|| Ibid. X. 3 & 4 Phil. & Mar. n. 1.

¶ Ibid. X. 4 & 5 Phil. & Mar. n. 3. Ethelestophylax, passim.



R. F. D. S. A. R.
THE RIVER OF THE NORTH

THE RIVER OF THE NORTH



was living 6 Henry VI. Their descendant, Robert Preston, died in 1662, leaving a numerous issue. The estate is now the property of Thomas Dalrymple Hesketh, bart. In this township is a waste of about seventy acres, remarkable as the spot on which the battle between Cromwell and duke Hamilton commenced. This moor is on the borders of Fullwood, Brockholes, and Preston moors. A huge circular stone, perforated in the centre, and placed flat upon three smaller stones sunk in a hillock, stands by the road-side between Broughton and Ribbleton, and was probably in former times the base of a cross. Two massive stones, posts of ancient road-side crosses, lately stood upon the borders of Ribbleton moor. Within these few years, a rushbearing was celebrated at Ribbleton-green; and a fair is now annually held at Ribbleton moor, on the 7th of May, for Scotch cattle.

Preston
Parish.

The last township in the circuit of the parish of Preston, is FISHWICK. Roger Gernet, in the Testa de Nevill, is said to hold Fyswyc, or Fisewic, by serjeanty as forester, worth 20s. per annum.* Baldwin de Preston held of the serjeanty in Fiswick the moiety of one mill and twenty acres of land and woodland; John Fitz John held three acres; and the heirs of Roger de Asarto (of the assart or cleared land) held twenty-two acres of land and woodland, which, as well as the lands of William Wachet, William Fitz Richard, and Baldwin de Preston, were alienated from the serjeanty. Sir William de Dacre, by his marriage with Joane, the heiress of Benedict Gernet, in the reign of Edward I., acquired the manors of Fyshwyke, Halton, and Eccleston. These and other manors were forfeited to the crown by the attainder, 4 November, 1 Edward IV., of Ranulph de Dacre, who lost his life at Towton Field.† Richard Fenys, lord Dacre, held the manor of Fishewyke by knight service in 17 Henry VII.,‡ and in 1 Henry VIII. it was found by inquisition that Thomas Fennys de Dacre had sold the manor to Edmund Dudley, a felon,§ by whose attainder, in that year, it was forfeited to the crown. In 7 Henry VIII. sir Thomas Asshton, of Asshton under Line, held Fysshewyk,|| whether by grant or purchase, does not appear; but it was conveyed in marriage by his daughter and coheir, Alice, to sir Richard Hoghton,¶ whose son, Thomas, died in 22 Elizabeth, seized of Fyssheweke.** The hall, together with the manor, descended in the Hoghtons till within the last seventy years, when they sold it to the father of the present lord, Townley Rigby Shaw, of Preston, esq., who holds a court leet for the manor.

Fishwick.

This township forms part of the parliamentary borough of Preston under the Act to settle and describe the division of counties and the limits of cities and boroughs in England and Wales, in so far as respects the election of members to serve in parliament.* Till about the beginning of the present century, the township of Fishwick formed a calm and rural retreat between Preston and Walton-le-Dale; but its rural character was broken in upon, on its northern boundary, by the increasing cottages of New Preston. Manufactories and other buildings have spread extremely in that direction; and, if it were not for the family estates of the Starkies of Frenchwood, and the Shawes, a continued row of

2, 3 W.
IV. cap.
64.

* Fol. 401, 409, 410.

† *Lel. Itin.* Vol. VI. fo. 17.

‡ *Duchy Records*, Vol. III. Inq. n. 58.

§ *Ibid.* Vol. IV. n. 21.

|| *Ibid.* Vol. IV. n. 80.

¶ See Vol. II. p. 532. Vol. III. p. 348.

** *Duchy Rec.* Vol. XIV. Inq. n. 26.

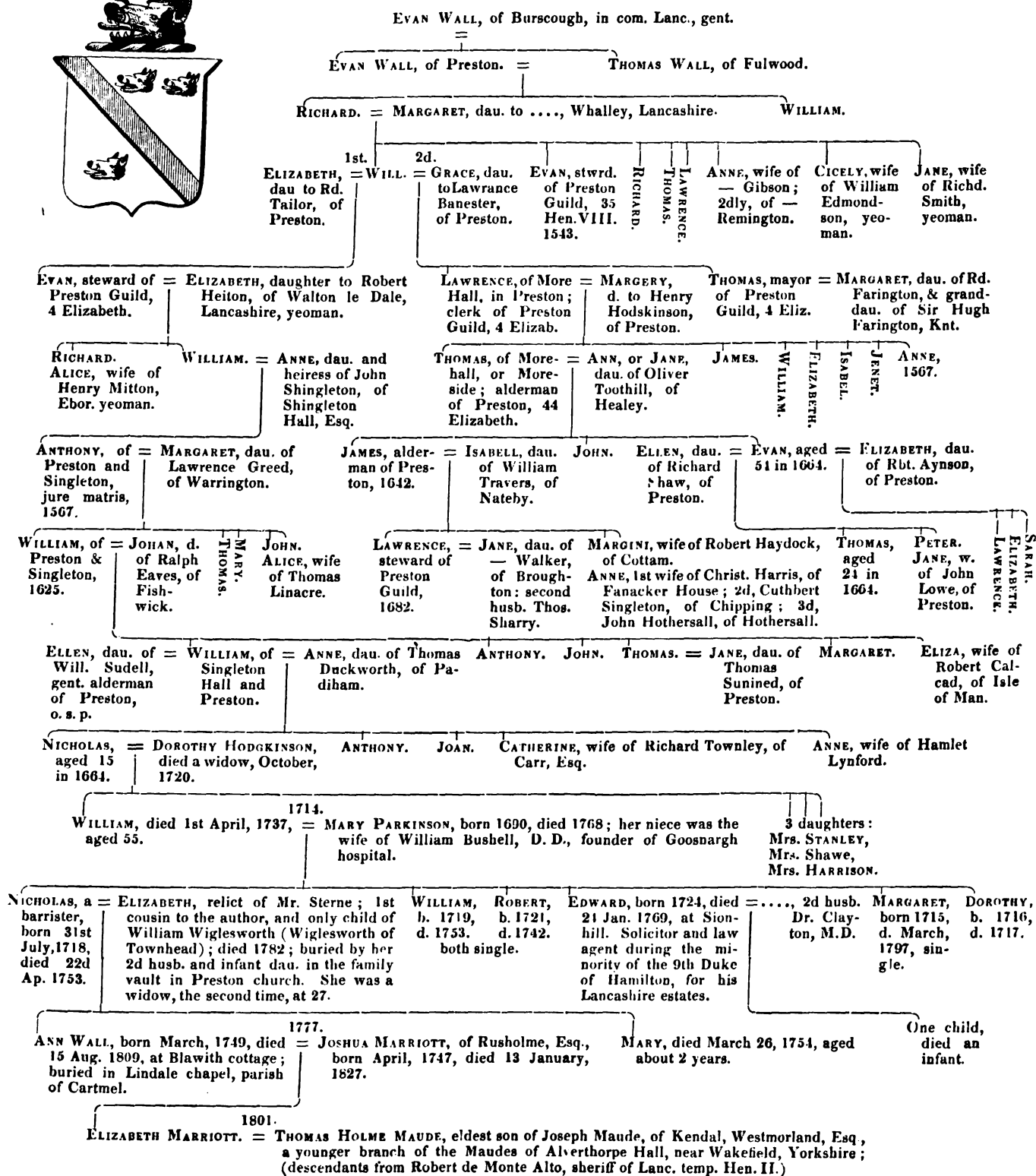
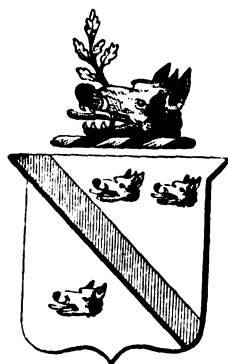
Preston
Parish.

buildings would soon be extended from Ribble bridge to the southern entrance of the town of Preston. A small petrifying stream runs down the side of Common-bank, within Fishwick, and a chalybeate spring rises in Bolton wood, between Lower Brockholes and the Red Scar. Anciently, and till within the last dozen years, there was a wear or canal at Brockholes, which retarded the course of the salmon up the river, though it did not wholly prevent it, but that impediment is now removed, and the salmon are enabled to breed in the higher parts of the river.

The most prevailing soils of this parish are clay and alluvial mixture. To the north-east the face of the country is flat; but it becomes undulating and romantic as it declines towards the Ribble. The subterranean forest presents itself on the north as well as on the south side of the Ribble, and is distinctly visible between Preston and St. Michael's about Crow-lane. There are here no traces of peat moss, though a turbary is spoken of in 1686 as on the moor, by Dr. Kuerden. In opening sluices for drains in the lower part of the township of Fishwick, oak trees have been dug up in a sound state, after having been buried for centuries. In Frenchwood there is a spring possessing the property of petrifying plants, &c. The whole parish is remarkably destitute of minerals; stone is obtained in very limited quantities, and coal, of so much importance to the manufactories, is never obtained here. About two-thirds of the land in the parish is pasture, principally to supply the inhabitants of Preston with milk and butter; the other crops are chiefly grain and hay. Agricultural rents have depreciated here as elsewhere within the last twenty years, and the average rent of land in the following districts of the parish does not now exceed from 25s. to 30s. per statute acre.

Wall, of Preston.

From the Visitation of WILLIAM SMITH, Rouge Dragon, 1567, with continuation.



Kirkham Parish.

Kirkham Parish.

Antiquity of the parish.



IRKHAM parish is of an antiquity coeval with the foundation of the episcopal division of England under the heptarchy; and it is probable that in the original *kirk* of this parish, Paulinus exercised his holy ministrations. This is one of the three churches in Amounderness, which in Saxon times belonged to Preston; and it is unquestionably the Chicheham of the Domesday Book.* Roger Pictavensis, the great Norman baron of Lancashire, possessed the “Chuche and Maner de Kyrkham,”

which subsequently passed to the family of Theobald Walter as lords of Amounderness.

Its extent. Kirkham is one of the most extensive parishes in the county of Lancaster, and comprises about 130 square miles, or 38,871 statute acres. Of the compact portion of the parish the Wyre forms the northern and the Ribble the southern boundary, with Great and Little Plumpton on the western, and Salwick and Clifton on the eastern extremities; these boundaries are independent of Goosnargh, with Newsham and Whittingham, which, though severed from the other townships, form a part of the parish, about eight miles in length and five miles in breadth.

Boundaries. The harbour-like river Wyre, after having received the confluent streams of Inglewhite and Barton brooks, which fall into the Brock near St. Michael's, waters Little Eccleston and Larbrick, Great and Little Singleton and Hambleton, where it widens into the estuary, and falls into the Irish sea. The Ribble, after flowing past Clifton, Freckleton, and Warton, all in this parish, attains its utmost expansion in the parish of Lytham, where it discharges itself into the Irish sea. Freckleton is watered by several brooks, which are all affluents of the great stream; and the Warton, Freckleton, and Savock brooks wash the northern part of the parish: the latter of these streams, which disappears in the Ribble before Clifton, was noticed by Leland and Harrison, as coming from “Longridge Hills,” on their way between “Gayrstang and Prestun.”

Rivers, &c.

* See Vol. I. p. 108.