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the 1990s, the number of people in the UK who are aged 65 and over has increased by 1.5 million, and the number of people aged 75 and over has increased by 1.2 million (Office for National Statistics 1999). The number of people aged 65 and over is projected to increase to 6.5 million by 2011, and the number of people aged 75 and over to 4.5 million (Office for National Statistics 1999).

There is a growing awareness of the need to develop services to meet the needs of older people, and a number of initiatives have been launched in the UK to address this need. The Department of Health (1999) has published a strategy for older people, which sets out the government's commitment to improve the lives of older people. The strategy is based on three main principles: (1) to ensure that older people have the opportunity to live independently and actively; (2) to ensure that older people have access to the services and support they need; and (3) to ensure that older people are treated with respect and dignity.

The strategy is based on the following assumptions: (1) that older people are a diverse group with different needs and interests; (2) that older people should be able to live independently and actively; (3) that older people should have access to the services and support they need; and (4) that older people should be treated with respect and dignity. The strategy sets out a number of objectives and actions to be taken to achieve these aims.

The objectives of the strategy are: (1) to improve the health and well-being of older people; (2) to improve the social and economic participation of older people; (3) to improve the living conditions of older people; and (4) to improve the protection of older people. The actions to be taken to achieve these objectives are: (1) to improve the health and well-being of older people; (2) to improve the social and economic participation of older people; (3) to improve the living conditions of older people; and (4) to improve the protection of older people.

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FROM

Town of Preston.

PRESTON COURT LEET.



PRESTON-COURT LEET RECORDS.

EXTRACTS AND NOTES

BY

ANTHONY HEWITSON,

Author of "History of Preston," "Churches and Chapels" (Preston and District), "Places and Faces," "Northward," &c., and Joint-Editor of the "Tyldesley Diary."

INTRODUCTION BY

H. W. CLEMESHA, M.A.

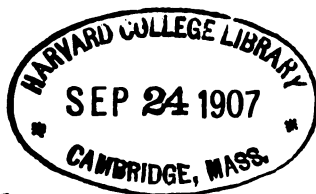
WITH REFERENCE MAP.

Preston:

GEORGE TOULMIN & SONS, THE GUARDIAN PRINTING WORKS,

1905.

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Town of Preston

Preston :

PRINTED BY G. TOULMIN AND SONS,
AT THE GUARDIAN PRINTING WORKS.

PREFACE.

The appearance in volume form of these extracts from the Preston Court Leet books, with explanatory notes, is the result of the decision of the Corporation of Preston to defray out of the municipal treasury the major part of the necessary expense. The borough now stands in line with Manchester, Leicester, Nottingham, &c., in recognizing that the possession of valuable records carries with it duties as well as privileges. It is hoped that the example now set by Preston will encourage other towns to take a more earnest view of their trusteeship, and, by making public old documents which have survived, further the study of municipal life in bygone ages.

These extracts and notes originally appeared in the *Preston Guardian* between November 16th, 1901, and September 19th, 1903, and they have since been thoroughly revised. I have primarily to thank the Corporation of Preston for permission to go through the Court Leet books and make such extracts from them as I deemed suitable. My thanks are also due to the Town Clerk (Mr. H. Hamer) and the principal officials at the Town Hall for the courteous manner in which they facilitated my labours; to Mr. H. W. Clemesha, Preston, for contributing an Introduction as well as rendering much valuable assistance in the

revision of notes ; to Mr. T. H. Myres, Preston, for the loan of various local maps ; to Mr. E. J. Andrew, Preston, for help in the preparation of the map of the town which accompanies the volume ; and to Professor Tait, of the Manchester University, who has placed his great knowledge of this branch of historical study at my service, and has also been good enough to look through such of the notes as are not merely biographical or topographical in character.

The dating of the records has been modernized, and the new year made to commence on the 1st of January and not on the 25th of March.

A word must be said, in conclusion, respecting the map. It includes, amongst other topographical data, a combination of Lang's map and the tithe map, both of which are later in date than the majority of the sittings of the court here recorded. There is no doubt that, during many of the 160 years which the records cover, some of the land shown as inclosed formed part of the Moor or of the common fields, and did not become "intacks" until later.

September, 1905.

A. H.

INTRODUCTION.

The following extracts from the records of the Preston Court Leet are a carefully revised edition of those which were made by Mr. Hewitson for the Proprietors of the "Preston Guardian" and appeared in the columns of that paper in 1901-2-3.

In order to avoid repetition and to economise space, some of the presentments which were published in the "Preston Guardian" have been omitted, but it is believed that nothing of importance has been left out and that those remaining are typical and representative extracts, and will serve to convey a fairly complete and accurate knowledge of the jurisdiction of the court and of one side of municipal life in the period with which they deal.

The records are to be found in three thick folio volumes, of modern binding, which are kept in the Town Hall, and are in an excellent state of preservation, though the writing, which, owing to the time covered, is, of course, in various hands, is in some parts very difficult to decipher.

In addition to the proceedings of the Court Leet, they contain those of two other courts as to which a word must be said. The first of these was the Mayor's Court or Great Court of Election, which was held on the Friday before the Feast of St. Wilfrid the Archbishop (12th October), at which the Mayor, the town's Bailiff, and the town's Sergeant were chosen for the ensuing twelve months by a jury of twenty-four. The other is variously referred to as the Inquest or Inquisition of Office. This

latter court, save in its title and its times of meeting, cannot be distinguished from the Court Leet, but would appear to be in every way similar to and to have been possessed of the same powers, though not entitled to be styled the "Great Court Leet," that title being confined to the two courts which were held within a month after Easter and a month after Michaelmas. So far as can be observed, the Inquest did not sit merely for the purpose of "inquiring" whether the presentments of the preceding Court Leet had been carried into effect, as its name might lead us to believe, but itself brought in new presentments precisely in the same way as that court did. It is best described as a sort of intermediate session of the court, held either because some offence required to be dealt with without delay, or to relieve the next court of some of the business.¹ Consequently in compiling these extracts it has not been thought necessary to observe a distinction which is apparently nothing but a legal or technical one, and the presentments have been selected indiscriminately from the transactions of the Court Leet and the Inquest of Office.

The first Court Leet whose proceedings are set forth in the volumes named was held on the 21st day of October, 1653, during the Commonwealth period, and the last meeting of which the records remain, took place on the 1st day of March, 1813, rather more than two years before the Battle of Waterloo. It will thus be seen that in point of antiquity they must concede pride of place to those of Manchester which commence in 1552, but it may still be urged that during the greater part of the 160 years, which the records cover, the court was an active and living thing, possessed of real authority, and performing more or less adequately those duties for which it and similar courts were

1. It is sometimes called the Court Baron in the records, but this it certainly was not. In the law books the Inquest of Office is defined as a prerogative method of inquiring concerning any matter that entitles the Crown to the possession of lands or tenements, goods, or chattels. As to the procedure, see 12 and 13 Vict. c. 109 ss. 30 *et seq.* But here it would seem to have been a court. In *Select Pleas in Manorial Courts* II., 137, the Inquest of Office is referred to, and appears to have been a Steward's Court preparatory to the Leet. Miss Bateson, in a letter to Professor Tait, suggests that the bailiff's *simplex querela* of *Magna Carta*, c. 38, refers to this Court.—Stubbs' *Select Charters*, p. 301.

created. In some of the presentments given below references will be found to others brought in at meetings of the Court Leet prior to 1653, but the records of these have been lost or destroyed. On the other hand, as will be seen later, there is evidence that the session of the 1st day of March, 1813, was not the last that occurred.

The presentments of the Court Leet and of the Inquest of Office are written in English throughout, doubtless in pursuance of the Act of 1650, which directed that the proceedings of Leet and all other courts within the Commonwealth must be "in the English tongue only, and not in Latin or any other language, and in a legible hand, and not in court hand," under a penalty of £20, one-half of which was to go to the informer.¹ But on the 19th day of October, 1660, when the first court held after the Restoration took place the headings were Latinised, and so continued until the 23rd day of October, 1732, after which date the English style was resumed.

Next we may consider the origin and character of the court, and of other courts of similar nature which are to be found in other parts of the country, like the Court of Ssembly Quest or Assembly Inquest, which met on the Wicker Green, at Sheffield, the Mickletorn Leet, which was held at Nottingham, and the Courts Leet of Manchester and Salford. They have no exact modern equivalent, the nearest approach to them being found in the police court or the petty sessions of the present day. But they differed widely from these, not only in their procedure, but in the fact that in addition to punishing petty malefactors they exercised a paternal watchfulness over the borough, re-proving and exhorting all and sundry in a manner which is as interesting as it is at times humorous.

When we turn to the older law books we find mention made of three courts which it is necessary we should notice, viz. : The Court Baron, the Court Customary, and the Court Leet. The first-named court is stated to be the court which was held by the lord of a manor before the freehold tenants who owed suit

1. *Manchester Court Leet Records* (edited by Earwaker), IV. 56 n.

and service to him and were bound by their tenure to assist in the dispensation of justice. It sat once every three weeks, and concerned itself chiefly with controversies as to lands within the manor, though it had also jurisdiction in personal actions in which the debt or damages claimed were less than 40s. Though the lord's steward presided at the sitting of the court, he was registrar rather than judge, for the freeholders "deemed the dooms." Owing to its inefficiency it fell into decay, and its ruin was completed by legislation. On the creation of the modern County Courts, in 1846, provision was made for the surrender of the right to hold this court to the crown.¹ Its jurisdiction with regard to land was practically abolished in 1860,² while, not being a court of record, it fell within the provision contained in the County Courts Act of 1867³ that no action which could be brought in any county court should thenceforth be commenced or be maintainable in any hundred or other inferior court not being a court of record.

As the Court Baron was a court of freeholders, the Court Customary was a court of copyholders. It settled disputes as to the custom of the manor, and in it the lord, through his steward, who was judge of the court, exercised authority over the villeins.

The Court Leet differs altogether from the courts just described. The Court Baron owed its existence to the feudal principle that a landowner should have civil authority over his freehold tenants. It would seem that the mere fact that a man possessed land gave him a right to hold a court of and for his freehold tenants; while over his unfree men, or over the tenants of his unfree land, "the lord had, according to the law of the King's Court, almost unlimited power; short of maiming them he might do what he liked with them."⁴ But to obtain criminal or penal powers over

1. 9 and 10 Vict., c. 95, s. 14.

2. 23 and 24 Vict., c. 126, s. 26.

3. 30 and 31 Vict., c. 142, s. 28.

4. Pollock and Maitland. *Hist. of Eng. Law I.*, 593. In practice, however, villeins were included with freeholders as suitors to most feudal courts.

his freehold tenants, it is obvious that something more was needed. The criminal power was in the hands of the king, and to hold a court exercising criminal jurisdiction consequently necessitated a grant from the crown. "Contrasted with the jurisdictional powers which a lord has merely because he is a lord with tenants, stand the franchises, liberties, regalities (*libertates, regalia*), powers and immunities which can only be possessed by those to whom the king has granted them. These franchises were of the most various orders, ranging from the powers of the palatine earl to those of the lord of the petty manor, who had merely the view of frank pledge and the police jurisdiction that was incident to it. This last franchise was common, and the court in which the lord exercised it twice a year was acquiring the name of a leet (*leta*); it was a police court for the presentment of offences, and for the punishment of minor offences; it was co-ordinate with the sheriff's turn. Sometimes the lord had yet higher justice in his hands, and might hang thieves taken in the act of theft; and thus gradually we ascend the scale of 'royalties' which leads up the palatine earldoms."¹

As will be seen, the foundation of the authority of this court was its right to exercise the powers, which were exercised by the sheriff twice a year through every Hundred, to see that every one was in a frank pledge, and in a tithing, to obtain accusations against those suspected of grave crimes in order that the sheriff might capture them and keep them imprisoned or on bail until the Judges came on assize, and to punish minor offences. These lords who had received a grant of view of frankpledge, or were exempted from the sheriff's turn, performed those duties in their own courts, and saw to it that every one within their manor, unless he were a magnate, a knight, a clerk, or a freeholder, and so exempt, was incorporated with his fellows in a pledge for the good behaviour of one another.

"Towards the end of the 13th century the word Leet (*leta*)—which seems to have spread outwards from the East Anglian counties—was becoming a common name for such a court, but

1. *Hist. of Eng. Law* I., 531.

to the last *visus franciplegii* remained the most formal and correct of titles. The lord who had this claimed to swear in a body of jurors—often they were the chief pledges or heads of the tithings—and to put before them those same ‘articles of view’ (*capitula visus*) which the sheriff employed in his ‘turn.’ The minor offences were punished on the spot by amercements which went to swell the lord’s revenue. But probably the pecuniary profit was in the eyes of lords a small matter when compared with the power that was thus secured to them. Twice a year the villagers, bond and free, had to report themselves, and tell tales of one another, while no tale went outside the manor to the ear of jealous neighbours or rapacious officials. Probably the tenants also were gainers by the franchise; they could manage their own affairs without the interference of foreigners.”¹

The classification of such seignorial courts given in the old law-books is, it will be observed, clear and well defined. There are three courts, two of them “tenurial,” and dealing respectively with freeholders and villeins, the other “franchisal” and meting out punishments to all and sundry. Each one has its separate province, and there is no possibility of confusion. But when we come to test the theory by the knowledge which we possess of the working of the courts from the existing records, we are inevitably driven to the conclusion, put forward by Professors Pollock and Maitland, that the actual practice differed widely from the carefully arranged and systematised scheme which is set forth by lawyers from the 15th century downwards, and it becomes plain that there were not originally three distinct courts carefully separated one from the other, but one court with more than one kind of jurisdiction,² and that even in later times actual arrangements failed to conform exactly to legal theory. At Manchester, for example, though a Court Baron met once every three weeks for the recovery of debts or damages under 40s., yet the Court Leet, which met only twice a year, transacted business which the theory of the lawyers assigned to the Court

1. *Hist. of Eng. Law* I., 580.

2. *Ibid*, I. 531, 593.

Baron.¹ Presentments as to the deaths of tenants, the names of next heirs, the taking of heriots, &c., which are theoretically the special province of the Court Baron, are found in its records, sandwiched in between others dealing with easing-droppers or the theft of firewood. But the question as to whether the title Court Leet covers more than legal definition allowed to it hardly arises in the case of Preston, which differed from the typical case of the rural manor which was in the hand of a local lord, in that it was in the hand of the King, and was a borough. For, it is obvious that the Court Customary, if it ever existed as a separate court, must have come to an untimely end, as the unfree holdings became burgages, and when royal privilege came to provide that the unfree man who dwelt within the bounds of a borough for a year and a day should become free.² Again, there was very little likelihood of the continued existence of a "seignorial" court, like the Court Baron in a borough such as Preston, which acknowledged as its lord not a local baron or earl, but the far-off King, had obtained at a price exemption from the visits of the royal officials and itself collected the rents and *gafols*. What chance, too, would such a court have in the presence of the "communal" court, which, as we know, not only took cognisance of transactions in land, but in some places absorbed the small debt jurisdiction of the Court Baron? And how could it meet the growing powers of the Gilds? Lastly, if it survived till later times, would not its jurisdiction in personal actions be ousted by and its sessions deserted for the newer courts with more efficient procedure, which, like the Preston Borough Court of Pleas, were being established by charter?

These questions are difficult to answer with our present knowledge. Fortunately, we need not trouble ourselves with them, for the records which are here set forth are clearly those of a court which did not aspire to more than what we may call the recognised sphere of action of Courts Leet.

1. *Manchester Court Leet Records*, ed. Earwaker. Occasionally (*e.g.*, in 1596) it is described in the heading as a Court Leet and Court Baron.

2. A provision to this effect is found in the Preston Customal. See *The Law of Breteuil*, *Eng. Hist. Rev.* XV. 496, 501. Cf. *Hist. of Eng. Law*, I. 648.

It sat in the Moot Hall, which was on the site of the present Town Hall, and is generally stated to be held before the Mayor, the Bailiffs, and the Steward (who was also the Town Clerk), but for a short period the Recorder of the Borough sat in it, and in its later days, when its glory had departed, it was occasionally presided over by the Steward alone. The leet jury—an indeterminate number—was sworn, and proceeded to bring in presentments. Representing as they did an older system than the modern jury, the jurors did not listen to evidence, and then give a verdict. They represented the neighbourhood, and themselves accused and convicted. Evil-doers were not tried; they were found guilty. And if they were not sent to the pillory, the cuckstool, the tumbrel, or the rogues' post, or sentenced to be confined in prison—which was in the Moot Hall until the lock-up in Turk's Head Court was built—their punishment was left to the Mayor, or they were fined the sums fixed by statutes or assizes, or lastly their amercement was assessed by the affeerors.¹ But the presentments comprised more than verdicts in cases of misdemeanours. They frequently contained complaints as to nuisances, as to the dereliction of duty of officials, as to the lack of repair of the "causeys" and other grievances which are nowadays generally made known by "An indignant ratepayer" in the correspondence columns of the local press. Mr. Hewitson thinks he can trace a sort of topographical connection between the different presentments, and that a certain order was preserved in recording them. At any rate, it would seem to be a fact that the presentments relating to the east or other end of the town frequently appear together, and recognition of this has made it easier in some instances to make conjectures as to the position of certain fields or meadows, whose names are not shown on any existing map, and would otherwise be difficult to locate.

In endeavouring to convey some idea of the variety of matters with which the court dealt, it may be stated at the

1. Courts Leet also had cognizance of some more serious crimes, but the power of punishment lay with the justices. *Manchester Court Leet Records* (edit. by Harland). Chetham Society Publications, vol. 63, p. 32.

outset that nothing was too large or too small to escape the watchfulness of the jury. The Mayor, the Bailiffs, and the Council of the borough were as liable to their criticism as those who played "tables," or those who "tussled" or were guilty of "fighting and fliteing" with their neighbours. Still, if they were more careful of one thing than of another, it was that the privileges of themselves and of their fellow freemen should not be diminished or their burdens increased by the influx of "foreigners," who might exercise a trade that only burgesses could rightfully practice, or of "inmates," or lodgers, who, being persons of no apparent substance, might become chargeable to the town.¹ Were these persons of proper merit, they might be allowed, on payment of the fine, to become burgesses by court roll, or obtain a license to live in the town, and be known as "stallengers." From one presentment, it would even appear that though these interlopers might be what the Court Leet jury called "unfitt" persons, yet if they had resided in the town for a certain but indefinite period, they were deemed to have obtained a sort of right to remain, and might not be expelled, but were "stallenged."² This word, which is to be met with in the local history of many boroughs, is generally applied to those persons who were compelled to pay for the privilege of having a stall in the market—a right which the burgesses possessed by reason of their status—but it seems fairly clear, so far, at any rate, as Preston is concerned, that the original significance of the word had been lost by this time, and that it was simply a general term for those who had obtained leave to live in the town and exercise some, but not all, of the privileges of freemen.³ It was the duty of "houselookers," of whom there were three, appointed for the "surveyynnge and disposinge of Inmates, fforeynors and other Enormities within this Towne,"⁴ to present these intruders at the Court Leet, whereupon the jury fined them and those who

1. Even foreign burgesses were not allowed to be harboured. p. 34 *infra*.

2. p. 38.

3. *Owens College Historical Essays*, p. 237.

4. p. 17 *infra*.

harboured them until they were removed. Though the burgesses of Preston had some reason to be jealous of newcomers who exercised the privileges of freemen, and yet escaped the burden of "scot and lot,"¹ there is no doubt that by too rigidly enforcing their rights of exclusion they hindered the growth of the trade and population of the borough, and sent prosperity from their gates.

Next to the right to carry on a trade, which was the most valuable possession of a freeman, the right that was most highly esteemed was that of pasturing cattle on the Marsh and the Moor. By orders made and repeated at different celebrations of the Guild Merchant, "stallengers" were excluded from participating in this privilege, while the large number of presentments with reference to the breach of these orders, to the overburdening of the pastures, to the damage done to them by geese, to the negligence of the pinders, who sometimes failed to impound the beasts of those who had not this right, all tend to show how carefully invasions of this privilege were guarded against. One man is presented for turning to the Marsh a heifer which hath not had a calf.² A miller, who has a water mill close by, is repeatedly complained of for allowing the water to escape from the dam and spoil the pasture.³ The jury recommend that the cattle be not turned to the Marsh before a certain time in the morning, but be collected by the herdsman at Spittle Moss—a piece of land which was so called because it was near to or formerly belonged to the dissolved Hospital of St. Mary Magdalen—and taken there by him.⁴ Similarly, the neglect of the Bailiffs to provide a town bull for the good of the commonalty is noted⁵; and after it is provided certain persons who "abused and foyled" the beast "by Sleating doggs upon him" are fined.⁶ We should be in error, however, if we supposed that the Prestonians of those days, in thus fining those who tortured the town bull, were actuated by any higher motive than a desire to restrain the doing of damage to their property, for we know that bull baiting was a recognised sport in the borough, and that in

1. p. 52. 2. p. 125. 3. pp. 3, 61. 4. p. 25. 5. p. 60. 6. p. 80.

later days, if not at this time, it was customary when a new bull had been bought to do the old one to death in the Market Place.

Incidentally, these repeated references to the rights of pasture in conjunction with others relating to the right to obtain whins on Spittle Moss, to the "balks" or unploughed strips which separated the land of one burgess from another in the common fields, and to the wandering of pigs in the streets, and even in the Churchyard, serve to remind us that we may easily exaggerate the mercantile aspect of town life, and that even in the seventeenth century the town had not altogether outgrown that rural shell in which it had been reared.

There are also to be found here those minute regulations with reference to the sale and manufacture of goods in which the policy of our law at one time delighted. The Assize of Bread and Ale is enforced, although, judging from the number of presentments relating to it, with some considerable difficulty, while "forestalling and regrating," *i.e.*, buying articles and selling them at an increased price, and "engrossing," *i.e.*, creating a corner in goods,¹ carrying out corn and not inquiring for the "towler,"² making up shoes with horse leather,³ exposing for sale leather insufficiently tanned,⁴ selling bricks out of town,⁵ and making them otherwise than according to the recognised measurements (which were 10 inches in length, 5 inches in breadth, and 2½ inches in thickness),⁶ all call for the reprobation of the jury and the punishment of the offenders.

It is easy nowadays—it would have been still easier fifty years ago—to speak contemptuously of many of these regulations; but it should be remembered that in some instances, notably in the fixing of cab fares, in the inspection of food to ascertain its purity, and in the weighing of bread, we are still far from that complete freedom of contract which was held up to reverence by the economists of the early part of last century. There is something to be said, too, in favour of the enactments against "forestalling," "engrossing," and "regrating." In an era of well paved highroads, of railways

1. pp. 85 96. 2. p. 60. 3. p. 139. 4. p. 18. 5. p. 13. 6. p. 139.

and docks, of telegraphs and telephones, of wholesale houses and joint stock concerns, we have the whole world for our market; but it must be remembered that the effective area of supply for Preston during the time these records cover must have been limited to a few miles from its bars. It would consequently have been comparatively easy for a shrewd trader to have bought up the available supply of the market, and thereby enhanced prices to the detriment of the townspeople. Partial as the success of these regulations must have been in a borough like Preston, which had no walls, we imagine that, even in the present year of grace, many persons who pride themselves on their smartness and shrewdness would be willing to barter some part of their reputation if they could but obtain a measure which would be as effective a restraint on speculators as this mediæval device.

The action of the Leet jury in the character of a Streets and Buildings Committee is not without interest. The duty of looking after the highways seems to have been shared by the Bailiffs, the Supervisors of the Highways, and the general body of the inhabitants or the inhabitants of a particular district. One of the presentments states that, the "now Baylives of this Towne shall cause the streets and all other the pavements within this Towne to be repaired soe farre forth as others their predecessors have been accustomed to repaire the same."¹ Another states that, "Ye Supvisors of ye highway shall repaire ye foote Cawsey and Cartway, in Broadgate, well and sufficiently before ye xvth day of May next, in paine of Xs."² In a third, the jury order all the old clay pits near to the highway on Peel Moor to be filled up and made even, "by people from everie house within this Towne at the appointment of Mr. Maior and his brethren, as they in theire discretion shall thinke meete, when the weather may be convenient for the same";³ while a similar presentment directs "all the Occupiers of the lands upon Avenham and thereabouts" to make a "platt," or small bridge, and a sufficient way for carts and carriages at the head of Titmouse Croft.⁴ With some hesitation, it is suggested that

1. p. 23. 2. p. 58. 3. p. 26. 4. p. 42.

the Bailiffs were required to see to the repair of the streets within the town bars and of such other places as they had customarily attended to, while the Supervisors were held responsible for the condition of all other places. But even the jury would seem to have been in doubt, for we notice that on one occasion they do not venture to say definitely upon whom the burden of repair is cast, but present the Bailiffs or "whom it may concern."¹ The general body of inhabitants might possibly be called upon to do the work of repair personally, when it was not thought advisable to levy a rate for the purpose.

In addition to repairing the streets, it was the duty of the Bailiffs to see that the Moot Hall was kept in order and whitewashed, and that the wells of the town were cleaned and fenced about. The centre of the town seems to have been rather badly off for water in those days. The chief wells were Mince Pitt well, at the bottom of what is now called Main Sprit Weind, the well in the lower part of the Market Place (made in 1654), a well in Fishergate (made in 1666), Lady well on the west side of Friargate, and Goose well, which was just outside the Church Street bars.² One quaint presentment states that "there are maine Complaints of ye Inhabitants in the Lower end of the ffryergate for want of water, having none but at a great distance or upon leave, which is burthensome and uncertaine, and they being a people to their power as readie to observe and keepe all commannds which come from ye Major and Councell as their fellow inhabitants, which have recd ye like favour and libertie, not repininge thereat, but rejoycinge, onely hopeinge and prayinge they may enjoy ye same priviledge where ye Maior and Councell shall think fittinge, and at ye most easiest charge, wee therefore apprehend their said requests reasonable and ought to bee done when the convenientest tyme may appeare to Mr. Maior and his Councell."³ One cannot help hoping that this reasonable requirement was granted to such worthy and law abiding people as the inhabitants of the lower end of Friargate evidently were, though one must admit to a certain feeling of curiosity as to the part of the town in

1. p. 61. 2. p. 24 and note on p. 25. 3. p. 69.

which the members of the jury who gave this testimonial resided. But in spite of the provision of new wells, cause for complaint seems to have existed down to 1729, when Robert Abbatt, a Quaker, and Thomas Kellett obtained a grant from the corporation of some land on Avenham, built a "cistern" and distributed water by means of pipes.¹

It was the duty of the bailiffs also to repair the pinfold² and sheepfold,³ and see that the partitions in the former were not broken down.⁴ They were further required to keep the butts on Spittle Moss in repair⁵—though the practice of archery must at this time have been much "decayed,"—to see that the cuckstool,⁶ the pillory,⁷ and the tumbrel⁸ were in order, and that the Marsh was not washed away through the absence of cauls.⁹ They were also the treasurers of the borough, and the Leet jury on one occasion wax indignant because the late bailiffs have "unduely discharged themselves of 18s., by them prtended to bee for wine bestowed upon Sir Gilbte Ireland and Mr. Sudell."¹⁰

In 1656 we meet George Werden, who was evidently a pluralist, for he united in his own person the offices of beadle, scavenger, and swineherd, if not those of sexton and bellman as well. As he had such a variety of duties to perform, there is small cause for wonder that some of them were neglected, and that the town's revenue was "vainely given." Instead of blowing his horn in the streets early in the morning that the freemen might turn out their swine to be taken to the Moor and there kept until four o'clock in the afternoon, and marching off beggars to the House of Correction, he appears to have allowed the swine to go about the streets and the town to be filled with poor people from the country "to ye discredit of our towne and hindrance of our owne poor."¹¹

There are numerous other presentments, which, though they have no connection with one another, serve to throw some light upon the life of the period. From one presentment we learn that members of the Town Council wore gowns,¹² "an

1. p. 175. 2. p. 169. 3. pp. 37, 42. 4. p. 100. 5. p. 71. 6. p. 53.
7. p. 93. 8. p. 93. 9. pp. 42, 87. 10. p. 120. 11. p. 64. 12. p. 62.

ancient custom " which is now neglected. Many of them show that our forefathers were somewhat strict observers of the Sabbath, for it appears to have been a most heinous offence to carry water, and even to take tobacco, publicly in the streets on that day, though it is only right to point out that the person who was charged with the latter crime was also accused of being "staggering drunk."¹ A widow—probably the losing party in an action in the Borough Court of Pleas—is fined for using "scandalous and Rayling words against Mr. John Cottam and Robte Loxam, who were sworn jurors in ye townes Cort of Tryalls, terming them as base in theire verdict, as if they had picked her pocket."² A member of the important local family of the Banisters is presented for not erecting a "burgage" which he had suffered to go to ruin.³ A large number of people, including the steward of the Court, are charged with encroaching on the streets by erecting rails and posts, and are directed to remove them or to pay rent for the same. Others are taught, by means of fines, that they must not break hedges,⁴ or "annoy" the streets by leaving rubbish or timber in them,⁵ or by flaying horses there.⁶ In short, there is no matter affecting the orderly conduct of the town, except the graver crimes, with which the jury were not prepared to deal, and, allowing for a little natural partiality for the privileges of freemen of the ancient borough, to do justice between man and man.

Lastly, there remains the melancholy task of tracing the Court's decay. The causes were threefold. First of these, we may place the irksomeness of having to attend the court and take part in its proceedings, which in legal terminology was called the duty of performing "suit of court." The law books declare that this was an incident of tenure, and was attached to the holding of land. As to who owed it to the Preston Court Leet the records are silent, though on one occasion the Sergeants are amerced for not having given warning of the session of the court to those whose duty it was to attend.⁷ Possibly only those who held land were suitors; possibly all the freemen;

1. p. 153. 2. p. 108. 3. pp. 3, 48. 4. p. 87. 5. p. 182. 6. p. 138.
7. p. 173.

or, again, the class may not have been strictly defined ; in which case it is probable that the Steward would have a right of selection. In any event, the frequency with which fines were imposed on large numbers of persons for withdrawing their "suit" testifies to the fact that the burden was widely borne and was found to be a hardship.

In the second place, we may put the unsatisfactory nature of the procedure, to which reference has already been made. There was no sifting of evidence, no hearing of the culprit. People from the vicinity, relying upon hearsay and tittle-tattle, possibly influenced by ill-will towards a neighbour, declared that an offence had been committed. The presentment could not be controverted : it accused and punished at the same time. It is scarcely surprising that this rough and ready system, which belonged to the 13th century, should be found to be unsatisfactory five hundred years later.¹

This accounted for the preference which was shown for a rival court, the petty sessions of the justices, who received jurisdiction over all new offences which were created by the legislature, and thus formed the third factor in the overthrow of the Court Leet. However ridiculous Mr. Justice Shallow and other justices of the peace and of *quorum* might make themselves at times, their court must have been eagerly accepted as an agreeable alternative to the archaic injustice perpetrated by the Leet jury. And while the powers of the justices were being steadily extended, those of the Court Leet were being gradually abridged. The Assize of Bread and Ale was abolished, and the statutes forbidding forestalling, etc., were repealed, these regulations having become repugnant to the spirit of the age. New views

1. Those who desire to pursue the matter further are referred to the Introduction to *The Manchester Court Leet Records* ; to *Le Court Leete et Court Baron*, per John Kitchen (Lond., 1598) ; to *The Manner and Forme how to keep a Court Leet*, by John Wilkinson (Lond., 1620) ; to *A Practical Treatise on Copyhold Tenure, with the Methods of Holding Courts Leet, Courts Baron, and other Courts*, by Richard Barnard Fisher (Lond., 1794) ; and to *The Practice of Courts-Leet and Courts-Baron*, published from the manuscripts of Sir William Croggs, Knt., some time Lord Chief Justice of England (Lond., 1702).

as to apprenticeship and as to trading privileges were in the air, and where the old customs were not actually swept away they were ignored. When firearms superseded bows and arrows, it became unnecessary for the court to see that there were butts in every tithing, and that those butts were in repair. And so, by degrees, time, Parliament, and the judges¹ filched away the matters over which the Court Leet had cognizance, until its authority and influence dwindled away, and it became a shadow of its former self. Falling thus upon evil days, the court would seem to have died of inanition rather than to have met a violent death, and when the Sheriffs' Act of 1887 was passed, and the sheriff's turn—the very foundation of the court's authority—was abolished,² the section did not make a change, but simply recorded an existing fact. Courts Leet still meet, but their sessions do but caricature their former usefulness, and have little object, save to minister to the vanity of some local landowner, who induces the "suitors" to perform their duty by means of a substantial dinner.

The epitaph of our local court is somewhat baldly recorded, and is very painful reading. It is written in the second volume of Peter Whittle's *History of the Borough of Preston*, under the date of May 5th, 1835, and thus it runs:—"The court leet belonging to the corporation became defunct, in consequence of its powers devolving upon the magistrates and the quarter sessions. It appears to have been originally ruled by custom and usage in a very partial manner, and defeated the very ends of justice, and filled the pockets of the body corporate or those immediately connected with them."³

1. The tendency may be easily seen by a perusal of the case of *Colebrooke v. Elliott*. 3 Burrows p., 1859.

2. 50 and 51 Vict., c. 55, sec. 18, subs. 4.

3. p. 153.

PRESTON COURT LEET.

On the second page of the first book the Court Leet records commence, viz. :—

The great Court Leete with view of ffranckpledge of the Burrough or Towne of Preston, in the Countie of Lancaster, holden in the Mootehall there, the one and twentieth day of October, in the yeare of our Lord 1653, before Edward ffrench, gent., Maior of ye said Burrough, Henry Breres and Richard Primmett, Bailiffs of the said Burrough, and Evan Wall, gent., Steward of the Court there.

The names of the jury to enquire as well for the Comonwealth as for the Maior, Bailiffes, and Burgesses of the Burrough or Towne aforesaid, who were sworne the day and year above said, viz. :—Roger Sudell, James Gorton, Richard Burton, Richard Woodburne, John Mitton ye younger, William Worden ye young., John Copeland, Edward Dawson, Edward ffrance, Henry Newshame, Thomas Hoole, Robt. Bayley, Thomas Oards, Rich. Turner, Thos. Graystocke, who say and p'sent upon their Oathe as followeth, in theis English words, vizt. :

Wee find and p'sent the Exercise of Artillerie¹ is not used within this Towne, accordinge to the forme of the Statute in such cases made and provided, And wee p'sent the now Bailiffs of this Towne shall repaire the Butts before the first day of May next in paine of vjs viijd, And sett Rayles about them that the beasts doe not throw them down.

1. The word "Artillerie" as met with in the above presentment means bows and arrows. The reference to the Statute is

Wee find and p'sent the assize of Bread and beere¹ lately p'scribed by Mr. Maior ought to bee observed.

decisive. Shooting with guns was carefully restricted by law; but 33 Henry VIII., c. 9, enforced the keeping of bows and arrows upon every male between seven and 60 years of age, and ordered every tything, village, and hamlet to keep butts for the exercise of archers in shooting, at times convenient, under penalty of 20s. for every three months wanting butts there. This was one of the regular articles of periodical inquiry by Courts Leet, and the manuals of their procedure, published early in the 17th century, state the law under the heads "Artillery to be maintained" and "Butts in every Tything." Probably at Preston, and certainly at Manchester (see *Manchester Court Leet Records*), Archery was "wonderfully decayed" as early as 1578; but, as the law was not repealed, the butts continued to be repaired there as elsewhere far into the next century. They may have been used for musketry practice; but the Court Leet had nothing to do with that. It has been conjectured that the outbreak of the Civil War finally put an end to an obsolete law. At all events, it seems somewhat significant that at Sheffield the butts were regularly repaired down to 1642, after which the item concerning repair never reappears in the town accounts (see *Records of the Burgery of Sheffield*). The Preston Court Leet records contain presentments, regularly made, as to repairing the butts, from 1653 to 1665; from 1665 to 1687 they make no allusion to them; in October, 1687, the Jury, by presentment, direct the Bailiffs to "repaire ye butts;" and after this the records appear to be quite silent on the subject. The last mention made of local butts in the *Manchester Court Leet Records* (edited by Mr. Earwaker) is under date 1731. The butts at Preston, as referred to in the presentments, were on the north-west side of the town—on "Spital Moss," a piece of land to which reference will be made hereafter. There were, however, local butts elsewhere, if not at the time mentioned in the Court Leet records, certainly later. At the close of the 18th century there were butts near the south end of Deepdale-road, in a croft between the present County Arms hotel and the site of the old Preston and Longridge railway station.

1. The "assize" regulated the retail sale of bread and beer. The weight of the loaf was increased or diminished according to the price of grain. Originally or in very early times assize notices as to bread, ale, &c., seem to have been simply royal ordinances, the supervision and arrangement of them being under the control of "the clerk of the market of the King's household." Afterwards various acts were passed regulating the assize of articles of ordinary consumption: the statute 51 Henry III. has generally been accepted as the earliest relating to bread and ale, though an Assize of Bread ascribed to the reign of Henry II. is printed by Cunningham, *English Industry and Commerce*, I., p. 568 (3rd edition). The parts in this statute relating to ale—provisions which regulated its price in accordance with the varying price of wheat—were amended to some extent by 23 Henry VIII., c. 4, which gave the magistrates a discretionary power as to fixing the price of ale in their own districts, or within their

Wee find and p'sent Willm Bannester¹ hath not erected a Burgage² wch hee suffered to goe to ruin, on the Towns Land, att the east end of the Towne, accordinge to the 44th p'sentm't of the Inquest of office, in October, 1650, and accordinge to former and other ps'tm'ts, And therefore to pay his fine of xxs. alreadie forfeited, and to erect a house there before the 29th of Septemb' in paine of xls.

Wee find and p'sent Edward Eccles hath not removed his swyne Coate or Co't, erected in the highway to Minespitt well,³

own jurisdiction; but there was no such discretion allowed in regard to bread—the act definitely imposed its assize, which was from time to time enforced by orders of the Privy Council. In cities or corporate towns power to regulate the assize of bread and ale was often conferred by charter upon the local authorities, the interference of the clerk of the royal household being frequently precluded in special terms. This was the case at Preston when the presentment was made. The “great charter”—that of Queen Elizabeth, dated August 24th, 1566—definitely grants the assize to the “Mayor, Bailiffs, and Burgesses of Preston.” The statute 8 Anne, c. 19, repealed that of 51 Henry III., imposed a fresh assize of bread, and made various regulations in respect to it. Acts were passed at later times concerning the assize; but by the statute 55 George III., c. 99, the practice was abolished in the metropolis, and subsequently in other places—Preston included—it was done away with.

1. Bannester is a very old Preston family name. It is one of the names which most frequently appear in the Preston Guild Rolls; William being, evidently, the favourite “Christian” prefix. In the Guild Roll for 1397—the earliest extant Roll of Guild Burgesses—there is the name “Will Bannester.” Between 1345 and 1626 the Mayoral chair of Preston was occupied 31 times by persons bearing the name of Banestre or Banester. And amongst the Parliamentary representatives of Preston there have been the following:—Richard Banastre, in 1306-7; Henry Banastre, 1327; and Henry Banister, 1614, 1625.

2. Burgage refers to a house or other property “held by burgage tenure.” According to Blackstone, “Tenure in burgage is . . . where the King or other person is lord of an ancient borough, in which the tenements are held by a rent certain.”—The offence referred to is founded upon the following clauses in the Customale of Preston:—“If any one wish to be made a burgess, he shall come into court and give to the prefect 12d. and shall take his burgage from the pretor; afterwards he shall give to the pretor's servant one penny, that he may certify him to have been made a burgess in court.” “Also, when any burgess shall receive his burgage, and it shall be a void place, the pretor shall order him to erect his burgage within forty days, upon a forfeiture; but if he shall not erect it, he shall be in mercy 12d.”—*Eng. Hist. Rev.*, XV., p. 496.

3. Minespitt well was at the bottom of Main Sprit Weind, near or within the present enclosed ground of the Gas Company, on the north side.

to the annoyance of the Highway, according to the time limited in the 35th p'ntm't of the same Inquest, and therefore to pay his fine of vjs. viiijd., and for every Month it continues unpulled downe after notice given vis. viiijd.

Wee find and p'nt Willm Blacoe ought to bee proceeded ag't according to the 36th p'sentm't of the same Inquest, and to forbear to trade, use, or exercise any Trade contrarie to his Bond, given when hee became A freeman, in payne of ev'y Moneth hee shall soe trade to forfeit xls.¹

Wee find and p'sent Mr. William Hodgkinson² hath not erected a Bu[rgage] upon a parcell of ye Townes Land, lyinge betweene George Hodgk[inson's] Lands on ye East side and ye Lands of Robte Bayley on the West side, according to the 26th p'ntm't of the last Inquisicon, and hath ther[by] forfeited his fine of xls., and that he shall erect one before ten[th] of September next, in payne of xls.³

Wee find and p'nt Mr. Edmund Werden hath not, accordinge to ye affearing⁴ of the 31st p'ntm't of the last Leet, Released his Interest in the old Milne steed and Damme, nor made any agreement with the Towne [as to] the new Milne Steed and Damme,⁵ And yt hee shall come before Mr. Maior and his

1. In old times local trade operations were under the control of the Corporation, as represented by the Court Leet, and the wardens and master tradesmen of the "local companies," and this control was not entirely dropped until about 1792.

2. Hodgkinson is a name, with a few variations in the spelling of it, which occurs more frequently than any other in the old Guild Rolls. It is first mentioned in the Roll for 1459. In the Rolls after that date down to 1682 the name appears 222 times. Between 1559 and 1681 thirteen of the Mayors of Preston were named Hodgkinson; one of them—James Hodgkinson—being the Guild Mayor in 1662.

3. The bracketed portions of the words are now quite undecipherable in the minute book.

4. "Affearing" relates to the action of Affeerers—"persons appointed in Court Leets, &c., to set fines on offenders punished arbitrarily, for which no express penalty is prescribed by statute." As a rule, Affeerers were persons of some standing in the community, and, generally, "they served to prevent too high fines or amercements being made by any Steward or other officer of the Court."

5. "Milne steed" means the place or site of a mill. The "steed" and "damme" were in the neighbourhood of Preston Marsh—probably near

Bretheren,¹ and make an agreement with them, at or before the Second day of february next, in paine of xxs., And upon like paine of xxs. for every month hee shall neglect or delay to p'f[orm] the same Agreement with the Towne.

Wee find and p'nte Mr. Edmund Werden hath not, according to the 29th p'ntm't of the last Inquisicon, filled upp the Little Ditch wch hee made into the old damme and thorough wch hee made a wateri[ng], to ye great annoyance of ye Marsh, And whereas by the same p'ntm't he was ordered to stake and wynd all alonge his Ditch att the Marsh side, wch hee hath neglected, wee doe therefore amerce [him] in vjs. viijd., and for every month he shall neglect to stake and wy[nd]² and fill upp the said Ditch in vjs. viijd.

Wee find and p'sent Evan Rogerson hath not performed the 5th pntm of the last Leet in cuttinge his Wood³ wch hanges over Henry Wilson's house in the ffryergate, in the possession of John Singleton, and he therefore accordinge to the p'ntm't aforesaid forfeited his fine of vjs. viijd., and wee doe amerce him in every month the same continues undone in vjs. viijd.

Wee find and p'sent Seth Morte⁴ of this Towne made an assault and affray and drew blood upon the bodie of William Brewer; therefore amerce him in vs.

Wee doe find and pn'te the said Seth Morte made a Tusle⁵ and did abu[se] Richard Morte his brother, doe therefore amerce him in ijs. vid.

the north-east corner below the old Spa Well. In the early part of the 19th century there was a mill dam in that corner

1. The "Bretheren" were the members of the Council.
2. "Wynd" means to make a sort of wattle or hurdle fence.
3. The "wood" most likely consisted of the branches of a tree.
4. Seth Morte was the eldest son of Adam Morte, who was a person of high standing in Preston, and for a long time connected with the Council. Adam—evidently the "Adamus Morte, Junior," named in the Guild Roll for 1622—was elected Mayor of Preston for the Guild year 1642; but he declined to accept the honour, and was fined 100 marks for his contumacy. He was a strong Royalist. Early in 1643, whilst helping in the defence of Preston against the Parliamentary soldiers, he was killed. The Guild Roll for 1662 contains the name "Mortt Seth, gen'," also the names of his sons Thomas and Adam.

5. "Tusle" means tussle—a struggle, or conflict, or scuffle.

We doe find and p'nte the said Richard Morte made a Tustle and did abuse the said Seth, doe therefore amerce him in ijs. v[id].

Wee doe find and p'nte Evan Rogerson being drunck did abuse and dr[aw] blood upon the bodie of Robert Ingham, and wee doe therefore amerce him in vs. And wee leave ye punishment of his drunkenness to Mr. Maior.

We doe find and p'nte Margaret Walmesley, widdow, shall scoure her ditch and make a platt¹ att her yate², in the ffryers Lane,³ that she may have passage, wch annoy'th the highway, before ye 25th day of March next, in paine of vjs. v[iijd].

We find and p'sent John Higham shall scoure his ditch all alonge [the] Crofte in the same Lane, and kepe open his Platt or Bridge att the Style leadinge [to] the foote path the[re], before the 25th day of March, in paine of vjs. viijd.

Wee find and p'sent William Chernock for delving and gettinge cl[ay], on this side of Eaves brook,⁴ contrary to the orders of this Towne, and therefore amerce him in vijs.

Wee find and p'nte Willm Silcock, for gettinge whinnes on this side — brook [name worn or torn off], contrary to the orders of this Towne, and therefore amerce him — [part containing amount missing].

Wee find and p'nte Hugh Copeland hath encroached upon the Townes wast,⁵ att his new buildinge, without the ffriargate Barres,⁶ sixe yardes in length and a foote in bredth, to paye sm' [sum] Maior think fitt. ijd.

1. Platt seems to be a contracted form of Platting—a Lancashire word signifying a small bridge.

2. "Yate" means a gate.

3. "ffryers Lane" was on the west side of "Friargate, its course being by the old Friary towards the Marsh. This would, practically, be the original Marsh-lane.

4. Eaves brook runs between Preston and Fulwood—it forms the boundary line of the two townships—and empties itself into the Savock, on the west side of the Preston and Lancaster railway.

5. "Wast"—waste or common land.

6. "ffriargate Barres," or bars, were at this time near the summit of the "brow," a little south of where Back-lane branches into Friargate. Kuerden in his description of Preston (temp. 1681-87) says that Back-lane fell into—*i.e.*, passed into or joined—Friargate "below the Fryergate-

Wee find and p'nte Mr. John Marsh, according to the 6th p'ntm't of ye Inquest of office in ffebruary, 1651, wherein it was p'nted that hee shold stake and wynd alonge his close in the Lane side Leadinge to Aram Bankes¹, and keepe ye water in itts course, in paine of vjs. viijd. hee hath not p'formed the same p'ntm't, and therefore to pay the fine and to repaire the same before 25th March next, in paine of vjs. viijd.

Wee find and p'nte Seth Morte shall erect and build upp a barne, in St. John's weend,² where formerly his barne stood, upon the Townes Land, before the 29th of September next, in paine of xls.

Wee find and p'nte severall p'sons have fetched sand in the Lane leadinge to the North Moor³ yate, and have made a great hole to the annoyance of the highway, and wch endangereth ye lettinge downe of Mr. Addisson⁴ hedge and ffence, and wee p'nte the same shalbee filled upp, and whoever shall hereafter trespas in the like manner shall forfeit for every load of sand hee shall fetch there iijs. iiijd.

barrs," which, of course, means that the bars were south of Back-lane junction at that time. Lang's map (1774) shows a change in the situation of the bars; the position occupied by them being some distance northward; but the definition is too vague for an exact determination of the site. Shakeshaft's map, published in 1809, places the bars at that time about 10 yards north of Hope-street.

1. Aram Bankes, or Avenham Bank, was an enclosure on the slope below the present Park Hotel. It would seem that through the confusion of the letters r and n the word Aram has been applied to plots of land which in other places are called Anam.

2. For St. John's weend see note p. 148. The word "weend" or "weind," meaning a narrow street or "ginnel," is used as far south as Warrington. Cf. the Scottish "wynd."

3. The North Moor, which was a considerable portion of Preston Moor, was enclosed in 1834, by the Preston Corporation, and in 1867, after undergoing considerable surface improvement, &c., it was opened as Moor Park.

4. It is not improbable that the Mr. Addisson named in the presentment was a member of or related to the family of Mr. T. B. Addison, for many years Recorder of Preston, &c. There were members of his family living in Preston in 1641; and long prior to that time there were persons of the same name in the town. The first of this name to be met with in local annals is Thomas Addyson, who appears in the Guild Roll for 1582 as a "haberdassher." In 1645 Matthew Addison was Mayor of Preston. George Addison was the Mayor five times between 1672 and 1709. Richard Addison, great grandfather of T. B. Addison, occupied the same position in 1727 and

Wee find and p'nte Nicholas Watson suffereth Timber Trees and other wood to lye in the Streets, to the annoyance of his neighbours and such as frequent this markt, and havinge notice to remove the same obstinately refuseth (as appears to us upon oath), wherefore we do amerce him in vjs. viijd.

Wee find and p'nte Jennett Haworth, widdow, hath had notice severall tymes to wringe her swine, and hath obstinately denyed to cause them to be wring[ed], to the great annoyance of her neighbours, and contrair to the ord'rs of this Towne, and therefore wee amerce her in vjs. viijd.

Wee find and p'nt Anne Ingham, widdow, hath made middinge or dunghill in the street at the Church gate barres,¹ to the annoyance of the highway, and that she shall remove the same before the XXVth of March next, in paine of iijs. iiijd. and forbear to cast any more upon the lik paine of iijs. iiijd.

Wee find the lane² by the holehouse³ is A highway leadinge into the ffeild⁴ for passengers and such as frequent the markt

1735. And so did his brother John, in 1832 and 1843. It is conjectured that Addison, the poet, essayist, &c., in Queen Anne's reign, whose father was a native of Westmorland, was related to this family.

1. Church gate is an old name for Church-street. The "barres" in this thoroughfare were at or near the entrance to Water-street, now Manchester-road.

2. "The lane by the holehouse" was at or near the north-east corner of Preston Marsh.

3. The whole or a considerable portion of Holehouse, with a barn adjoining, is still standing, and it goes by the name of Holehouse Farm. It is situated in Pechell-street, on the east side of Bray-street, off Tulketh-brow, and about 40 yards below the railway viaduct. For many years Holehouse was the residence of members of the Walmsley family. The Guild Roll for 1622 contains the name of Thomas Walmsley "de Hooolehowse;" and in subsequent Rolls there are the names of persons of the same family residentially associated with "de Holehouse." From the Walmsleys the Holehouse estate went to the Winckleys, by the marriage of Thomas Winckley, of Billington, with Rosamond, daughter of Edward Walmsley, of Banister Hall, and heiress of her brother, Thomas Walmsley; and through the marriage, in 1807, of Frances Winckley, only daughter of Thomas Winckley, of Brockholes and Catterall, with Sir John Shelley, 6th baronet, of Maresfield Park, Sussex, the property passed into the Shelley family. Subsequently the estate was sold in various sections, and much of it is now covered with miscellaneous buildings, &c. One reminder of the Shelley possession is found in the name of a road—Shelley-road—on the northern side of the old estate.

4. "The ffeild" presumably means the Fylde.

when the water stopeth them that the[y] canott passe by Ribleside, and the passage is hindered by reason of the earth wich is slidden into the same, and wee p'sent Mr. Edmund Werden, Jane Walmsley, widdow, and the executors of Thomas Walmsley deceased ought to remove the same, and that the[y] shall make the same A suficient way before the xxvth of March next, in payne of vjs. viijd.

Wee find and p'sent Edward Taylor suffereth his ffence to lie downe one his backside of his house, to the annoyance of his neighbour, widdow Ashton, and that hee shall sufficiently repaire the same before the second of ffebruary next in paine of vjs. viijd.

Wee find and p'sent that John Preesall hath made a pavement and a Channell for the water to issue from the backside of his house to Mathew Dickson's backside, to the annoyance of the said Mathew, and that hee shall rayse the pavement and carry the watter downe his owne backside, in paine of vjs. viijd.

Wee find and p'nte Henry Bullow's wife and children, Ellen Alpert, and Margaret Welshman doe frequently throw Garbidge in St. John's weend, which is a great annoyance to mens Cattell and endangereth the poysoninge of them, and that hereafter they shall forbear to throw any there, upon paine for every one offendinge (the offence being proved before Mr. Maior) to forfeit and pay forthwith for every offence ijs. iiijd. or to bee punished at ye Discretion of Mr. Maior.

Wee find and p'nte all such p'sons as have any Weights or Measures and all owners of Milnes¹ shall brings their weights, measures, and moulture dishes² before Mr. Maior or his officers, to bee approved and sealed, at such a p'fixt tyme as Mr. Maior shall think fitt and appoint.

Wee find and p'nte A Tustle between John Higham and Thomas Loxam seres [serious] to Henry Atherton, and doe therefore amerce the said John in ijs. vjd.

1. The "Milnes" referred to were corn mills.

2. "Moulture" is an old word signifying "a portion of meal," &c., which was claimed by a miller "as his fee for grinding the corn;" and "moulture dishes" were evidently used by millers for measuring or holding the various portions claimed after grinding.

Wee find and p'nte Roger Woodroffe hath encroached upon the Townes wast, at ye house late Henry Mittons, Sexton, a foote and a halfe in bred[th] att ye one [end] of his wall and halfe a foote att th'other end thereof, and in length fower yards; to bee rented att ye Discretion of Mr. Maior and his Bretheren.

Wee find and p'nte the now Bailiffes of this Towne shall repaire the Mooteha[ll] ffloare, and the glasse windowes such as have heretofore been glased, belonginge to the Mootehall, and ye doores into ye Councell house,¹ before the first day of May next, in paine of vjs. viijd.

Wee p'nte Mr. John Cottam hath a-stopt a watercourse wch ought to goe thorough the end of his new Barne, in Sant John's weend, to the annoyance of Edward Dawson, wch hath beene formerly found and p'sented, And that hee shall suffer the water to passe the ancient and accustomed way, in paine of every tyme hee shall stopp the same to forfeit vjs. viijd.

Wee find there are great numbers of fforayners² crept into this Towne, who have beene sev'all tymes found and p'nted

1. The "Councell house" was that portion of the hall in which the Town Council meetings were held.

2. "fforayners"—foreigners—were people who were not burgesses—strangers, outsiders, not members of any particular guild in the town. Those alluded to in the presentment would, on first coming into the town, be merely "inmates," i.e., persons allowed for a consideration to reside in houses rented or occupied by other people. In the 16th and 17th centuries stringent laws were made against the harbouring of poor persons as inmates or lodgers—a practice which it was held tended to increase the number of paupers chargeable locally. Act 31 Elizabeth, c. 7, s. 6, says, "There shall not be any Inmate or more Famylyes or Householdiers than one, dwellinge or inhabitinge in anye one Cottage." At a later period strangers were permitted to reside as inmates with ordinary tenants on the latter giving satisfactory bond or surety to the local authorities that such persons should not become chargeable to the inhabitants. Persons of the strange, intruding, and poor kind were at this time very troublesome to the authorities of Preston, as they apparently had been a considerable number of years before. So burdensome had they become, in the first quarter of the 17th century, that the local rulers felt incapable of adequately dealing with them, and they appealed to the Judges at Lancaster Assizes, in 1624, for help or guidance in the matter. The Judges gave it as their opinion "that as well by the antient comon lawes of the realme as aliso by the true meaning and equitie of the statute made for the reliefe of the poore that it was not lawfull for anie person or persons whatsoever to receive,

unfitt members to inhabit within this Towne, and such as harbour them have had fines imposed on them by sev'all juries, but no execucon being done they have continued soe long untill they could not conveniently be removed, And are thereupon stallenged, since wch tyme they challenge and take to themselves the priviledges and p'fitts wch onlye belonge to free Burgesses, whereas the 9th order of Mr. Waltons Guild saith no stallenger shall put any horses, cattle, or other goods to the Comons, and by the 6th order of the same Not any stallenger utter Ale or Beere in his house, In pursuance of wch said Order wee find and p'nte theis sev'all p'sons [Stallengers] hereafter named doe some of them keepe Alehouse, others keepe horses and other goods upon ye Comons and Comon grounds belonginge to this Towne, contrary to the said orders, And wee doe therefore amerce every of the said stallengers who shall utter ale or beere in his house after notice given to the Contrary in xxs. for every month untill hee shall compound with the Towne accordinge to the said Order.¹ And every stallenger who shall put any horse or other goods to the Moor, Marsh, or Comon ffields,² after notice given, shall pay for every offence vjs. viijd., untill hee compound with the Towne, and ye pind'rs are to take care and impound such stallenger's goods as they shall find for trespassing, and not to discharge them without the privitie or consent of Mr. Maior or ye Bailiffes.—Thomas Anderton keepeth two horses and a Cow.

entertaine, or take to dwell, into any cottage any persons who are or might be poore or beggars or burdensome to the parish, unless they give security to maintain them in case of need." According to the presentment it seems that many strangers, though several times presented to the Court Leet as unfit to reside in Preston, contrived, through lack of execution, to remain such a length of time in the town that they could not well be removed, and were subsequently "stallenged."

1. "Stallengers" seem to have been, as a rule, non-burgesses who had to pay respectively a certain sum for the privilege of trading in the town, on the stallage plan—stallage meaning the right to erect a stall in a fair or on a market day, also signifying the rent paid for a stall. Strangers were "stallenged" for carrying on trade in shops as well as on stalls—a plan whereby we get a confirmation of one old meaning of the word stall, which was "a little shop, &c., or the fore part of a shop."—*Owens College Historical Essays*, pp. 237-8.

2. "Comon fields" were common lands or grounds belonging to the town, chiefly on the north and west sides.

Thomas Shawe keepeth Alehouse and keepeth a horse. Roger Serieantson keepeth a Cow. Willm Brewer keepeth Alehouse. Thomas Patricke keepeth alehouse, onely stallenged in vs., and hath brought in two children, therefore to give bond to save the Towne harmeless or bee removed. Thomas Arthwrite keepeth alehouse (admitted by Co'rt Rolle).¹ John Barker keepeth a horse (admitted a freeman by Co'rt Rolle). Thomas Serieantson keepeth a Cow. Willm Brewer keepeth three horses. James Leigh keepeth 2 horses and a Cow (hath geeven Bond).² Willm Elston keepeth a horse and 3 or 4 beasts. George Hindley keepeth alehouse in widdowe Sheppards house. Robte Holt keepeth alehouse. Nicholas Cunliffe keepeth a Cow.

Wee find and pr'sent Thomas Goodshey hath encroached att his house, in the ffryergate, upon the streete, nyne yards in length and in breadth a foote; to be rented att the Discretion of Mr. Maior and his Bretheren.—To pay 6d. p annum.

Wee find and pr'sent Roger Woodroffe³ hath broken upp the Townes wast, without the privitie of Mr. Maior or his officers, and made Breek and sould five thousand forth of the liberties

1. "Co'rt Rolle": Intermediate admission as a free burgess, or freeman, involved, like regular admission during the Guild proceedings, the payment of a fee or fine. Under the old regime, every person admitted as a Free In-Burgess or Foreign Burgess of the borough, by Court Roll, at an intermediate time, was entitled to be entered as one or the other, according to his admission by Court Roll, at the next Guild, on paying at such Guild to the Mayor and Steward, for the use of the Mayor, Bailiffs, and Burgesses, the same fee or fine as he paid on his admission by Court Roll.—*Owens College Historical Essays*, p. 239.

2. The words within parentheses have obviously been inserted in the presentment some time after its entry in the record book.

3. Woodroffe is an old local name. It is met with in the Guild Rolls, and is spelled in various ways. At the Guild in 1602 Thomas Woodrooff was admitted a burgess of Preston, and a note on the Roll says that this privilege was granted to him "for Ringinge the daie Bell and Cou'lefewe [curfew] for the Somer season duringe his liffe, and for makinge all the Seates in the Church for the townes men, Both against the Sabaoth daies and festivall daies sweete and cleane eu'ie of the said daies, for the said termes." On the Guild Roll for 1642 Roger Woodroff is mentioned as an in-Burgess. On the Roll for 1662 there appears the name of Roger Woodruffe, who is described as a "Brickma'."

of this Towne,¹ Contrary to the 8th Order of Mr. Preston's Guild,² and a thousand to a stranger, carryed away in a Boate, and hath therefore by the said Order forfeited iiijl.—To pay for this offence 5s., and to enter bond not to Commit the like in paine of 40s.

And wee further pr'te the said Roger Woodroffe before this Jurie—saith hee wode not pay any money to this Towne but of Curtesie, And therefore we find hee shall observe the said order in all p'ticulars, and forbear to break any soyle or digge any pitt for makinge of bricks without the speciall lycense and appointment of Mr. Maior or his officers, upon paine to forfeit for every offence xxs.—This matter to bee examined by Mr. Maior and to be punished accordinge to desert.

Wee find and pr'sent William Blacowe ought forthwith to repaire ye Bridge between Wilkinson's wife ground and Mr. Preston's Lands, being soe downe yt people cannot passe to the Markett, and therefore to be repaired imediately after notice, in paine of iijs. iiijd.

Wee pr'sent John Singleton for breaking the pinfold,³ and doe therefore amerce him in iijs. iiijd.

We find and p'nte the sev'rall p'sons hereafter named unfit membris to abide or inhabit within this Towne, and that they shalbee removed before the 25th day of March next, upon paine of every one to forfeit for every month after vjs. viijd., and such as harbour them vjs. viijd.:—Ellen ffareclough harboured by Thomas Catterall (removed); Alice Helme daughter to Henry Helme, with childe (chylde dead); Edward Johnson harboured by Mr. Richard Sumpner (removed)⁴; Jennet Hoghton harboured

1. The words "forth of the liberties of this Towne" mean beyond the boundaries within which certain immunities or privileges were enjoyed.

2. Mr. William Preston was Guild Mayor in 1622.

3. The pinfold was near the north-east corner of Preston Marsh. It was done away with about 1870. The last pinder of it was the landlord of the Wheat Sheaf Inn, opposite which house—west side—the pinfold was situated.

4. The words in parentheses were evidently added later. Sumpner is an ancient and reputable local family name. Mr. Richard Sumpner was, in 1653-4, Mayor of Preston. Eight years before a Sumpner (Thomas) was the Mayor, and twelve years later another of the same name occupied the like position.

by Mr. Luke Hodgkinson; Elizabeth Potts harboured by Evan Werden wife; John Sowerbutts and his wife . . . harboured by Mrs. Fleetwood¹ (removed, hath geeven bond maij 6, 1654); Gilbte Greaves harboured by Mr. Henry Sherborne²; Thomas Cottam and his wife and two children harboured by John Key.

Wee find and p'nte the p'sons hereafter named are fforreynors, and that they shall Compaund and agree with the Towne or bee removed forth of the Towne, upon paine of ev'y one mak'nge default to forfeit for every month vjs. viijd.:— Robt. Gregson harboured by Mr. William Bannister; John Shorte harboured by Sr Richard Hoghton³; Thomas ffisher

1. Probably a widow. The earliest reference to this name in the local records is in 1397, when Edward, son of John Fleetwood, and William his brother, are mentioned as in-burgesses. Between 1551 and 1847 Preston had for 13 times Parliamentary representatives named Fleetwood; one of them being elected four times in succession in the 18th century, and another an equal number of times consecutively in the 19th century.

2. Henry Sherborne became an in-burgess of Preston two years after the presentment was made against him. He was the son of Richard Sherborne. His name appears on the burgess list for the last time in 1682. Sir Richard Sherburne was of Stonyhurst, being the son of Thomas Sherburne by marriage with Jane, daughter of Sir John Towneley of Towneley. He was a member of Parliament for Preston in 1554 and 1558. The first appearance of the Sherburne name on the burgess records of Preston is in 1582, when two Richards (father and son) and Hugh and Thomas (apparently brothers) are specified as out-burgesses. The first in-burgess here bearing the name was John Sherburne, son of John Sherburne, of Ribbleton: this was in 1662. In the 16th century John, son of Thomas Sherburne, of Stonyhurst, purchased the whole or a portion of the manor of Ribbleton, and took up his residence therein; descendants long afterwards living in or being associated with the locality. One of the lost charities of Preston was bequeathed by a Mrs. Sherburn in 1625: it was, when bequeathed, of the value of £10.

3. The later remarks within parentheses are in different ink, and have clearly been added to the presentment. Sir Richard Hoghton must at this time have had a residence in Preston. The Hoghtons figure very prominently in the old municipal and Parliamentary annals of Preston. Between 1370 and 1385 Adam de Hocton was Mayor of Preston six times. In 1411 H. de Hoghton was Mayor; in 1438, 1451, and 1459 (Guild year), Robert de Hoghton occupied the chief magisterial position here. Sir Henry de Hoghton, fifth baronet, was elected M.P. for Preston five times between 1709 and 1768, his membership covering in the aggregate nearly 30 years. He was succeeded as member for Preston by Sir Henry Hoghton, sixth baronet, who retained the seat till his death, in 1795, and was followed in the membership by his son, Sir Henry Philip, who held the seat till 1802.

harboured by John Higham (admitted freeman in Mr. Blundell's¹ tyme); John Jaunson (given bond); Robt. Walker harboured by Mr. Maior (admitted freeman by Cort Rolle); John Royle harboured by Henry Cuerdall; James Simpson to give security to ye Towne (hath geeven securitie); George Preston and his wife and one child harboured by Chrofer Santer; John Harrison a wife . . . with child, to give securitie and compound with ye Towne or remove (admitted a free man by Cort Roll); Benjamin Smith harboured by Rich. Burton (hath geeven securitie and since removed out of ye Towne).

Wee find and p'nte Mr. Edmund Werden² shall cause a

The Sir Richard Hoghton named in the presentment was a grandson of Sir Richard Hoghton, who, in 1617, entertained King James I. for several days at Hoghton Tower, and the second son of Sir Gilbert Hoghton, who garrisoned the Tower on behalf of Charles I. when the Civil War broke out. Sir Gilbert Hoghton, who died in 1657, was succeeded by his son Sir Richard—the eldest surviving son—whose grandson was Sir Henry Hoghton, who was M.P. for Preston so long in the 18th century. The present owner and occupant of Hoghton Tower is Sir James de Hoghton, the 11th baronet.

1. One of the Blundells Mayorally connected with Preston in the first half of 17th century—from a branch of the Blundells of Ince Blundell—and probably Henry, Mayor in 1647. Eleven of the old Mayors of Preston bore the name of Blundell; the first being Richard, who occupied the position in 1385, and the eleventh Henry, who held it in 1647. In the Guild Roll for 1397 there are five in-burgesses named Blundell. In 1664 and 1669 one of the Preston Corporation Bailiffs was named Henry Blundell (apparently son of Robert Blundell, of Ince Blundell, who was a "foreign" or out-burgess in 1642), and after him the name disappears entirely from the Corporate annals in their representative bearings. In the "foreign" section of the Guild Rolls, subsequent to the last mentioned date, the names of several Blundells appear, including that of "Blundell Henricus de Ince Blundell." In Preston Market Place, near the north-west corner, there was at one time a residence, conjectured to have been a "family mansion," called Blundell House. Many years ago it was made into shop property—the present business premises between the higher or larger portions of No. 32 and 36. Part of the building retains its original gable-fronted, quaintly diminutive appearance, and forms the only bit of antique structural work now to be seen in the Market Place.

2. Mr. Edmund Werden, whose name is mentioned in three previous presentments, belonged to a family of long and conspicuous standing in Preston—a family which, it has been conjectured, originally came from Werden or Worden, in the parish of Leyland. In 1628 Edmund Werden was appointed Warden of the Preston Company of Drapers, Mercers, Grocers, &c. He was Mayor of Preston four times—in 1641-2 (Guild), 1642-3

milne Hill¹ to be made in such a convenient place on the Marsh as shalbee thought fitt and allowed by Mr. Maior and his bretheren, that the Marsh bee not spoiled with their winnowinge dayly upon ye same, And that such as winnowe upon the said Marsh but upon a place appointed and set forth shall forfeit for every offense iij. s. iiij. d.

Wee find and pr'sent William Shawe² and his mother suffereth his Timber to lye in ye open street, att ye white markt, called ye Butter Crosse,³ to ye Disturbance of Passengers and people wch come to ye market, and wee pr'sent hee shall remove ye same upon paine to forfeit for ev'v month not removed vj. s. viij. d.

Wee find and p'nte John Ryley hath encroached upon Mr. Prestons Lands, att his garden wall, a yard and a halfe in length and three quarters of a yard in bredth.—To agree with Mr. Preston.⁴

(through the unwillingness of Adam Morte to take the position), 1649, and 1657. On the Guild Roll for 1662 his name appears amongst the in-burgess lot. After 1692 no person of this name or any of its variants is mentioned as having occupied any municipal representative position here. After Thomas, the Bailiff, in 1692, the name disappears from the records.

1. A "milne hill" would be a piece of ground set apart for winnowing.

2. The names of numerous Shawes appear on the Guild Rolls, the first being that of Richard Shawe, who is amongst the Stallengers enrolled in 1602, the amount paid by him for the privilege being £3 10s. Shortly after the Guild of 1622 Richard Shaw was elected Mayor of Preston for the ensuing year. In 1644 and 1652 William Shawe was the Mayor, and in 1654 he was one of the Bailiffs. Oliver Shawe was a Bailiff in 1659, and John Shaw held a similar position in 1667. After this the name disappears entirely from the Corporate annals, in a representative sense, till 1847, when William Shawe, of Church-street, was elected an alderman—a position he occupied till the end of 1862. He died in 1872, aged 90; and since his decease there has been no one bearing the name of Shawe in the Corporation.

3. The Butter Cross stood near the top of Cheapside.

4. Preston is a name which occupies a very prominent position in the early annals of the town. In 1304 Robert, son of William de Preston, was one of the Parliamentary representatives of Preston, and in 1329 Nicholas de Preston occupied a similar position. Between 1330 and 1343 Nicholas de Preston was six times Mayor of the borough; and between 1467 and 1638 eight of the Mayors bore the name of Preston. In 1474 Thomas Preston was the headmaster of Preston Grammar School. In 1622 William Preston (third son of George Preston) was the Guild Mayor, and the in-burgess

Wee find and p'nte his [John Ryley's] said garden wall encroacheth upon the Lands of Edward ffrench,¹ gent, and Anne his wife, three quarters of a yeard in bredth and two yards in Length, the same being now the Tenem't of John Kilshawe or his assignes.—To agree with Mr. Maior.

Directly succeeding these presentments there are the names of four and twenty "Capitall Burgesses of the Burrough or Towne of Preston"—the "Comon Counsell to the said Maior for the well governinge of the said Burrough for the yeare ensueinge [1654], those elected as viewers [inspectors] of fflesh and ffish, alefound'rs [founders—testers or conners of ale], pind'rs [impounders of stray cattle, &c.], heirdsmen, afferors of the cortis, assessors of taxation," &c.; also the names of persons nominated and elected for the "surveyinngge and disposinge of Innates, fforreynors, and strangers, and other Enormities within this Towne, for ye years followinge, and confirmed by ye last Guild Merchant;" the portions of the town assigned to them for "surveyinngge," &c., being (1) "ffryergate weends and Backsides adioyninge to the same, beginninge att the shopp of Richard Sumpner and from thence to ye end of the said street," (2) "ye whole markett place and ffishergate beginynge att Minspitt well weend and soe afterwards by ye end of the said Street," and (3) "Churchgate beginninge att Minspitt well weend with all ye weends and backsides of the said street and from thence eastward by ye end of ye said Towne."

Inquisition taken on November 1st, 1653, before Mr. Edward ffrench (Mayor), the Bailiffs, and the Steward, in respect

section of the Guild Roll for that year contains at the head of it the names of six of his sons. He married Anne, daughter of Thomas ffarington, of Worden Hall, Leyland; the issue being the six sons alluded to and four daughters. He died in 1639. There has been no one named Preston connected, in a municipally representative way, with the borough of Preston for upwards of 240 years; the last one occupying such a position being William Preston, one of the Corporation Bailiffs in 1664—in all probability the "Preston Guliel' gen'," who appears as an in-burgess on the Roll for 1662, and who was a grandson of William Preston, Guild Mayor in 1662.

1. Not one of the very early local names, and yet fairly old, is that of ffrench. The Mayor of Preston, when this presentment was made, was Edward ffrench.

to "Diverse Trespasses ag[a]inst the Statut[e]," by the oaths of Arthur Bostock, Ellis Wakefeild, Richard Turner, William Dobson, John Tyson, and Henry Thompson, who pr'sent and say—That Three paire of shooes of the goods of Chrofer Wildinge, of the valewe of fower shillings, are not sufficient or Marketttable accordinge to the Acte, and therefore to bee forfeit.—We likewise find one Sole hide of the goods of Richard Haydock of the valewe of Seaven shillings, and two Bends of Leather of ye goods of Henry Newsham of the valewe of two shillings and eightpence, not to bee sufficiently Tanned or serviceable, And therefore to bee forfeited accordinge to the Act in that Behalfe made.

Inquisition taken on the 26th of November, 1653, before the Mayor, Bailiffs, and Stewards, concerning "Diverse misdemeanors agt divers acts of Parliamt," on the oaths of six persons, who say—That one hyde of Leather of Thomas Hodgsons, of Euxton, of the valew of Eight shillings, is not sufficientlie Tanned, and therefore forfeite. Who likewise find one piece of a Bend of Leather of Richard Cowpes of Cuerdall, of the valewe of sixteen pence to be insufficient, and therefore forfeit.

The transcript up to this point includes a copy of all the presentments at the first Court Leet meeting and those agreed upon at the two earliest Inquisitions, as particularised in the first of the volumes before mentioned. Hereafter, and for the sake of avoiding considerable sameness and smallness of detail, the transcript is confined to the more important and peculiar of the presentments, &c. ; and, with the view of obviating repetition, the "Wee find," &c., phrase which forms the commencement of nearly every presentment, is omitted. In various parts the record books contain marginal notes, which need not, except in certain particular cases, be reproduced here, as they mainly repeat, in an epitomised form, the decisions given respecting fines, &c.

Inquisition of office taken the 30th day of January, 1654, before the Mayor, Bailiffs, Steward, and a Jury of 15. The Jury upon oath "find and pr'sent" as follows:—

Nicholas Sudell¹ shall take upp and remove the earth which is slidden downe into the lane leadinge to the Swillbrooke,² that the high way may bee sufficient for carte and carriage, before the xxvth of this instant Aprill³ in paine of vjs. viijd.

Mr. William Hodgkinson shall take upp and remove the earth wch is slidden downe into the high way directlie over against Mr. Sudells ground on the other side of the same lane, and shall gett the same lineallie with the old meares⁴ before the xxvth of this instant Aprill in paine of vjs. viijd.

Mr. Seth Morte shall open his watercourse, and lay upp his platt, and scowre his ditch as farre as the Ashe att the crooked Acre⁵ before the 25th of this instant Aprill in paine of vjs. viijd.

1. Burgesses of the Sudell order figure strongly on the old Guild Rolls of Preston. The first of them met with is Robert Sudell. His name is in the list of "foreign" or out-burgesses for 1459; on the Roll for 1542 five appear as in-burgesses, the name taking the form of Sudyll; on later Rolls the name occurs frequently, and, as a rule, it is spelt Sudell. Municipally—as members of the Town Council—the Sudells were not so very early in evidence; but when they got into the Council they took prominent roles. Three of them occupied the Mayoral position nine times—William was Mayor in 1626-34-51, Henry in 1631-38, and Roger in 1682 (Guild year), 1690, 1699, and 1707; and three of them—Roger in 1655, Roger in 1677, and Jacob in 1692—were Corporation Bailiffs. Since 1707, the fourth Mayoralty year of Roger, there has been no one bearing the name of Sudell in the Preston Town Council.

2. Swillbrook is a stream, now almost entirely covered from view, on the south-eastern side of Preston. It debouches into the Ribble, near the old Tramway bridge. The principal lane to it, when this Inquisition was held, would be along one whose course is now taken by the present Manchester-road, previously Water-street, Leeming-street, &c.

3. In these presentments the word "instant," when applied to a month, refers to the coming or impending month of such name nearest to the date of the Court Leet meeting.

4. Meares, or meers, were boundaries or marks of division; in this instance probably banks of earth.

5. The Crooked Acre probably abutted on Broadgate. A post-mortem Inquisition, taken in 1608, describes James Werden, mercer, of Preston, who died in 1607, as being possessed at the time of his death of, amongst other property, a parcell of land called "Johnson's Crooked Acre;" but the locality of it is not defined. There used to be a "Johnson's Garden" on the west side of the higher part of South Meadow-lane.

Henrie Chorley,¹ Mr. Seth Blackhurst,² Bartholomew Worthington,³ and Mr. Edmund Werden shall remove theire middings wch lye without fishergate barres⁴ before the Tenth day of May next, in paine of everie of them vjs. viijd. They nor anie of them shall hereafter lay anie more middings or dunghills there, but on the backside of their owne barnes, in paine of everie one of them offendinge contraie to this presentment to forfeite and pay for everie offence vjs. viijd.

Mr. Edmund Werden shall scowre his ditch in Ropers' feilde,⁵ all along from the Platt to the greate watercourse, before the 25th of this instant Aprill, in paine of vjs. viijd.

The now Bailives of this Towne shall stake and wynde and sufficientlie repaire Davill bridge,⁶ and shall sett stoopes and

1. The name of Henry Chorley appears amongst those of the in-burgesses on the Guild Roll for 1642; but he did not take the qualifying oath till 1649. At the Guild in 1662 he and five of his sons were enrolled as in-burgesses.

2. Seth Blackhurst was the Mayor here in 1648, 1656, and 1667.

3. One of the principal lenders of money to a fund raised in Preston, in 1635, for meeting the cost of Charter renewal (it was expected at the time that Charles I. would grant a Charter of confirmation, but he did not) was Bartholomew Worthington. By his will, dated December 18th, 1663, Bartholomew Worthington made provision for the founding of an almshouse, which was erected in Fishergate, at the top of Mount-street, and which seems to have fallen into a ruinous state and been pulled down in the latter part of the 18th century. This said Worthington also bequeathed to Preston Grammar School the leasehold in trust, for 99 years, of a piece of land; and the Corporation subsequently bought the reversion of the bequest.

4. Fishergate bars were near the top of Mount-street.

5. It is presumable that Roper's field was near the north-east corner of the Marsh. According to the eighth presentment of the Court Leet held on the 20th October, 1653, Mr. Werden, who had an interest in a mill stead, dam, &c., adjoining the Marsh—at the north-east corner thereof, it is almost certain—had neglected to put in order a ditch at the side of the Marsh, probably on the north side, along which there flowed to the Old Quay and then into the Ribble (point of debouchure since altered) a stream called Moor Brook, which may have been the "great watercourse" mentioned.

6. Adjoining the bottom of Marsh-lane, on the north side, there were in the early part of the 19th century two fields called "Divel Meadows;" a short distance above them there was a water pit about 120 yards long and 40 yards wide, the overflow or leakage of which would run into the Marsh-lane ditch on the same side; and, "Divel" evidently being meant for Davill, the bridge in question would, in all likelihood, cross that ditch at the bottom end, on the Marsh.

rayles to keepe horses from off itt before the xxvth of this instant Aprill, in paine of vjs. viijd.

Mr. Edmund Werden shall payre severall places slipt downe into his mill ffeame,¹ and shall stake and wynde in needfull places before the 29th of this instant Aprill, in paine of vjs. viijd.

Mr. Edmund Werden hath made and rayسد A pace² to his kilne,³ on the Marsh, about five yeards in length and two yeards in breadth: to be rented at the discretion of Mr. Maior and his brethren.

The now Baylives of this Towne shall open the Springs on Spitle mosse⁴ and repaire the Syke trough with leads before the xxvth of this instant Aprill in payne of vjs. viijd.

The now Baylives of this Towne shall make A sufficient Pinfold for Sheepe where it formerly hath beene, before the xxvth of this instant Aprill, in paine of vjs. viijd.

William Curtis shall scowre his ditch and paire his Copp on his owne side, att the end of the Vicaridge crofte,⁵ and forbear

1. Mill ffeame is an old word for mill stream.

2. The pace referred to would be part of a floor raised slightly above the general level, or possibly a passage—a sort of roadway.

3. This would be a kiln for drying grain.

4. Spitle is an old contracted form of hospital, and in this case the hospital was that of St. Mary Magdalen, situated on Maudlands, which was founded before 1187. See Farrer, *Lancashire Pipe Rolls*, p. 333. Spitle Moss was a short distance west of the present St. Peter's-square, and belonged to the hospital of St. Mary Magdalen. The second cotton mill which Mr. John Horrocks built in Preston stood on a portion of the Moss; it was erected in 1796, and was called Moss Factory. Moss-street is in the same region. St. Peter's Church, which stands on the eastern side of the old Moss, was often, in bygone years, called Moss Church, and occasionally this name is now applied to it. As to the springs on the Moss, they were, probably, pretty numerous. The water in "Atherton's well"—a well formerly adjoining the Moss, on the north side—most likely came from one of them. At one time there was, no doubt, a water trough on the north side of Spitle Moss, its inflow coming from one of the Moss springs; and the name of a public-house in the neighbourhood—the Watering Trough Inn, Fylde-road—was evidently derived therefrom. Such a name indicates that there was a watering trough not far off.

5. The "Vicaridge crofte" would be not far from the roadway called the Old Vicarage, which runs between Tithebarn-street and Lancaster-road, and in which, on the north side, there was formerly the residence of the Vicar of Preston. The croft is not shown on any of the old maps. It would be on the north-west side, below where Lancaster-road now runs.

to encroach with his ditch on the lane leading to Plattfordale,¹ that the way may bee sufficient for Carte and carriage, before the xxvth of this instant Aprill, in paine of vjs. viiij.

The cawsey² on Peele moore³ is broken forth and in greate decay, And fforasmuch as the Inhabitants and owners of lauds on the moore side (as wee finde by other presentments) have

Lancaster-road was not made till about 1830. The only northern way in old times from this part of the town was of a very primitive kind: it extended from Tithebarn-street to a point a little south of Moor Brook (now covered), where it merged into Moor-lane, its course to the junction being that now taken, in a wider and better form, by North-road, and it was called Salter-lane.

1. "Plattfordale" was apparently a field between where Trinity Church and the Baths are now located.

2. Cawsey or causey—a causeway.

3. Peele Moor was east of the present Deepdale-road, and contiguous to the course thereof apparently from or near the north side of Ribblesdale-lane to within a quarter of a mile of the Preston boundary. Peele or Peel was, originally, the name respectively given to small towers or forts at one time common in the north of England. A Peel consisted of a single tower, to which the inhabitants of the district in which it was situated went for protection when subjected to the attacks of marauders. The moor referred to no doubt owed its name to the construction thereon of a Peel tower; and it is very likely that the position of such tower was on the south-west side of the moor, near the present junction of Peel Hall-street with Deepdale-road. The ground at this part rises considerably—is, in fact, included in the principal surface altitudes of the borough; the land about slopes down gently for some distance in every direction; in old times, when there were no buildings in this quarter, when all was moorland, the part mentioned would command a very considerable view, especially on the east, north, and south sides—the sides from which it would be mainly exposed to the incursions of marauders; and this would be an excellent site for a lookout and defensive tower. It is fairly presumable that the Peel was in time changed into or superseded on the same site by Peel Hall. In 1576 Richard Banestre, gent., of Pele Hall, Preston, held or was connected with "part of the demesne lands of Pelehall." On the Preston Guild Roll for 1582 (in-burgess portion) there is the name of Richard Bannester, gent., "de Peel hall." Henry Preston, son and heir of Henry Preston, who was Steward of the Guild in 1582, and Mayor of Preston in 1598, by his will dated June 8th, 1599, bequeathed his "capital messuage called Peel hall" to his daughters Elizabeth, Mary, and Bridget. Peel Hall was situated about 60 yards east of the present Deepdale-road: it was behind where Peel Terrace now stands, and a little south-east of the entrance to Peel Hall-street—a terrace and a street which derive their name from the old Hall. After its palmy or opulent residential career, the building with certain land about it became known as Peel Hall Farm, and amongst its successive tenants was John Wilcockson (brother of Isaac

beene accustomed to reparaire the same Wee desire Mr. Maior would call the Ancyent Inhabitants there to give him an account who ought to reparaire the same, and what proportions thereof, and to cause itt done accordinglie.

John Chorley, butcher, shall sett up styles and bridges¹ in the foote path, in Mr. Asheton's² grounds,³ leadinge to the new well, before the xxvth of this instant Aprill, in paine of vjs. viiij.

Elizabeth Cowper, widdow, shall sett A style at her close, where it was usuall, in the foote path leadinge to Heppgreave,⁴ before the xxvth of this instant Aprill, in paine of vjs. viiij.

The now Baylives of this Towne shall cause the streetes and all other the pavements within this Towne to be repaired

Wilcockson), who, after being a hatter, in Preston Market-place, on the east side, became a coach proprietor—this would be about the year 1830—and utilised the farm as a health-restoring place for out-of-condition horses. At that time a considerable quantity of land south-west of Peel Hall Farm—the land now enclosed and on which the Observatory is located, and that which East View and adjoining streets cover—was of a very rough, common description, and practically waste ground. There were various depressions, forming water pits, &c., in it, and some of them were taken advantage of for domestic cleansing purposes. In the town water was scarce and dear—it was retailed at so much per canful; but the water which accumulated in the pits named was free, and “soft” in addition. Numerous Preston women went regularly to the best of them—carried house clothes, cans, pans, &c., lighted fires at the sides of the pits, heated water, and did their washing there as expeditiously and effectively as the circumstances permitted. Into some of the pits, not used for washing, the Preston Gas Company—then quite in the dark, like kindred bodies, as to the value of “residuals,” emptied large quantities of gas tar, the greater portion of that produced at their works, and periodically, when the pits got full, set it on fire, the flames arising therefrom being wildly lustrous, and forming a spectacle greatly enjoyed by local juveniles. The structural portion of Peel Hall Farm was pulled down about 1854.

1. These bridges would have to be of the “platt” kind.

2. It is very probable that the Mr. Asheton here mentioned was Mr. James Asheton—a gentleman of good local position. In 1662, at the Guild, Mr. James Asheton was a member of the Preston Town Council, and in 1682 he was one of the aldermen of the Guild.

3. The grounds would, it is not unlikely, be in the neighbourhood of Maudlands: an enclosure on the south side, which used to be called Well Field, and through which the higher portion of Wellfield-road now runs, might form part of such grounds; but it is more likely they were in the opposite direction—on the northern side of Water-lane.

4. “Heppgreave” was the name given to a field or some enclosed land on the west side of the present Pitt-street.

soe farre forth as others their predecessors have been accustomed to repaire the same.

George Werden is verie negligent in his dutie or office, and suffereth the markett place to continue most parte of the weeke uncleansed, often until ffriday in the afternoone, whereas hee ought to sweepe and cleanse the same everie Munday, which this Summer tyme will bee verie noysome. Therefore wee present hee shall hereafter more carefullie discharge his dutie or bee discharged of his place and punished at the discretion of Mr. Maior.

In severall presentments heretofore made by divers and sundrie Jureys all the owners of Cellars¹ within this Towne shall gett stoopes and rayles or hang yates before their cellars, the want whereof is very dangerous. We doe therefore prsent Mrs. Joane Wall shall repaire the wall on the west side of her Cellar and put A Rayle into the same, And also that James Gorton, Mr. Seth Morte, Mr. James Hodgkinson, Symon Hynde, and Christopher Santer shall gett stoopes and Rayles or hange yates before theire Cellars before the 25th of this instant Aprill, in paine of everie one makeinge default vjs. viijd.

The now Baylives of this Towne shall scowre and make cleane the Mince pitt well² and the Goose well³ twice in this summer, upon paine of vjs. viijd.

1. Cellars for domestic, business, and workshop purposes, used to be very common in Preston, and some of them evidently constituted pretty valuable property. George Preston (father of William Preston, Guild Mayor in 1622), by his will dated 26th of June, 1602, gave to his wife Agnes his interest in "one Sellor in Preston, late in the occupation of James Dyke," who was at that time an in-burgess. Formerly persons having house or cellar steps, rails, &c., which projected or encroached on the public parts of streets, seem to have paid rent to the Corporation for the privilege of allowing them to remain undisturbed! At a meeting of the Preston Town Council, on the 27th of April, 1832, a resolution was passed authorising the Steward of the Corporation to arrange with such persons as were liable to pay step, rail, and encroachment rents for the redemption thereof on the basis of a ten years' purchase.

2. See note p. 3.

3. In a record of property, which formerly constituted the Derby estate in the borough of Preston, Goose well is specified as being near a plot of land "without the East Bar." This Bar was down Church-street, near the end of Manchester-road.

The now Baylives of this Towne shall repaire all decayes and breaches of the Draw Well, in the fryergate,¹ before the 24th of June next, in paine of vjs. viijd.

Whereas divers complaints have hertofore been made and A great abuse done by mens cattell trespassing into Corne and grasse in Summer tyme, occasioned by reason of the evill custome of men puttinge downe their cattell to the Marsh earlie in the morninge before the heardsmen bee readie with the rest of the Cattell, ffor redresse whereof wee the present Jurors doe present and give in verdict that not anie of the Inhabitants within this Towne shall hereafter put down their goods to the Marsh before sixe of the clocke, but shall keepe them on the Spitle Mosse att the furthest untill the heardsmen bee readie to receive them, upon paine to forfeite for everie offence ijs. iiijd. And if the Pinders find anie on the Marsh, before they goe downe with the rest of the Cattell, and doe not Impound them, the said Pinders to forfeite for everie neglect xijd.

1. It is probable that this well was on the south-west side of Friargate, opposite Melling's yard. Towards the end of the year in which this presentment was made (1654) the Corporation resolved to have a public draw well at the bottom of the Market Place. On the south side of Fishergate, between Cannon-street and Guildhall-street, close to where the present drinking fountain stands, a draw well was made by the Corporation in 1666. There was also at one time a similar well in Molyneux-square—between the present Education Offices, Lancaster-road, and the new County Sessions House. One of the very oldest wells in the town was that, previously referred to, near the bottom of Main Sprit Weind. Various other wells were likewise at time and time in existence, the best known of them being in the following postions—one at the bottom of Glover-street; two in Friargate, in addition to that already named—one being on the west side, between Heatley-street and Hill-street, and the other on the same side between Edward-street and Hope-street; Back Weend, on the south-east side of "the Orchard;" Kendall well, bottom of Syke Hill, opposite the old Grammar School; Twistleton's and Goose wells, in Church-street; Atherton's well, adjoining and on the north side of the Moss; Marsh-lane well, commonly called Bugmire holes, presumably on the south side of the lane; an ancient well near Ryding hey (a field probably on the north-west side of Maudlands); two near the north-east corner of the Marsh—one on the side of Spa Brow, below Wellington Terrace, and the other in Water-lane; and Lady well, on the eastern side of the present canal and about 60 yards south of Bridge-street, now part of Marsh-lane.

There hath been A Well of A longe continuance between Rydinge hey¹ and A close in the possession of widdow Cowper, beinge Mr. William Hodgkinson lands, And that the same Well bee and remaine accordinge as formerlie it hath done, And neither the occupiers of Rydinge hey nor the said widdow Cowper shall spoile or defile the same upon paine to forfeit 13s. 4d.

There is A greate want in the Towne of convenient wateringe places for Cattell, And wee doe conceive there is A verie convenient place for one att the East end of the Towne, and desire itt may bee made by the Baylives before the first day of September next, by the consent and appointment of Mr. Maior and his brethren.

The highway on the Peele moore is verie dangerous both for man and beast, by reason of digginge Clay pitts for Bricks and other service of the Towne, And in regard itt is A greate annoyance, and beinge often heretofore presented and noe redress, Wee desire all the old clay pitts may be filled upp and made eaven by people from everie house within this Towne, at the appointment of Mr. Maior and his brethren, as they in theire discretion shall thinke meete, when the weather may be convenient for the same.

Roger Woodrooffe,² Walter Myers,³ nor anie other shall hereafter digge clay nor make anie pitts⁴ upon the Moore for makeinge of Bricks, without the Licence and appointment of Mr. Maior or the Bayliffs for the tyme beinge, in the most convenient place for digginge of clay, neither shall they make anie pitts neare the high way, being dangerous for passengers with Carte and Carriage to theire grounds, And also shall fill upp all the

1. Rydinge hey was the name of a field or enclosed portion of land. Part of the property which belonged to the "free chapel" connected with the hospital of St. Mary Magdalen, on Maudlands, was a field named Ryddync; and it is probable that this was Rydinge hey, and that it was situated on the north-west side of the town.

2. For Roger Woodrooffe see note p. 12.

3. Amongst the in-burgesses on the Roll for 1642 there is Walter Mires, and in the section of admissions, "per Rotul' Cur'" of the same Roll, the name of Walter Myers, who is designated a "Brickman," appears.

4. The pits were on Peel Moor.

pitts they have made or shall make, in paine of everie one offendinge contrarie to this presentment, to forfeit and pay for everie offence vjs. viijd.

The now Baylives of this Towne shall provide A stronge and sufficient yate and stoope for the north moor¹ yate, and shall hange the same, that itt may open both wayes and shutt of itt selfe, wch would bee A meanes to keepe the Cattell on the moore, which doe frequentlie breake downe to the Marsh, and into mens grounds, when the yate is thrown open, and breeds much dissention, which by this meanes would bee pr'vented.

The Inhabitants within this Towne doe comonlie sweepe myre from before theire doores and houses into the Channell, or leave itt on heapes, to the great annoyance of the Towne, Therefore everie one upon notice shall take away the same within three dayes, that itt bee not noysome, upon paine of everie one makinge default to forfeite and pay for every offence xijd.

There is a greate abuse in this Towne by reason of Swyne pulling mens Sacks in peeces, on the markt day, whereof the cuntry [people] doth much complayne, And severall presentments have been heretofore made for redresse thereof. Wee doe therefore pr'sent that all owners of Swyne shall keepe them upp on the markt dayes, in payne of everie one offendinge to fforfeite and pay for everie swine xijd., whereof vjd. to the sub Bayliffe and vjd. to the Pinders for theire care and paines. And if the Pinders neglect to bee carefull and doe not theire dutie, they to fforfeite for everie abuse done by swyne, through their negligence, xijd.

There is A greate abuse in this Towne by reason of the Pinders lending mens horses and other goods of such as are frequent trespassers upon the Marsh, Whereas accordinge to the 12th Order of Werdens Guild they ought to pay for everie second, third, and other offence vjd. Wee doe therefore present the Pinders shall hereafter forbear to lend the goods tresspassinge or discharge the[m] more than once without the Licence

1. "North Moor" formed a very considerable portion of Preston Moor. Free burgesses, i.e., freemen, had a right to free pasturage on the Moor and the Marsh.

and consent of Mr. Maior or o[ne] of the Baylives for the tyme beinge, upon paine to fforfeite for everie offence, accordinge to the 8th Order of Werdens Guild, vjd.¹

The Marsh is sore burthened by reason of men[s] horses and other goods tresspassinge upon the same in the night tyme, occasioned onlie by puttinge them to the Spittle mosse. And wee doe therefore prsent That not anie shall suffer their goods to stay on Spitle mosse att after Sunsett, upon paine of everie one makeinge default to fforfeite and pay for everie offence vjd., whereof iijd. to the Pinder and iijd. to the Sub Bayliffe.

Whereas wee find itt divers and sundrie tymes ancyentlie heretofore presented, as in the xxxixth year of Elizabeth, the 45th presentment, Henrie Catterall,² gent, beinge then Maior, and frequentlie both before and since, That noe person nor persons within this Towne shall putt anie geese to the Marshe from the 25th of March untill att after Midsummer, Now wee the prsent Jury havinge taken consideracon thereof, and perceivinge itt verie hurtfull divers and sundrie wayes, and especiallie to the poorer sorte of the ffree Burgesses of this Towne, that anie geese should be putt to the Marsh, Therefore wee doe psent that noe manner of person nor persons within this Towne of Preston shall putt or cause to bee putt anie goose, geese, or goslings hereafter to the said Marsh from the xxvth of March untill the xvth of August, upon paine of everie one offendinge to forfeite and pay to the use of the Towne xxs. And that the Pinders take care and see this presentment executed, and bringe all such geese as they shall find Tresspassinge on the Marsh into the Towne, and impound them untill the owner bee knowne and have payed the said ffyne or xxs. And if the Pinders bee found negligent or make default in the execucon of this presentment to fforfeite for everie offence iij. s. iij. d., or three dayes and nights punishment.³ And if any rescouse [rescue] their geese soe taken to pay for

1. Edmund Werden was the Guild Mayor in 1642.

2. Henry Catterall was a member of the Guild Council in 1582, and he was four times Mayor of Preston, viz., in 1595, 1597, 1602 (Guild year), and 1609.

3. The alternative "three dayes and nights punishment" means imprisonment of that duration.

everie goose rescoused iijs. iiijd. The execucon of these wee hope Mr. Maior will take course to see pformed.

The Swyneheards of this Towne are verie carelesse and idle and suffer mens Swyne to trespasse into Corne grass, wch is A great Annoyance, And therefore henceforth they shall keepe the Swyne further on the Moore, and not suffer them to come neare the yate, or upon complaynt made to bee disp[l]aced and punished att the discretion of Mr. Maior for the tyme beinge. And that all ownors of Swyne shall after they returne from the Moore keepe them upp, untill the Swyneheard call for them next morninge, upon paine of every one offendinge to forfeite for everie offence xijd., whereof vjd. to the Pinder and vjd. to the use of the Towne.

Great Court Leet with view of Frank pledge held on the 18th day of April, 1654, in the Moot Hall, before Edward french (Mayor), William Shawe and Richard Primmitt (Bailiffs), and Evan Wall (Steward of the Court).

Presentments:—

The Assize of bread and beere latelie prescribed by Mr. Maior ought to bee duellie observed within this Towne.

The now Bayliffs of this Towne shall sufficientlie repaire the Townes Hall, before the 24th of June next, in paine of vjs. viijd.

There is A greate and noysome abuse in this Towne by reason of butchers throwinge blood, ropps [intestines], and other garbage in the streetes, which is an unsufferable annoyance not onlie to Tradesmen and others frequentinge this Towne and markett but to the scandall of the government of this Burrough, And wee doe therefore give in verdict That Mr. Maior shall cause notice to bee given to everie butcher frequenting this markett to forbear to trespasse or offend contrarie to this presentment, upon paine to fforfeite for everie offence comitted by them or theire servants toties quoties iijs. iiijd. Whereof xxd. to the Serieant who shall give informacon thereof and xxd. to the Bayliffs for the use of the Towne.

Whereas Seth Morte, of Preston, gent., did upon the second day of November, 1653, before the now Maior of this Towne,

enter into a recognizance of the penalties of xxli, together with James Dewhurst and William Werden of this Towne, as his Surties in Ten pounds A peece, Upon condicon that hee the said Seth Morte should appeare att the then next Leete Corte to bee holden for this Burrough, and in the meane tyme to keepe the peace of the Comonwealth against all people, and especiallie against Valentyne Robinson, gent, as by the said Recognizance remaining upon Record before the said Maior of this Burrough more att large appeareth, Wee find and present that the said Seth Morte and his suerties have fforfeited and broken there said recognizance, not onlie for that the said Seth Morte beinge publiquelie and duelie called att this present Leete, beinge the first Leete holden after the date of the said Recognizance, [hath] not made his appearance accordinge to the [condition thereof], But also hee the said Seth Morte did upon the 22th of the said [month] of November, after his entringe into the Recognizance aforesaid, and before this Leete, make an Affray and Tusle within this Towne upon the bodie of Richard Morte,¹ to the breach of the publique peace and contrarie to the Condicon of the said Recognizance, And therefore the penaltie or forfeiture of the said Recognizance to bee Leavyed to the vse of the Maior, Bayliffs, and Burgesses of this Towne, accordinge to such Charters and grants as are and have beene heretofore made and granted to this Incorporation.

Edward Morte² and his sureties [Richard Johnson and Henry Kilshaw] have forfeited and broken there recognizance [£20 each], not only for that the said Edward Morte beinge publiquely and duelie called att this present Leete, beinge the first Leete holden after the date of the said recognizance [2nd of November, 1653], hath not made his appearance accordinge to the condicon of the said recognizance, But also hee the said Edward Morte did upon the 30th of January, after his entringe into the recognizance aforesaid [to keep the peace] and before this Leete, make an Assault and Affray upon the bodie of

1. Richard Morte was Seth Morte's brother.

2. Brother of Richard and Seth Morte.

Alexander Breres,¹ in Eaves lane, near Chorley, and with his Rapier drawne pursued the said Breres, who leapt off his mare and fled, whereupon the said Edward Morte stabbed his Rapier into the bodie of the said mare, whereof shee presentlie dyed, as appeares to us upon Oath, to the breach of the publike peace and contrarie to the condicons of the said Recognizance ; And therefore the penaltie or forfeiture of the said recognizance to bee levied to the use of the Maior, Bayliffs, and Burgesses of this Towne, accordinge to such Charters and grants as are and have been heretofore made and granted to this Incorporation.

Whereas itt is psented to this Jury that Thomas Abbott, dyer, doth constantlie frequent this markett and receaves white cloth, and after hee hath dyed the same delivereth itt dyed in this markett, to the priudice of the ffree Burgesses of this Towne, whose livelyhood and maintenance wholelie depends upon the said Trade : And fforasmuchas wee doe conceive itt verie priudiciall that the said Abbott should take the benefitt of Tradeinge from the ffree Burgesses of this Towne and bear noe parte of the burden of assessments, duties, and services imposed on this Towne, Wee doe therefore thinke fitt that Mr. Maior and his bretheren (the Councill of this Burrough) call the said

1. Alexander Breres was an out-burgess of Preston, may have lived at Chorley or the neighbourhood thereof, and was most likely a relative of the Breres of Preston. On the Guild Rolls for 1602-22-42-62. &c., there are both in and out-burgesses named Breres. In 1542 Oliver Breys was one of the Preston Guild Stewards. The Mayoral chair was occupied in 1558 by Oliver Breres, who took the role of a Guild Alderman in 1562. In 1588 he was residing at the Old Friary, which was situated not far from and on the east side of the present Lower Pitt-street. Thomas Breres was one of the Stewards of the Guild in 1582; and John Breres was Clerk of the Guild in 1602. Henry Breres, son of Alexander Breres, was the Recorder of Preston when James I., during his progress southward, halted here, and he (Breres) made a speech at the cross, then in the Market Place, after the municipal body had manifested their loyalty by kneeling in the presence of his Majesty, who later was the recipient of a present from the Corporation and feasted in the Moot Hall. This same Henry Breres was a Steward of the Guild in 1622, and he was four times Mayor of Preston, viz., in 1611-18-27-35. In the Guild Roll for 1642 he is described as of "de ffriers, gen;" the residence here named evidently being the Old Friary—the ancestral abode. Some time between 1642 and 1662 he died. In 1653 one of the Corporation Bailiffs was named Henry Breres. After this the Breres appear to drop out of local Corporate history completely.

Thomas Abbott before them, and proceede and take such course in the businesse as in their discretion shall seeme meete and accordinge to the Charter and grants of this Incorporation.

Henrie Chorley and John Chorley, butcher, late Bayliffs of this Burrough, have neglected and doe denie the payment of the Townes money, wherewith they acknowledge they stand charged att the foote of their accompte, contrarie to the 6th branch of the Oath¹ they tooke when they entered into the office of Bayliffs, and to the bad example of other sworne officers, And wee doe therefore give in Verdict that they shall within one month next cominge pay into the hands of the now Bayliffs of this Towne all such summe and summes of money as they or either of them stand charged withall by their accompts, upon paine to forfeite and pay for everie month it continues undischarged the severall summe of viijli.

Nicholas Sudell, in the 2d presentment of the last Inquest, and William Hodgkinson, in the 3d presentment of the same Inquest, are prsented to remove the earth slidden downe into the high way leadinge to Swillbrooke before the xxvth of Aprill last, which, being undone, they have forfeited their severall ffynes of vjs. viijd.

Upon pvsall [perusal] of the prsentments of the last Inquest of office that divers persons hereafter named have not amended what they were enioyed [enjoined] by the Jury afforesaid, And wee doe ffyne them in the severall penalties and summes of money menconed in the same prsentments, And desire Mr. Maior to see the same ffynes Leavyed accordingle:—Mr. Seth Morte to the 9th prsentment, Mr. Edmund Werden to the 19th and 33th 34th and 36th, Henry Wilson to the 21th, Elizabeth Cowper to the 22th 30th, and 51th, Mr. James Hodgkinson to the 23th

1. The "6th branch of the Oath" was as follows: "You shall also make undelayed payment, or other sufficient discharge, of all such some or sums of money as by vertue of your office you shall or ought to collect or gather within this Town, or which, during the time of your said office, you or either of you shal be endebted or shal owe unto the Mayor, Balive, or Burgesses of this Town, by reason of your said office, before the feast day of the Purification of our blessed Lady the Virgin Mary, next ensueing the day of your Accompts."—(From Kuerden's *Brief Description of the Burrough and Town of Preston, &c.*)

28th and 45th, Mr. Seth Blackhurst to the 24th, Thomas Goodshey to the 29th, Mr. Nicholas Sudell to the 31th, Thomas Graystocke to the 35th, Jane Walmsley, widow, of the hole-house, to the 37th, The Bayliffs to the 33th and 39th, Mrs. Anne fletewood and Mrs. Jane Bannester to the 41th, Thomas Werden to the 43th, Mrs. Lemon to the 44th, William Curtes to the 47th.

Roger Tomlinson¹ shall remove his Assemiddinge wch lyeth att George Birchall garden end, and shall take upp and remove the Stoo pes and Rayles, which stand before his house in the weend leading to mince pitt well² before the ffirst day of June next, in paine of vjs. viijd. And for everie month itt remains unre moved vjs. viijd.

Jane Walmsley, widow, and Thomas Walmsley, of the hole-house, putt Geese to the Marsh contrarie to the 37th presentment of the last Inquest³ and contrarie to divers former and other prsentments, And therefore to pay theire severall ffynes of ijs. vjd.

1. Numerous Tomlinsons—the spelling of the name being considerably varied—appear on the Guild Rolls. Only one Tomlinson seems to have occupied a conspicuous position in connection with the old Corporation of Preston: this was Thomas Tomlinson, who was the Mayor's Bailiff in 1807. He was a native of Skipton, in Yorkshire; but most of his life was spent in Preston. This Thomas Tomlinson was the grandfather of Sir W. E. M. Tomlinson, who is now, and has been continuously since 1882, one of the Parliamentary representatives of Preston. From 1837 till his death in 1842 William Tomlinson was a Councillor for St. John's Ward, Preston. He was the eldest son of the above Thomas, and brother of the late Thomas Tomlinson, father of Sir W. E. M.

2. The "weend" leading to the well named would be the present Main Sprit Weind—a narrow, dingy-looking road-way, the top entrance, which is only about two yards wide, being between Fishergate and Church-street, south side. Dr. Kuerden, in his manuscript description of Preston, thus refers to it: "Another foot passage southward is over against the Shambles or Town Hall, and leadeth by the Minspitt well, and over Avenham to Ribble side, passing along the river to the boate or ferry of Penwortham; and this is called Minspitt-lane or Pettycoat-alley, by reason of the frequent carrying of water from this well by woemen, and the milk maids bringing dayly their milk and butter to town this way from beyond the river Ribble."

3. The 52nd, not the 37th, presentment of the last Inquest related to geese on the Marsh—enjoined that they should not be put thereon between the 25th of March and the 15th of August; the fine for non-observance of this being not 2s. 6d. but 20s.

The severall persons hereafter named are fforreigners and unfitt members to Inhabit within this Towne, and therefore to be removed before the 24th of June next, in paine of everie of them vjs. viijd., And the severall harbourers of them in each of them vjs. viijd.:—Robert Gregson and his wife and children harboured by Mr. Willm Bannester. Thomas Anderton and his wife and children harboured by Mr. James Wall. John Shorte and his wife and children harboured by Sir Richard Hoghton. John Royle and his wife harboured by Henry Cuerdall. Henry Shakeshafte and his wife harboured by John Higham. Henry Cotten and William Prockter and their wives and the said Prockters children harboured by Mr. Roger Sudell. John Mutus and his wife and children harboured by Thomas Bickerstaffe. James Potter and his wife harboured by Nicholas Wattson, to give bond or remove. Raphe Porter to give bond or remove. Mr. Newton and his wife and A child and the wife . . . harboured by Lawrence Crooke. Thomas Seriantson harboured by Roger Tomlinson. Grace Clough and her boy harboured by Sarah Kendall. George Catterall and his wife harboured by Thomas Taylor. Elizabeth the daughter of Richard Bayley and A child, shee beinge wife to the old glasse-man, harboured by Richard Bayley. Mrs. Kade harboured by Richard Burton. Agnes Greene harboured by Henrie Cowborne.

John Nicholson and his wife and A childe harboured by Geoffrey Lomaxe, att Spittle Mosse, who keepeth Alehouse and of ill reporte, therefore the said Geoffrey to remove them before the first of June next, in paine of xxs., And for everie month hee continues there xxs.

Roger Chernocke, A fforraigne Burgesse, harboured by Mr. William Sudell, to give bond and make his agreement with the Towne or bee removed before the 24th of June, in paine of 6s. 8d.

Roger Elston (A fforraigne Burgesse) and his wife and three children harboured by Mr. Roger Sudell, to give bond and Compound with the Towne before the 24th of June next, in paine of vjs. viijd. And in everie month after untill hee Com-

pound vjs. viijd. And the said Roger Sudell¹ for harbouringe him in every month vjs. viijd.

A great abuse in this Towne by reason of Carryon, dead Swyne, Doggs, and other noysome, filthie carryon beinge throwne in St. John's Weend and other Weends and backe lanes belonginge to this Towne, to the great annoyance both of men and Cattell, passengers and others, And for redresse thereof wee give in verdct That if anie man or theire servants shall throw anie Carrion in anie Weend or backe lane or suffer anie to lye uncovered upon their middings or before their barnes to florfeite for everie offence vjs. viijd.

The now Bayliffs of this Towne shall make A new Torne² for the draw well in the ffryergate and sufficientlie repaire the same before the 24th day of June next, in paine of vjs. viijd.

The severall persons hereafter named are free Burgesses and asyett have not taken the Oath of a Burgesse, and therefore wee further prsent that they and everie of them shall come before Mr. Maior at his commandement, to take the Oath of A Burgesse,³ upon paine of everie man makeinge default after notice

1. The Sudells appear to have had quite a special liking for harbouring foreigners or persons of the outside, non-burgess class.

2. "Torne"—turn—would be the roller and handle or winch at the head of the well.

3. The usual time for taking the Burgess oath was on the first day of the Guild celebration; but as the last celebration preceding the Court presentment named took place in 1642, or twelve years before the making of such presentment, it is presumable that the persons who had neglected to take the oath were either not of sufficient age to do so or were out of the town when the Guild referred to was hold, and had in the meantime become eligible for freemanship. The negligence or unwillingness to take the oath was, perhaps, in some cases due to or increased by Royalist training or proclivities. At this time the oath of a Burgess would involve fealty to Oliver Cromwell, the Lord Protector, or a recognition of his superiority in the nation, and consequently the taking of it would not be very palatable to persons of the Royalist class. The "Oath of a Free Burgesse Inhabiting within the Burrough" of Preston was as follows:—"You shall sweare that you shall be good and true to our Sovereigne [King or Queen, but in 1654, when the presentment was made, Oliver Cromwell, Lord Protector, &c.]. The Guild Merchant now holden [these words would not apply in the case of intermediate admission], and which in time to come shall be holden, if you live thereunto, you shall maintaine and uphold; and all and every ordinances and orders, made and confirmed

to forfeite and pay vjs. viijd.—[Here follow the names of 45 persons, after which are given the names of 35 Stallengers, all the latter, with the exception of two—one ordered to be removed and the other notified as being dead—having respectively paid or become liable for sums ranging from 2d. to 10s.]

A meeting of the Great Court Leet was held on the 20th of October, 1654, before Richard Sumpner (Mayor), Roger Sudell and George Woodhouse (Bailiffs), and Evan Wall (Steward of the Court). The names of the four and twenty "Capitall Burgesses of the Burrough," forming the "Common Councill" for the year ensuing, are specified, the various Court officials are elected, and the names of those forming the Jury are given.

Presentments :—

Artillery is not used or exercised within this Towne accord-

at this present Guild Merchant, which are not contradictory to the lawes of this kingdom, you shall, as far as in you lyeth, observe and keepe. Obeisant and obedient you shall bee to the Mayor of this Towne, concerning the franchises and customes thereof, and the same you shall maintain and keep to your best endeavour, and this Town keep harmles in that in you is. And whilst you do or shall inhabit within this Town, you shall be contributory to all manner of charges within this town, or Sumons, Watches, Contributions, Taskes, Tallags, Scott and Lott, and all other charges, bearing your part as a freeman ought to doe. You shall color [disguise] noe foreigners goods under or in your own name, whereby the King or this Town might or may loose their customes or advantages. You shall know noe foreiner to buy or sell any Merchandise, with any other foreiner within this Town, or the franchises thereof, except at Faire Time, but you shall warn the Mayor or Bailiffs thereof. You shall also within this Town keep the King's peace in your own person, according to law. You shall know noe gathering, conventicls, [or] conspiracys made within this Town, against the King's peace, but you shall warn the Mayor or other Officer thereof, and let [hinder or impede]. All these points and articles you shall well and truly keep, according to the laws of the Realm and of this Town to your power. So help you God and by the contents of this Book" [New Testament]. The oath of a "Free Burgess not Inhabiting within the Burrough" was practically—and to a great extent literally—the same. That of a "Free Burgess, being a Nobleman, Knight, or Gentleman not Inhabiting within the Town of Preston" included fealty to the Sovereign, the maintenance and upholding of the Guild, and discouragement of "gathering, conventicle," &c.; no reference being made in it to the maintenance of "franchises and customes," contributory liability, foreigners' goods and merchandise, &c. In the case of a Peer of the realm, after the oath conditions had been read to him he agreed to observe them "upon his honour;" the ordinary swearing process being deemed unnecessary.

inge to the forme of the Statute in that case made and provided, And therefore that the pnte [present] Bailiffes shall put the Butts in repaire before ye 2nd of ffebr. next, upon paine of vjs. viijd.

The assize of Bred and Ale is not observed and kept accordinge to the Statute in that case made and provided.

That the Pinfold called the sheep ffould is gone to decay and ruinated, and that the now Bailiffes do repaire the same with Breecks before 25th of March next upon paine of xiijs. iiijd.

Mr. William Banaster hath not erected a Burgage wch hee suffered to goe to ruin upon the Townes land, at the east end of this Towne, according to the former pntemts of the Inquest of office and Jury of ye Leete in October, 1650, and October, 1653, and to pay ye fine of xxs. already forfeited, and to erect a house there before ye 24th of June next, upon paine of xls., and for every month after, in default, xxs.

Mr. Seth Morte shall erect and build upp a Barne, in St. John's Weend, where formerly his Barne stood, upon the Townes land, accordinge to the xxth pntemnt of ye Leet, in Obr [October], 1653, and that hee shall pay ye fine of xls. already forfeited, accordinge to the said xxth pntemt, And shall also erect one before ye 24th of June next, upon paine of 40s., and for evy month after, in default, xxs.

The nowe Bailiffes shall sufficientlie repaire and clense and cause to bee kept cleane ye well called minspitt well, and ye well call[ed] ye Goose well, fower tymes in the year, upon paine of evy tyme neglectings vjs. viijd.

Lawrence Cowper for a Tusle and blood wipe¹ upon the body of Richard Bayley of this Towne amerce[d] . . . in vs.

Mr. James Gorton, Roger Woodroffe, John Higham, John Sudall, Joyner, and Richard Turner—that whereas they were Elected Jurors and summoned by ye srt [Serjeant] for ye tyme being to appeare at the Court Leet, holden within this Burrough the xxth of October, 1654, And did not appeare accordingly, to ye bad Example of the ffree burgesses of this Towne, Therefore, in pursuance of the sevall ordrs of the Guild Merchants, they for their contempt are to bee fyned by the afferors.

1. Blood wipe means a blow which draws blood.

The Copps along ye weend Leadinge to Minspitt well are slidden downe, wch is a great Annoyance to the Highway and well, from Willm Rydings house downe to the Steele,¹ All wch occupiers of those gardens, vizt., George Berchall, Mr. John Marsh, Bartho. Worthington, Willm Bushell, and George Clarkson, are to repaire and Cleanse their Copps, soe slidden downe, fower tymes in the yere, the first tyme to begin ye 2d of febr. next, upon paine of evey one offendinge xijd.

Whereas Edward Eccles was Elected and chosen to bee ye Viewer of fflesh and ffish within this Towne for this pnte yere, by the Councell of this Towne, or the major part of them, And that upon Information to us given hath refused to Execute the said office, to the priudice [prejudice] of this Incorporation, Tendinge to ye breach of his oath and the bad example of others [others] to offend in the like kind, contrary to sevall orders of guild merchants, Therefore wee referr the same to Mr. Maior and his Bretheren the Councell of this Towne, to fyne him and to doe therein as to their judgements shall seeme right.

Ye sevall psons hereunder written are fforaynors and unfitt members to continue within this towne, and therefore to bee removed before 25th March next, upon paine of evy one makinge default vjs. viijd. :—Margaret ye wife of Geo. Catterall, with child, harbored by Tho. Taylor. Jane ye wife of Rich. Clitherall, with child, harbored by Jo. Crook. Grace Clough and her son, harbored by Tho. Catterall. Tho. Hoghton and his mother, harbored by Luke Hodgkinson. Geo. Preston, his wife, and child, harbored by Tho. Hodgson.

Ye psons hereunder written, who being noe free burgesses, and yet havinge inhabited along tyme within this Towne, and cannot conveniently bee removed, to bee caused to give bond accordinge to ye ord'rs of this Towne, and to be stallenged at ye discrecion of Mr. Maior and his bretheren.—[Here follow the names of 32 persons, with sums respectively attached, except in four cases, ranging from 2d. to 6s. 8d.]

1. The "Steele" was a stile, and would be near (on the south-west) the present Syke-street. When the presentment was made all the land between the south side of Syke-street and Swillbrook consisted of gardens and fields.

Anne Ingham shall remove her midinge, lyinge at ye syde of ye Church-gate Barrs, nere ye Myery weend yate,¹ and shee shall remove it before 2d of ffebr next, upon paine of vjs. viijd.

Mr. Maior shall cause all ye Inhabitant Burgesses within this Towne, being age of 21 yeres and upwards, and as yet hath not taken ye oath of a Burgesse, to bee sumoned to appeare before him to bee sworne accordinge to ye Custome of this Towne. And as many of them as shall refuse soe to doe they to be fyned accordinge to custome.

Margaret, ye wife of George Berchall, for lookinge and herkinng [hearkening] at the windowe of William Dobson, to bee fyned at ye Discretion of ye Afferors. [Fined 1s. 6d.]

Willm. Dobson, for a Chamber pott emptied and throwne out of his windowe into ye backside of Geo. Berchall, to ye great Annoyance of ye said George, to bee fyned by ye Afferors. [Fined 1s. 6d.]

The proceedings of the Court terminate by the Jury finding and presenting that the Mayor "see all theis presentmts truely executed, accordinge to the true intent and meaninge thereof, or else to forfeit xls." The following marginal note is opposite the record:—"Wee doubt not but Mr. Maior will duely execute his office, and therefore this presentmt needles."

Inquisition of office taken at Preston on the 12th of February, 1655, before Richard Sumpner (Mayor), Roger Sudell and George Woodhouse (Bailiffs), and Evan Wall (Steward of the Court), and a Jury of 18.

Presentments:—

The now Bailiffes of this Towne shall sett stoopes and Rayles betwixt the wash pond at the End of the Churchgate² and the High Way, for the prservacon of Travellers and their

1. In Church-street, near the north-west corner of Grimshaw-street, and about 50 yards from where the "Barrs" stood, there was formerly a weind—the only one in the immediate neighbourhood; a dingy rear passage, connected with it, still exists; and this must have been "Myery Weend."

2. The pond would be a short distance beyond the bottom of Church-street—probably on the north side. In that region there were many water pits.

goods from the danger thereof, before the first day of March next, in paine of xiijs. iiijd.

The Supervisors of the Highwayes shall cause stoopes to bee sett all alonge the Cawsey in Ribleton Lane, for the prservacon of the same, that Carts and Carriages spoile not the foote way ; this is to bee done before ye 25th of June next, in paine of vjs. viijd.

Thomas Werden hath not cutt his underwood and scowred and clenسد his ditch in Brockall Lane,¹ accordinge to the tyme Limited, and therefore forfeited his ffyne of 6s. 8d. And he shall scower and clense his Ditch all alonge his lands in the same Laine before ye 25th of this instance Aprill, in paine of vjs. viijd.

Mr. James Hodgkinson was prsented and had notice to scowre his Ditch and open his platt over agt [against] Graystock house, and clense his Ditch all alonge his Lands over agt the New Hall, and, havinge neglected the Execution thereof, hath forfeited his ffyne of 6s. 8d. that hee shall sufficiently clense the same, before the 25th of this instant Aprill, in paine of vjs. viijd.

Mr. Seth Blackhurste and Robte Shakeshaft shall scowre their Ditches in Broadgate² before 25th of this instant Aprill, Rible, before 25th of this instant Aprill, in paine of vjs. viijd.

William Brewer and Mr. James Hodgkinson shall scowre their Ditches in Broadgate¹ before 25th of this instant Aprill, in paine of either of them makeinge Default, vjs. viijd.

1. Brockall Lane would be the name of the roadway, on the east side of the town, going in the direction of Lower Brockholes, &c. This lane now forms part of the principal road between Preston and Blackburn—a main road which was made in 1824. Previously there was a way between the two towns, through the district traversed by the road named; but it was a mere lane, and there was either no bridge or but a very poor, primitive one across the Ribble at Lower Brockholes. When this road improvement was projected, the landowners, &c., in Brockholes were greatly perturbed, and they actually petitioned Parliament to refuse authority for its accomplishment; their chief contention being that if the contemplated new road were made it would give farmers in Samesbury the means of competing with them in the sale of milk, butter, &c., in Preston and the neighbourhood!

2. Broadgate was at this time a sort of lane, and there was not a single house or building of any kind in it; indeed, so late as 1844-6, when the

Mr. Edward Hodgkinson shall take upp and remove the Earth and Quickwood¹ wch is slidden downe at Banckhead² into ye highway to ye great annoyance of Travellers and such as frequent this market, and shall stake and wynd for ye prservacon of ye highway sufficient for Cart and Carriage, before ye 25th of this instant Aprill, in paine of vjs. viijd.

Thomas Goodshawe shall scowre both his Ditches under Goldsmiths banck,³ leadinge to ye wattercourse wch goeth downe to Rible, before ye 25th of this instant Aprill, in paine of vjs. viijd.

Mr. James Hodgkinson, Rich. Blundell, and Lawrence Tomlinson shall scowre their ditches in North meadow Lane⁴ before ye 25th of this instant Aprill, in paine of each one makinge default vjs. viijd.

Ordnance survey was made, there was only one house in it, at the north-west corner of an opening now forming the entrance to Bird-street. Prior to the opening of the first Penwortham bridge, in 1755—a bridge which fell about a year afterwards, through foundation weakness, and was succeeded by the present one, built in 1759—passage across the Ribble, on the south-west side of Preston, was secured by three fords and a ferry: one of the fords was opposite Broadgate—the part first built on, in row form—another was near the rear of the present Caledonian Engineering and Shipbuilding Works (late Allsup and Co., Limited), Strand-road, and the third began at the Marsh, went along the centre of the river bed for some distance, then traversed an islet, and afterwards joined the second ford, near the middle of the water; whilst the ferry was up the river, nearly half a mile from the first-named ford, and opposite the Old Boat House. This House was, it is supposed, built in 1696 by Henry Fleetwood—a property owner in Penwortham at the time, and M.P. for Preston from 1708 to 1722; and it was a public-house, called the Ferry Boat Inn, up to 1826, when, owing to the making of a new portion of main road, westward, between Penwortham bridge and a point near Swallow House (a residence pulled down in 1901), which completely diverted the route of the ferry, bridge, and other traffic hitherto going quite close to the old house, its license was transferred to the present Bridge Inn, near the south-west end of Penwortham Bridge. Prior to 1696 there was an inn on or near the site of the house supposed to have been built in that year. Colonel Bellingham in his diary (1688-90) frequently refers to it.

1. Quickwood means growing wood.

2. Banckhead was at or near the north end of the present West Cliff.

3. Goldsmiths bank was on the west side of the town, between the present Euston-street and Fitzroy-street.

4. North Meadow Lane was on the north side of Fishergate Hill, nearly opposite the entrance to South Meadow Lane.

The now Bailives of this Towne shall make or cause to bee made 3 or 4 sufficient large Cawles¹ about and above where the old mill stood, for ye prservacon and encrease of the Marsh, wch greatly decayeth for want thereof, and this to bee done before 24th of June next, in paine of xls.

Henrie Chorley, John Chorley, butcher, Mr. Jo. Sumpner, and ye rest of the occupiers of Mr. Ashton Lands, shall set styles and ffoot Bridges all alonge to the new well, before ye 25th of this instant Aprill, in paine of every one making default, vjs. viijd.

Mr. Robte. Blundell had notice to remove his Copp, all alonge the end of his close in North moor Lane,² that Thomas Balshawe may have a sufficient way for Cart and carriage to his owne Lands where formerly his way hath beene, and havinge neglected ye Execution of the same hath forfeited vjs. viijd., and that hee shall make him a sufficient way before ye 25th of this instant Aprill, in paine of vjs. viijd.

The now Bailives of this Towne shall cause a sufficient ffould to bee made for sheepe therein to be impounded and safely kept until ye offenders bee knowne and come to make satisfaction, and this to bee done before ye 24th of June next, in paine of xls.

All the Occupiers of the Lands upon Avenham and thereabouts³ shall make a platt and a sufficient way for Cart and

1. Cawles is the plural form of a word now spent Caul—meaning a sort of weir or embankment for modifying, keeping back, or diverting the flow of water.

2. North Moor Lane was on the line of the present thoroughfare from the bottom of Friargate, opposite Walker-street end, to that part of Garstang-road which crosses the brook forming the boundary between Preston and Fulwood.

3. The "Lands upon Avenham and thereabouts" would, it is almost certain, be entirely unbuilt upon at this time. Sixty years afterwards—in November, 1715—there was, according to "P.M.'s" Rebellion map, only one house on the Avenham side of Preston—a large, mansion-like building, situated either on the site occupied by Avenham House or on some land a short distance north thereof, with large ornamental grounds on each side. Avenham-lane does not appear on this map at all. Lang's map shows but a single structure on the same site, namely, Avenham House. Avenham-lane appears on this map as a mere outside lane, commencing on the west side of Syke Hill, and terminating at the west

Carriage at the head of Titmouse Crofte,¹ before 25th of this instant Aprill, in paine of every one vjs. viijd.

Mr. Edmund Werden shall cast upp and make a winnowinge hill in some convenient place nere his wattermill, yt ye marsh bee not overrune and spoild with winnowinge from place to place, upon paine of every month after ye 20th of May next to forfeit vjs. viijd.

Ye 18th and 21th pntmemts of ye last Leete, which is against stallengers, florrainers, and unfit members, is not put in Execucon, accordinge to ye Affearinge thereof, and . . . divers Stallengers keepe Alehouse and put their Cattle and other goods to the moore and Comon grounds belonginge to this Towne, contrary to divers good and wholesome Orders of severall guilds,² to the great priudice [prejudice] of the ffree Burgesses within this towne, And wee further pnte yt ye [blank].

end of the present Ribblesdale-place; and there branches from it, on the west side of Avenham Walk, a road going towards the Ribble. The land first laid out for street building purposes, on the Avenham side, was that along which Avenham-road now runs; and it is highly probable that this preliminary work was done in or about 1807. The land was laid out from Avenham-lane down to Syke field (a field which, later, formed the principal part of the ground required in the making of Cross-street); but for some years not much progress was observable in house-building. Up to about 1812 not quite half of the west side (higher part) and but a very small portion of the land on the other side (top end) had been built on; and the name given to this new residential quarter was Avenham Place. The first completed street, in respect to buildings, on the Avenham side, was Pleasant-street: the land needed for it (a narrow field, called Little Avenham) was laid out and the houses planned for it were put up between 1809 and 1813.

1. Titmouse Croft was on Syke Hill. The National School was built on Titmouse orchard.

2. The most stringent order or by-law relating to strangers, foreigners, &c., appears to be that made at the Guild of 1582. It runs as follows:—Whereas divers straungers and floryners repaying to this towne and here making their habitacon haith contynualle kept their cattell upon the Marsshe, Moore, Towne fieldes, and other waste growndes which onlie doe belong to the Mayor, bailiffes, and burgesses of this Towne, as by the Quenes Ma'tes letters patentts and other her Ma'tes progenytors to theym gyven, it doth and may appeare, ffor remedie whereof yt ys now ordered, constituted, and established and agreed by the consent and assent of the Mayor, Stewards, and Aldermen of this present Gilde, and for the welfare of all the burgesses of this towne for ever, that ffrom henceforth it shall not be lawfull for any Stallenger which nowe doth inhabytte within this

Noe Inh[ab]itants within this Towne shall put downe their Cattle to the Marsh before sixe of ye Clock in ye mornige, but shall keep them till the Heardsman bee ready to receave them, upon paine of ye fforfeite for every offence iijs. iiijd. And if the pinders find any Cattle upon ye Marsh before they goe downe with the rest of ye Cattle, and doe not impound them, then the said pinders to forfeit for every neglect xijd.

The high way of ye Peele Moore is very dangerous both for man and beast, by reason of digginge Claye pitts for Breeck, and in regard it is a great annoyance, and hath beene often heretofore prsented, and noe redresse being made, wee desire all old Clay pitts may bee filled upp and made even, by ye people from every house within this Towne, at ye appoyntment of Mr. Maior and his Brethern as they in their discretions shall thinke meete.

Noe person or persons shall hereafter digg clay nor make any pitts upon ye Moore for making Breeck, without ye lycence or appoyntment of Mr. Maior or ye Bayliffs for ye tyme being, in the mose convenient place where they shall thinke fitt, neither shall they make any pitts nere the highway, where may bee dangerous for passengers with Cart and Carriage, and also shall fill upp all their pitts they have made or shall make, upon paine

Towne or within the liberties thereof to putt any his or their cattell to the Marsshe during any somer season, neither by lycense of the Mayor (for the time being) nor otherwise. Neither shall it be lawfull for any the said stallengers to putt any his or theyr cattell to the Moore, town-fildes, or other waste growndes belongyng to the Towne, but suche and so many as he or they shalbe thereunto lycensed by the Mayor of this Towne (for the tyme being). Neither shall it be lawful for any person or persons which hereafter shall repaire to this Towne, and here do make his nor their habitacon (and not being ffree of the said Towne), to putte any his or their cattell to the said Marsshe, Moore, Town fildes, or other waste growndes belongyng to the same (but only their swyne to the Moore). Neither shall it be lawful for any Mayor of this Towne to gyve lycense or libertie to any suche person or persons to putt any his or their cattell to any the said comons or waste growndes. But that they and every of theym hereafter to be utterlie Barred from the same. And that all and every person and persons which shall offend contrayrie to this Order after their fiirste offence to lose and forfeitte for every tyme after offending twentie sheelinges to the use of the Burgesses of this Towne.

of every one offendinge, contrary to this pntemte to forfeit for every offence vjs. viijd.

Noe pson or psons within this Towne shall put any Geese, Goose, or Goslinge to ye Marsh from ye 25th day of March untill ye 29th of —ber, upon paine to forfeit for every one soe offendinge, to ye use of ye Towne, xxs., and that the pinders take care to see this pntemt executed, and bringe all such Geese as they shall find trespassinge upon the marsh into the Towne, and impound them there till the owners bee knowne and have paid their fyne of xxs.; and if the pinders be found negligent, and make default in the execucon of this pntemt, to forfeit for every offence ijs. iiijd., or three days and three nights punishmte; and if any rescouse their geese soe taken to pay for every goose soe rescoused ijs. iiijd.

The wife of William Walmersley doth annoy Thomas Bonny by Throwinge his cloaths from of his hedge, and [we] referr her fyne or punishmte to the discretion of Mr. Maior, and leave ye execution of theis pntemt to his discretion.

Great Court Leet, held in the Moot Hall, on the 4th of May, 1655, before Richard Sumner (Mayor), Roger Sudell and George Woodhouse (Bailiffs), and Evan Wall (Steward of the Court.

Presentments:—

That the butts in the Spitle mosse is in decay, and that the nowe bailiffes shall see them putt in suficient repaire before the 24th of July next, else to pay vjs. viijd.

The asize of Bread and ale is not observed and kept accordinge to the statute in that case made and provided, although Corne beare soe Lowe a rate, yett nothing is done in releafe thereof.

Whereas there are complaints that there should bee false waights and measures kept by some within this towne, Mr. Maior shall cause his officers to try the waights and measures of all such who byeth and selleth comodoties within this towne [? once] if not more every yeare.

There is a greate anoyance in this towne by swyne both in mens corne and grass, and wee conceive it is occasioned partly

by the carelessness of the Inhabitants of this towne, in that they doe not help to bringe their swyne towards the More, butt leteth them range up and downe the streets; but especially the swyneheard comes soe unconstantly and carelessly that the people can scarce have tyme to bring them into the streete, and beinge past will retorne no more; for the preventinge whereof wee present and thinke fitt that the bailiffes shall cause the said swinsard to blowe his horne from the church gate barrs to the fishergate bars and then retorne backe again and take the swyne alonge, and also that the said swynyard shall begin att the brand channell¹ to blowe his horne up alonge to the markett place, and then to retorne backe and take the swyne with him, and, for every tyme the swynyard doth neglect, for every such offence to forfeit and loose there [his] weekes wages, and that every Inhabitant haveinge first notice by the sexton shall ether putt forth there swyne that they may be taken alonge to the more, otherwise keepe them upp that they bee not straglinge in the streetes, especially one the markett days, to pull contry mens corne sacks in peeces, or doe harme to mens grass and corne, and that soe manie swyne and soe often as they shall bee found the owners thereof shall forfeit and loose 4d. a swyne, the one halfe to the pinders and the other halfe to the sub baliffe, whoe is disired may bee asittinge to the said pinders, and if anie rescowe there swyne soe taken to the fould the ofender to pay iijs. iiijd.

There is divers that sweepe dunge into there channell, and there it lys, and soe is a greate anoyance and disparigment to the govermente of this towne, which formerly hath beene taken much notice of and comended for the sweete and cleane keepinge of our streets, for the preventinge whereof wee disire that Mr.

1. Brand channel was either at the Friargate end of Lune-street or at the bottom of Friargate, near the present junction of Walker-street. At each place there was a channel, the water of which lodged in a pit or pond-like depression; and in very wet weather there were at both places overflows which inundated the adjoining cellars. As the range from the first point mentioned to the Market Place would be somewhat limited—in all likelihood not half the distance to which houses extended on the north-west side of the town—it is presumable that Brand channel was at the second or lower place.

Maior would give notice by the sexton to all the inhabitants within this towne that they shall not sweepe dunge into the channell, or there sufer it to be upon there cawsall [causeway] above three days, upon paine of 15s., and that Mr. Maior shall cause this order to bee observed, else to bee find att the discretion of the first Leete after hee is discharged of his office.

All the occupyers of the Land in the Fryer Lane shall lopp and cutt downe there hedges that carts and carages may pase, and that there shall noe cattell bee turned to the marsh that way, nor before 6 aclocke in the morninge the usall way,¹ and that the heardsman shall bee redy to keepe them by fryer Lane, and drive them alonge by spittle mosse, upon paine of every one soe ofendinge xijd.

If Mr. Maior and counsell shall see cause and thinke fitt to order the nowe bailiffes to erect rales all alonge the watterin pools att church gate² and accordinge to the first presetmte of the last Inquest, that then the baliffes shall cause the same [to be] donne before the 24th of June next, or else to forfeit vjs. viijd.

Divers presentmts and finds imposed upon Mr. William Bannaster for suferinge his house to decay, upon the townes Land att the east more yate,³ and not erectinge another, and although Mr. Bannaster did pretend the said house to have been

1. The way to the Marsh "by spittle mosse," after passing Fryer Lane, was in a north-west direction—along the bottom of Friargate, Fylde-street, Fylde-road, and Water-lane.

2. The pools would be near the Church-street end of Water-street. Much of the ground in that region—south-east side of Water-street—was evidently, in old times, of a swampy nature, and covered more or less with willow beds. Lang's Map (1774) shows five willow fields on the side named. Afterwards the land was laid out for building purposes; and a map of the town, made about 1812, shows that some of it had then been built on, and that the remainder or a considerable portion, had been made ready for structural operations. In 1901 Water-street, Leeming-street, &c., were named Manchester-road.

3. The "east more" was that portion of Preston Moor which extended—on the east side—from the south end of Deepdale-road to a part of it, north, which crosses Eaves Brook near Fulwood Barracks. The enclosed piece of ground containing the Observatory, opposite Stephenson Terrace, Deepdale-road, formed part of it.

ruined and burnt by the souldiers in theis tymes of warr¹; butt, finding severall presentments upon record to the contrary, Mr. Bannaster did crave tyme from Mr. Maior and companie that hee might provide timber and other matteriall to rebuild the said house, and did engage soe to doe before the 29th September, 1656, which tyme was grannted, butt in case Mr. Bannaster make defaulte (the tyme beinge expired) all fines to stand good and bee Levied.

The Bailiffes shall see the cawsall repared in the Stonyegate to the milne feild² gate and to the schoole³ before the 24th of June next, else to pay vjs. viijd.

The nowe baliffes shall sett stoopes and rales at Davy bridge upon the marsh, to prevent the decay thereof by horses, before the 24th of June next or to pay vjs. viijd.

Theis persons hereunder named, whose are free Burgeses and yett have not taken there oathes, wee present that Mr. Maior shall send for every one of them, and cause them come and take theire oathes att or before the 24th of July next, and if anie of them, having notice by the Sergeant and sumoned to

1. In the words, "theis tymes of warr,"reference is made to the Civil War—1642-51.

2. The "milne feild" would be south-east of the bottom of Stonyegate, and be either connected with or named after a corn mill on the same side.

3. This was the Grammar School, situated in Stonyegate: it was succeeded by a new school, built in 1666, located at the bottom of Stonyegate, and this was kept open till the present Grammar School, in Cross-street, was erected in 1841—a building erected by a body of private shareholders, from whom it was purchased, in 1860, by the Preston Corporation. In 1728 there was built for the Grammar School master, by the Corporation, a residence which adjoined or was near the School, at the bottom of Stonyegate. When it ceased to be occupied by the master it became a public-house, taking the name of the Arkwright Arms—a name due to the fact that in 1768 Richard Arkwright, a native of Preston (Knighted by George III. in 1786), along with John Kay, of Leigh, set up his first spinning machine in a small rear room of the building, placed at his service by the master. The Arkwright Arms remained the property of the Corporation till 1852, when it was purchased by Mr. Richard Threlfall, junr., wine and spirit merchant, Preston. Some years afterwards the property changed hands more than once. On the 12th of January, 1892, Mr. A. Margerison, of the firm of Messrs. J. Margerison and Co., Preston, purchased the Arkwright Arms public-house, afterwards transforming it entirely into a lodging-house, and as such it still remains.

appeare, doe make defaulte, and soe every of them and soe manie of them that refuseth to come and take their oath, to forfeit every of them vjs. viijd. [Here follow the names of the persons concerned, 46 in number.]

Mrs. Parkinson shall not as shee hath once done before anie more turne horse or cattell to ether more or Marsh, but may be stalled att the discretion of Mr. Maior and compaine.

Willm Blacowe for harbouringe John Short wife and children to pay iijs. iiijd., and doe remove them before 24th July next, els to pay vjs., and soe for every month as longe as they shall bee unremoved.

There hath not only for manie yeares last past, butt specially in this prsent yeare, beene a greate neglecte in the ofice of houslookers. Beinge sent for by this Jury, and disired an accompte from them, they answered they conceived themselves discharged at the first Leete, and therefore this 8 monthes (not beinge instructed) have neglected there ofice, to the greate periudice of this towne, and wee find that the best of there Indeavours have butt beene to remove such whoe have beene fined by Juries from one house to another very seldom, that the towne hath beene freed and quitt of them, the truth hereof is to well knowne unto us by manie insufferable (if not remedied) burthenes latly cast upon us. Wee humbly disire that soe good a custome as wee find in former Leets may again bee restored to us, vidzt., wee find Willm Preston, Alderman, and [an]other for fryergate, Willm Sudell, Alderman, and [an]other for church gate, elected for house lookers, or else one if not more continually of the councell in every streete in that ofice, or otherwise that such as may be chosen to that ofice may bee sworne for the preventinge of anie futere inconvenancy Maior and company may thinke fitt.¹

1. A Guild Order, made in 1622, after setting forth that great and excessive charges and expenses had grown and happened to the free burgeses of Preston through the unnecessary influx of foreigners and strangers, directs the annual appointment of Houselookers, their duty being to enquire and find what manner of Foreigners or Strangers should sojourn, inhabit, or dwell within the Town, and that after such finding they should give warning to the Receiver of any such foreigners or strangers to remove

Whereas Tymothy Woodward¹ is fined and amerced in the 34th presentment of the last Inquest for not scowring a certain ditch that is meane² betwixt Mr. Willm Hodgkinson and Mrs. Williamson, wee conceive Timothy Woodward beinge butt a tenante for this yeare ought not to bee att that charge, butt that Mr. Willm Hodgkinson and Mrs. Williamson shall cause the same [to be] scowred and made good before the 29th September, 1655, els to pay 3s. 4d., or, if the one of them doe butt refuse, the refuser to pay vjs. viijd.

John Salter and John Bolton for makinge a tusle in the church, both of them to bee severly punished, else either to pay ijs. vjd.

Richard Rydinge and Anne, the wife of Martin Mabery, for there abusive and corupt speeches to one another, either of them to pay 1s. 3d.

Agnes Read and Mary, wife of Thomas Gregson, shoemaker, for there abusive and corupt speeches to one another, either of them to pay 1s.

Mary, the wife of Robert Shakshaft, [for] fightinge with Margrett, the wife of Thomas Patricke, to pay ijs. vjd.; as also Margrett, the wife of Thomas Patricke, for drawinge blood of Mary, the wife of Roberte Shakshafte, to pay vs.

Whereas Edward ffrance came and made a greate complaine to Mr. Maior ag[ains]t Thomas Bonny for pullinge his haire of his head, and Mr. Maior Informinge the Jury of his trouble with the said Edward ffrance, they both beinge called before the Jury would nether accuse one another, therefore upon the complaine of Mr. Maior wee fine ether of them in ijs. vjd. apeece.

and put them and their families out of their houses; and if after such warning the Receiver of such foreigners or strangers should not remove them accordingly he is to forfeit 6s. 8d.; and, in case of refusal, the officers of the Town to make distress, and for want thereof the person or persons so offending to be disfranchised.

1. Timothy Woodward was a haberdasher and an in-burgess.

2. The word "meane" signifies midway.

Mr. James Hodgkinson¹ shall raise the earth att the end of his well, that soe the water comeinge thence may run downe his own channell and not into minspitt well, before the 24th of June, els to pay iijs. iiijd.

George Clarkson shall scower his ditch att his croft, by Minspett well, as also to paire downe his copp, att his garden syd, that the water may rune downe the channell, and to carry away the earth, and that Willm Bushell doe the same by his copp, Mr. Raph Sharrocke doe the same by his garden copp, and Mr. John Marsh doe the same by his garden copp, before the 24th of June next, els to pay iijs. iiijd.

The Baliffes shall rase the cawsall where it is sunken downe, and repare the cawsall all alonge from Minspitt well stayres to style upon avenham,² before the first of July next, else to pay vjs. viiij.

Richard Primett, widow Cowper, and Hugh Blacklidge shall not throw downe anie soodes or wash land Cabish watter or anie other filthie water in Cheetham backside, which may bee anoyance to Mr. Willm Sudell wattercourse, under his house, which only is to convay raine watter out of the said Cheethames backside, and to observe and doe accordinge to the fitith prsentmte of ye last Inquest [? 29th, which refers to the cleansing of this wattercourse by Primett, Blacklidge, and John Cowper], else to forfeit for every such offence iijs. iiijd.

Mr. Maior may see the fines straighted Levied³ against stallengers in fifty five prsentmts of the last Inquest, as also the fynes Levied against such as suffer dunghills to lye before there doares, accordinge to the 16th prsentmte of the last Inquest.

1. Mr. James Hodgkinson was Mayor of the town five years after this—in 1660. His well would, very probably, be on one side of Main Sprit Weind.

2. This "style" would be connected with a footpath which ran diagonally between Main Sprit well and Avenham-lane; the outlet of the footpath being at or near the top of the present Avenham-road. Later, when Avenham-road was laid out, the footpath still went into the higher part thereof, and continued to do so until the eastern side was built up and Glover-street and Cross-street were formed, when it was, necessarily, done away with altogether.

3. The phrase "straighted Levied" is a scribal error. It should be straightly levied, meaning either strictly or immediately.

Whereas John Willasie hath Incroached in fryer gate 4 yards in length, beating [deducting] a nayle,¹ 2 yards in bredth save that the back end wants one nale, there are divers neighbours finds themselves agreeved and generally complained of that if that bee allowed to stand they generally disire the same preveledge; wee disire Mr. Maior and the Company will soe rent it that others may be discouridged from erectinge the like.

All those owners of sellers that are complained of, for the danger of there sellers being without rales, they haveing tyme given them according to the 49th prsentmte² of the last Inquest, wee find that they are not done, and therefore the said fine to bee paid.

In the 10th presentmte of the leete chosen the 18th Apprill, 1654, nether Thomas Abbott nor his brother should have noe liberty to bringe in cloath dyed or receive white cloath to dye upon a Satterday, it being a mistry or trade, and they haveing the said priviledge and payinge nether scott nor lott,³ the consequence will be to the ruininge of some famalies, both wife and children, and, beinge ordred by the Maior and Companie, the 16th December, 1653, that they should not have the priveledge to take in cloath, wee therefore disire Mr. Maior and company would bee pleased to take the condicon of our neighbours whose livily hood depends thereon into serius consideracon, yt this greate abuse which is still continued may speedily be redressed as to there wisdomes shall seeme most fitt.

The Baliffes shall repare all the broken places within this towne, from barrs to barrs, before the first of August, else to pay

1. "A nayle" is the name of a measure of length—nail, as now spelt—and means the sixteenth of a yard, or two and a quarter inches.

2. The 49th presentment makes no reference at all to cellars. The 28th does—states that cellars must be railed or provided with hang gates, and that owners neglecting to put up the same within twelve days will be liable to a fine, respectively, of 6s. 8d.

3. As to the words "scott nor lott," they usually take the combined form of "scott and lott," *i.e.*, all taxes and levies assessed rateably upon the members of a community. Scott signifies a tax: lot means portion or allotment; hence to pay "scot and lot" is to participate proportionately in assessments or pecuniary charges. In towns non-burgesses enjoying trading privileges were usually required to be in "scot and lot" with the burgesses, *i.e.*, to pay their share of "rates and taxes."

xs., as also other places which have formerly and accustomedly bene repaired by the baliffes.

There is a complainte made against George Birchall for that hee did knowe of some goods bought or offered to bee sould by fforaigners and did not Informe Mr. Maior thereof, according to his burgesse oath,¹ therefore wee referr it to the consideracon of Mr. Maior and company.

All owners of ground to the Maudland Land, from spitle mosse to the Marsh, may cutt downe there hedges, a man haveinge his eye strucked forth within this tenne days, before the first of July next, els to pay vjs. viijd.²

If Mr. Maior and Counsell shall see cause and think fitt, to order the Baliffes to ellecte [erect] and cause a cukstoole [to be] sett upon the wall of the washinge pool,³ else to pay 3s. 4d.

1. A copy of the oath is given on pp. 33-34. In the margin, opposite the presentment, there is this note: "referred to Mr. Maior and his Counsell, to pay 6s. 8d."

2. There was a footway or very narrow lane which commenced at or near the south-east corner of Spitle Moss, passed over Maudlands, and terminated on the Marsh, a little below the old Spa Well, close to the base of Spa Brow, and the hedges in question must have flanked it.

3. Lang's map of Preston shows three immediately adjoining fields, on the north-east side of the town—now mainly covered by East View, Holstein-street, Schleswig-street, and Jutland-street, and cut through above by Meadow-street—called Cuckstool Pit Meadow, Further Cuckstool Pit Meadow, and Cuckstool Meadow. The map does not specify any water pits in these fields; but several pits are shown, on the east side and not far from them—on land forming the south-east corner of Preston Moor. The "washinge pool," to which reference has already been made, was one of these pits, and it would be not far from it if it were not actually the lowest of the lot, and, being so, the position of the cuckstool partially suggested in the presentment would be opposite and not far from the higher or northern half of the present Barton Terrace, Deepdale-road. A cuckstool remnant—the upright post on which the dipping plank or beam used to be worked—was visible up to about 1826, at the side of a pit between Deepdale-road and the lower end of what is now East View. Though scolds were mainly subjected to cuckstool punishment, in Preston it was prescribed as a penalty for persistently selling bread and ale defective in weight or measure, or at a wrong price. In the "Custumal" there is a clause which enacts that if a burgesse offends against the Assize of Bread and Ale he shall for the first, second, or third time be fined 12d.; but for a fourth offence he was to go to the cuckstool unless he paid "the best fine he was able."—(See *Eng. Hist. Rev.*, XV., pp. 499, 509.) There is no instance on record of any local male person having been ducked. A cuckstool

There is a greate need of sweete watter att the Almshouses,¹ which is much to the prejudice of manie poore famalys thereabout. The now baliffes shall cause the stones of the wall by the washing poole to bee taken upp and sett in some other convenient place, that that grivance may be remedied and the Inhabitants thereabouts subplyed; and also that the baliffes shall cause the washinge poole to be emptied, that soe they may with conveniency rase the same one foote in the midle, being conceived to bee to deepe. Both theis to bee done before the 20th of July next, els to pay vjs. viijd.

Inquisition taken on the 12th of February, 1656, before William Patten (Mayor),² William Hodgkinson and James Assheton (Bailiffs), and Evan Wall (Steward of the Court).

consisted of a roughly made wooden chair, fixed at the end of two parallel beams 12 or 15 feet long, at the edge of a pond or water pit, and arranged so as to move up and down on a post rising a little above the surface of the water. In this chair the scold used to be firmly fastened, then the beams were pushed over the supporting post until the outer ends bearing the shrew in question were over a sufficiently deep part, when they were lowered and raised, each lowering movement involving a ducking. In some places the cuckstool was fixed at the end of a single beam, pivoted centrally on a vertical post, at the side of a large well, pit, or fairly deep stream. The cuckstool is a very old English "institution." It is referred to in Domesday Book as "*cathedra stercoris*."

1. In respect to almshouses, there were four or more in Preston in the latter part of the 17th century, their probable positions being in Fishergate, near the top of Mount-street, at the north ends of Friargate and St. John-street, and at the east end of the town. The presentment mentions "almshouses," as if in one block, and these, it is almost certain, were in the last-named position. In time, the almshouses fell into decay and were pulled down. Afterwards almshouses were erected or re-erected at the bottom of Church-street. In 1790 they were sold with some adjoining land to the County Justices, in order that a better road might be made to the House of Correction, which was opened in 1789. The Corporation, in the same year, built some almshouses on the east side of Deepdale-road, on part of the site of the present Stephenson Terrace. At or prior to that time an almshouse was erected at the north end of John-street. It was pulled down in or about 1833; and the almshouses in Deepdale-road were done away with in 1835, since which time there have been no buildings of the like character in Preston.

2. The name of Patten, in its connection with Preston, is a comparatively old one. In 1567 a William Patten in conjunction with John Bold, of North Meols, presented the Rev. Leonard de Chorley to the vicarage—the benefice—of Preston. In the municipal or burgess records

of Preston the name first appears in 1642: on the Guild Roll for that year there are, in the in-burgess part, the names of Will'us Patton, gen., and his two sons Thomas and Anthony. Will'us Patton was, no doubt, the William Patten who was a warden of Preston Parish Church in 1647 and Mayor of Preston in 1655-56. He was also an Alderman, and owned Peel Hall estate. Patten House, Preston, to which reference is subsequently made, derived its name from him or one of his ancestors, and there can be no doubt he occupied it. Trinity Church and the graveyard attached thereto—opened in 1815—occupy part of what was at one time a large enclosure called Patten Field. Patten-street, on the north side of Trinity Church, runs through a portion of the same old enclosure. With respect to William Patten, his death took place some time before 1662. Thomas Patten (son and heir of William), along with three of his brothers, was enrolled as an in-burgess at the Guild in 1662. His name likewise appears in the same burgess class on the Guild Roll for 1682: on this and subsequent Rolls other Pattens, evidently relatives, figure both as in and out-burgesses; but as time goes on they gradually decrease in number, and towards the end of the 18th century they virtually disappear from the burgess records. The above-mentioned Thomas Patten was one of the Parliamentary representatives of Preston in 1688-89, his colleague in the House of Commons being the Hon. James Stanley. Early in 1690 there was a Parliamentary election at Preston, and Thomas Patten tried to secure one of the seats, but by a very small majority Lord Willoughby defeated him. Near the end of the same year, through Lord Willoughby being called to the upper House, there was a vacancy in the representation of Preston, and Thomas Patten again came forward as a candidate; but he was defeated by Sir Edward Chisenhall, though only by a majority of 57 votes. In 1688, Elizabeth, only daughter and heiress of Thomas Patten, married Sir Thomas Stanley, and through this union she not only brought Patten House—the property and residence of her father—into the Stanley family, but became the mother of Sir Edward Stanley, who was born in 1689, and succeeded to the Derby earldom (as 11th Earl) in 1736. Sir Edward was Mayor of Preston in 1731, and an Alderman of the borough at the time he succeeded to the earldom. Patten House was situated on the north side of Church-street (opposite the end of Grimshaw-street), and about 30 yards behind the present line of shops, &c. At the time when it was erected it must have been nearly, if not actually, the outermost dwelling of the town on the directly eastern side. A supposition has been indulged in to the effect that the mansion of William Ergham, Guild Mayor of Preston in 1397, was primarily on the site occupied by Patten House; but I have not met with any really reliable evidence in support of this surmise. Celia Fiennes, daughter of Colonel Nathaniel Fiennes, of the Parliamentary army, passed through Preston, going northward, in or about 1695; and Patten House quite specially attracted her. In her diary she says: "At ye entrance to ye town was a very good house, wch was a lawyer's [Thomas Patten, the owner of Patten House at this time, was a barrister-at-law], of good stone work, 5 windows in ye front, and high built, according to ye eastern buildings near London. The ascent to ye house was 14 or 15 stone steps large, and a handsome court with open iron pallasados in the gate, and on each side of the whole breadth of ye house,

wch discovered the gardens on each side of the house, neatly kept flowers and greens; there are also many steps up to ye house from ye court—it was a complete building.” A map of Preston “with the Barricades and Cannon of the Rebels and ye Disposition of the King’s Forces,” in 1715, “Drawn on the Spott by P. M., Esq.,” specifies Patten House as “Sr Henry Hughton’s [Hoghton’s] House.” A “Merse Officer,” who served under General Foster, in 1715, states, in a journal which he kept, that Patten House was the residence of Sir H. Hoghton. Patten House at the time in question belonged, no doubt, to the Stanley family; but this would not preclude the letting of it to Sir Henry Hoghton, the 5th baronet, who was for nearly 30 years, in the aggregate, M.P. for Preston—the Rebellion year of 1715 being included in such time; and the presumption is that for a short period, or a certain number of years, he rented Patten House. Between the 10th and the 14th of November, 1715, Patten House was alternatively occupied by a number of Scotch rebels and soldiers of the King. Daniel de Foe, in his “Tour through Great Britain,” published in 1724-26, refers to Preston, which he visited, and in the course of his remarks he says—“The great Street [evidently meaning Church-street and Fishergate, whose directly even conjunction would give them a single main street aspect] is filled with good houses, and is very broad. The house of the present Earl of Derby makes a noble appearance.” In 1721 Patten House was refronted, and the Stanley armorial bearings, &c., became very conspicuous on it. The front of the building was of brick, and it included a projecting pediment, the Stanley arms being on a shield below. Twenty-four windows were in the facade. The doorway was supported by two Corinthian pillars, and was approached by two flights of steps, whilst between it and the outer gateway fronting Church-street there was a grass plot or lawn. The outer gate was of wrought iron, and was put up in 1749. It was fixed to massive stone pillars, each tipped with an urn-shaped ornament, and was surmounted by an earl’s coronet. There was born at Patten House, on the 12th of September, 1752, Edward Smith Stanley, who became the 12th Earl of Derby, and was very notable in the sporting world. Lord Derby, in the winter of 1829, allowed the kitchens, &c., at Patten House to be used for soup kitchen purposes. After the political defeat at Preston, in 1830, of the Hon. E. G. Stanley, who became the 14th Earl, an estrangement between the Derby family and Preston set in: the intervals between the family visits to Patten House, which for many years had been periodically occupied by members thereof, and generally recognised as their Preston mansion, became longer, and, by-and-by, they abandoned it entirely. Later it was used for a time as a barrack; and in 1835 it was pulled down. The large iron gate was purchased by Wm. Rawstorne, Esq., and afterwards fixed by him at the entrance to Howick House grounds, where it still stands; but it has not the originally surmounting Earl’s coronet, and it is questionable whether the stone pillars to which it was hung are those which it was fixed to at Patten House. The gate is a very fine one. The stables connected with Patten House—they used to be called “the Derby stables”—were in Church-street, between the Blue Bell Inn and the end of Grimshaw-street—front part; the site being now occupied with shops.

Presentments :—

Ye Supvisors of ye highways shall repaire and amende ye Cawsey att ye entrance upp into Ribbleton laine¹ and all alonge ye same lane, and shall sett stoopes in convenient places for ye prservacon of ye Cawsey, which is very ruinous by reason of carts and carriages treadinge forth ye same, and yt they shall repaire ye platt² in ye upper end of ye same lane, before ye 1st of June next, in paine of xs.

Whereas Roger Tomlinson hath upon summons removed ye style leading upp into Avenham into its Annient place, hee hath neglected to make a pavement before ye same, accordinge to ye Tenor of his Lease, and yet hee shall pave ye same and make ye way ffaire and passable before ye twentieth day of Aprill next, in paine of vjs. viijd.

Alexr. Rigbie, Esqr.,³ and Anne Evans, widdowe, have not scowred and clensted their ditches and made their ffence at ye end of their Crofts, accordinge to warninge and tyme given, and have therefore forfeited either of them vjs. viijd.

1. At the time this presentment was made it is very probable, almost certain, that there was not a building of any kind in Ribbleton-lane, which, as a road way, was in a rough, poor condition, and virtually a common country lane. About 1806 it was very much improved, as, indeed, was the whole road, of which this formed a section, between Preston and Clitheroe. Up to 1810 there were not more than about a dozen houses or buildings in Ribbleton-lane, and when the Ordnance Survey was made, in 1844-46, there were only about 30 houses in it, taking the whole length from Deepdale-road to Gamall-lane end.

2. This platt, or bridge, would cross Eaves Brook, which runs under the road, a short distance from Sion Hill, on the south-east side.

3. Many Rigbys have been directly and indirectly connected with Preston; in the burgess records of the borough they are frequently in evidence; in its political annals some of them are conspicuous; and, of the various names met with, that of Alexander occurs the oftenest. As to the connection, politically, of the Rigbys with Preston, it may be observed that in 1660 Alexander Rigby (son of Colonel Alexander Rigby who besieged Lathom House, and a lieutenant-colonel in the Parliamentary army) was elected M.P. for Preston, along with Mr. Richard Standish, by the Corporation—an election objected to by the in-burgesses, who returned Dr. Rigby and Alexander Rigby. The question raised by this conflict was referred for settlement to the House of Commons. By a resolution of the whole House the electoral choice of the in-burgesses was confirmed; and, beyond this, it was decided by the same authority that “all the inhabi-

Ye now Bailiffes of this Towne shall stake and wynd and sufficientlie repaire ye bridge at ye end of Broadgate, before ye 1st day of May next, in paine of vjs. viijd.

Ye Supvisors of ye high way shall repaire ye foote Cawsey and Cartway, in Broadgate,¹ well and sufficiently before ye xvth day of May next, in paine of xs.

Ye now Bailiffes of this Towne shall stake and wind at ye North Moore yate, and keepe ye brooke² in its course which breaks forth and spoiles ye high way. This is to bee done before ye 1st of May, in paine of vjs. viijd.

Luke Hodgkinson shall scowre and clense his Ditch all alonge his close, nere ye Vicaridge crofte,³ before ye xxth of this instant Aprill, or pay his fyne of vjs. viijd.

John Helme and Lawrence Cowper have with their ditches encroached upon ye Cart way in ye little laine leading upp from

tants" of the borough of Preston had "voices in the election." Alexander Rigby, who was M.P. for Preston for only about a year, died in 1694, and was buried in the Preston Parish Church—in the Hoghton chapel portion of it. Edward Rigby (the legal gentleman who was twice Clerk of the Guild, and a brother of Alexander) was one of the Parliamentary representatives of Preston from 1661 to 1681. For the first year in the next century Edward Rigby, his grandson, was one of the M.P.'s for Preston.

1. At the south end of Broadgate the footpath would merge into that previously mentioned, which ran on the side of the river, and from which—undoubtedly in 1774, and probably very much earlier—two footways branched, one diverging at the south-east corner of the present Miller Park, then going up the side of Avenham Valley, through a field called "Avenham Brow," and ultimately running into a lane at the west end of what is now Ribblesdale Place; whilst the other slanted off about 80 yards farther on the river side, going north-east about 150 yards, then merging into a narrow lane which went on one side of "Great Avenham Brow," and afterwards joining another lane, broader but much shorter, which junctioned with Avenham-lane, at the north-west corner of Avenham Walk. The present footways at the east and west ends of Ribblesdale Place, running to the Ribble side, virtually, and to a very large extent actually, take the course of the old ones.

2. This would be Moor Brook, and the flooding of the highway would be in the hollow of Garstang-road, near the English Martyrs' Schools.

3. See note p. 21.

Davill bridge into ye Cawsey meadows,¹ and they shall make ye same passable for Cart and Carriage before ye 1st of May next, in paine of either of them vis. viijd.

Thomas Goodshey stoppeth a foote path² in ye ffryergate, wch leadeth from St. Johns Weend into ye ffryergate, and thorow wch the people of this Comonwealth had heretofore a Comon footpath and ffree passage, and yt in ye yere 1648 ye Jury upon Evidence found yt for 60 yeres then last past ye same had beene a Knowne way, and accordingly wee pnte yt Thomas Goodshey shall sett two styles frm his house there into ye said weend before the xxth of this month, in paine of vjs. viijd., and shall forfeit for ev[er]y tyme hee shall stopp yt way 6s. 8d.

Great Court Leet, held in the Moot Hall, on Friday, the 25th of April, 1656, before William Patten (Mayor), William Hodgkinson and James Assheton (Bayliffs), and Evan Wall (Steward of the Court).

Presentments :—

Mr. Maior shold take care concerninge ye assize of bread and beare accordinge to ye rate of Corne and such orders as ye Lawes have pvided in yt case.

Ye swynheard doth not doe his duty accordinge to ye 4th presentment of ye last Leete, butt contrariwise, neither Blowinge nor giveinge warneinge by his horne or Keepeinge ye swyne until fower a Clocke upon ye moore, beinge thither brought, butt suffers them to stray into men's Corne; therefore for ye tyme p-resent to bee severly punished att ye discreession of Mr. Maior, and for future the fine to bee Levied accordingly, if hee be continued, or from such as may to his place bee elected, that soe the swyne may bee driven upp into ye moore, and not suffered to lye by ye yate.

All ye inhabitants shall cause theire swyne roonge, and the pinder take care of the same, and, if that will not serve, to cause

1. Cawsey meadows would adjoin Marsh-lane, probably on the north side.

2. This footpath, clearly the subject of some contention in the Court Leet, eight years before, seems to have taken, in its entire length, from St. John's Weind to Friargate, the line of the present Crooked-lane, Earlstreet, and Back-lane.

them yoked, that there may bee noe more spoyle in Corne, and that the said inhabitants haveinge notice hereof, as also by the officer Blowing of his horne every morneinge, may bringe forth theire swyne, and, if need require, to helpe with them to ye moore, that there they may bee kepte, otherwise every offender haveinge theire swyne found in ye streete and not kepte upp to forfeite for every swyne, and soe often as they shall bee found, fower pence a swyne, the one halfe to ye Towne and the other to ye su[b]bayliffe and swyneard, equally to bee divided Betweene them.

Thomas Combrall for Carrieinge Corne out of ye towne and not enquireinge for the towler [toll collector], or payinge ye same untill it was demanded, to pay js.

There are manie Lathers, Carte wheelles and yates unsould, comonly lefte in ye streete, especialy in ffryergate, till the marquett come, they sell them, which is a hinderence and anyoance to ye comon passages and vexation also of and much to ye peoples harme that have on occasion to goe that way in ye night tyme; as also that such whoe owne ye wood ye which Lyes near the church yard wall may bee commanded to Lay the said wood close to ye wall or remove it, and to cause that filth theire removed which by them have beene stayed, so that commendible passadge may not bee stayed or anyoyed; and for ye ffuture prevention of theis and ye like inconvenencies, som good orders may bee made by ye Major and councell for ye remedy thereof as to them may seeme meete. To bee removed before ye 24th June instant, upon paine of 10s. apeece, to bee Levied upon defaulte.

There hath beene a Bull¹ usually pvided by the Baliffes for ye good of ye comonaltie and ffree Burrgesses of this towne; for ye present noe care is taken for the same; wee therefore desire Mr. Major would take some speedy course therein, for ye good of ye poore people, and that ye said Bull may bee kepte all

1. The "Bull usually pvided" before the making of this presentment was purchased chiefly for freemen's cattle, and may eventually have been baited. Later, for numerous years, the town's bull was usually baited before being killed.

winter as well as somer if it may bee thought fittinge by ye Major and Companie to buy one before the xvith June instant, and not to sell him again without ye consent of ye Major and greater pte of ye Councell, upon paine of xls apeece.

There are manie presentments against Mr. Edmund Werden concerneinge the wasteinge and destroyinge of ye Arbish [herbage] of ye marsh, butt now in perticular there are manie complaints that hee, Liveinge in Asshton, turnes nyne or more beaste to our marsh from thence, as also manie Geese, which wee conceive ought not to bee, butt doe leave the fine to Mr. Major and his councell for the tyme past, And to take care to make some order to prevent ye same for the tyme to come to bee restrained. For the future the like not to bee suffered, butt ye Cattell to be impounded; ye pinders to impound ye geese in some convenient place, and not to deliver them without payment of 6d. a fflocke, and not to suffer them for ye like.

Ye Bailiffes or whom it may concerne may cause a yate at both ye moore yates, but especially at ye north moor yate, soe hanged that it may open and shutt both ways of itself, wch wee conceive willbee ye best way to kepe mens goods from straieinge of and offendeinge any, either by horse, beasts, or swine, and yt order may bee given to make them substantially good, and yt not priudiciall Course, still continued (serve our tyme, serve all), wch pues [proves] nor [no] remedie, but vainly and excessively to ye spending of ye Townes revenue; as also yt Rayles and windinges may be made at Davy bridge, to prevent Cattle goeinge over; and that those fflags on ye Marsh may be carried to ye Boate landinge¹ on our side, to bee as pte [part] of a Key [quay]; and that Swansey bridge,² on our side, may bee staked

1. The "Boate landinge" would be on part of the site of the "Old Quay," at the west corner of Preston Marsh—a quay done away with, as was also the new one, about a third of a mile farther up, when the course of the river was diverted to the Penwortham side in 1885-92.

2. Swansey Bridge would cross a stream running past or close to the north-west corner of the Marsh. This stream was Moor Brook, the outlet of which was at the Old Quay. On the map of Preston made in 1836, by the late Alderman J. J. Myres, it is designated Moor Brook. The Ordnance map (survey 1844-46) calls it Swansea Gutter. North-west of the stream (now covered over completely or diverted into the main sewer) there is

and winded; as also yt our pte of ye bridge at Tippinge smithie,¹ which is in great decay, may be speedilie repaired, lest it bee wholie ruined and spoiled, and yt it may bee a stone bridge, if fullwood will joine.

That Worshipfull and honorble ancient Custom of Bailiffes weareinge gounes, according to maine Guild orders, butt especially against ye second order of Mr. Werdens Guild,² have

"Swansea estate," which is being utilised for house-building purposes. This estate is in Ashton. A family, named Swansea, owned and evidently occupied a residence here. Amongst those who took the Covenant or Protestation, in 1661-2, in the "lower end of Preston" parish, which included Ashton, were Edward and Henry Swansie; and in the list of those who paid the Hearth Tax for the year 1663, in Ashton, was Henry Swance. The will of Henry Swanseye, of Ashton, was proved within the Archdeaconry of Richmond in 1673, and that of Ellen Swansea, of Ashton, was proved within the same archdeaconry in 1691. The name first appears in the Guild Rolls in 1682.

1. The bridge at "Tippinge smithie" probably crossed Eaves Brook, the stream forming the boundary between Preston and Fulwood.

2. Mr. Werden was Mr. Edmund Werden, who was Guild Mayor in 1642. The second order of that Guild was as follows:—"Whereas by an order heretofore made and agreed upon by the then Maior and Comon Councill of this Towne bearinge date the five and twentieth Daie of August, Anno Dni 1612, concerning the yearly payment of Twenty markes of lawfull English money by the Baylives of this Towne for the tyme beinge to the Schoolemaster of the same, vizt., eyther of the said Balives six pounds thirteen shillings and foure pence yearly and also for providing themselves with Gownes; as also that the Comon Counsell of this same Towne should likewise provide themselves with Gownes; which said Order was then inrolled and entered into the Whyte booke or Booke of Orders for this Towne, and remayninge in the same amongst the Recorde thereof, and subscribed with the hande of the then Maior, Aldermen, and Comon Councill of the same; By which same order the Baylives were greatly eased of dyvers banquetts and feasts wherewith they then stood charged, and in liewe thereof they were soe ordered to pay the said vijl. xiijs. iiijd. a piece accordingly as aforesaid, and the same yearely payments have been duely and constantly paid since the tyme of the makeinge of the said Order by the Baylives of this Towne for the tyme beinge successaively untill this present: Now to the intente the Baylives of this Towne for the tyme beinge and all others whose shalbee hereafter bee elected or succeed in the said office shall observe the said Custome and payment, and to the end they may bee the better enabled to pay the same and may bee eased of the greate charges and expenses in makeinge their feasts and banquettes as have been heretofore accustomed, Itt is Ordered, concluded, and agreed upon by the Maior, Stewards, and Aldermen of this present Guild merchant That the said recyted Order and all and every the matters,

left of the same, as alsoe that pay of sixe pounds therteene shillings fower pence a peece to ye schoolemaster,² as formerly,

agreements, and things therein conteyned and menconed shall from henceforth remayne, continue, and bee in full force, strength, effecte, and to bee observed in all and every parte thereof accordinge to the purporte, true Intente, and meanynge thereof. And itt is hereby further agreed upon That the Baylives of this Towne for the tyme beinge shall yearlye paye to the Schoolemar of this Towne for the tyme beinge their said sixe pounds thirteene shillings and fourpence a piece quarterly by even porcons att the Daies and tymes hereafter expressed, that is to say, att Christmas, the Anunciacon of our Lady the virgin Mary, the feasts of St. John Baptist and St. Michael. And itt is hereby likewise concluded and agreed upon That the said Baylives shall ordinarily upon Sondaies and other festivall Daies weare their Gownes and attend upon their said Maior upon payne to forfeyte for every defaulte twoe shillings and sixe pence. And that the Aldermen and Comon Counsell of this Towne shall yearlye attend upon the Maior of this Towne for the tyme beinge in their Gownes upon the Daies and att all tymes hereafter expressed for the worshipp and credit of this Incorporacon, that is to say, upon the Sondag nextt after the feaste Day of St. Wilfrid the Archbpp, the feasts of the Nativity of or [our] Lord God, St. Stevens Day, and St. John's Day, upon the first Sondag in the newe yeare, and upon the feasts of Easter Day and Whitsonday, the twoe faire tymes, and other convenient tymes (whereof the said Maior shall give them notice by his officer), for the better entertainment of Noblemen, gentlemen and others of Quality, cominge and repayinge to this same Towne; and besides as often as to them or any of them shalbee thoughte requisite and mete, upon payne of three shillings and fourpence to bee forfeited for every neglect therein to be levied by distresse or otherwise, to the use and behoofe of the Maior, Bayliffes, and Burgesses of this Incorporacon."

2. The payments to the Schoolmaster, by the Bailiffs, were discontinued, in accordance with a resolution passed by the Corporation three years before the presentment relating to this Guild Order was made. According to the old custom, the two Bailiffs had to provide annually, at Easter, "wine, beare, breade, cheese, ayle, and other bankettinge stuff and provisions," for the Mayor, Corporation, burgesses, "strangers, passengers, and neighbours" who visited Preston at such time; but the custom became financially burdensome to the Bailiffs and gave rise to scenes by no means creditable to the town, so on the 26th of August, 1612, the Corporation decided that the Bailiffs, instead of paying for Eastertide feasts, should annually give £6 13s. 4d. apiece towards the salary of the Grammar Schoolmaster. In 1650 one of the Bailiffs (William Curtis) demurred to the payment; but he was informed by the Corporation that if he persisted in his contumacy, a forced sale of his goods and chattels would be made by way of meeting the claim and the costs incurred in securing the money. In 1652 the Corporation resolved to free the Bailiffs from further payments of this kind, and to grant £22 annually out of the town's money on behalf of the schoolmaster.

and by the said order confirmed, but alsoe that there is not harmonious assent and Keepinge of ye said order by and amongst ye councell and theire brotherly sittinge together in the Church,¹ which to us seemes strange, that order makers should not bee order Keepers ; and, therefore, Leave ye remedy to Mr. Major and Councell.

George Werden² is continued beidle and scavenger, is very negligent therein, and the Towne is full every day of Country poore, and the said office altogether neglected, to ye discredit of our towne and hindrance of our owne poore. Also that ye said George Werden is swyneard, also receiveinge wages for Both and

1. As to the members of the Corporation "sittinge together in the Church," it appears that provision was made for this kind of accommodation at least half a century before the Jury complaint about lack of harmony, &c., was formulated. In 1607, or perhaps a little earlier, the Archbishop of York appropriated to the Corporation "five pews or seats within the body of the Parish Church" of Preston; and for a while the major portion of the Corporate members went to the church every Sunday as well as on each appointed holiday, both forenoon and afternoon. But at length some of the members lost their regard for uniformity of location in the church; they sat in different parts; and even "interlopers" were allowed to sit in the Corporation pews. In 1763 it was decided that the Mayor, Aldermen, and Councillors must sit in the pews appropriated to their use, and that for every violation of this decision they would be respectively fined 12d.; the only person exempted being Alderman W. Sudell, who in consequence of being deaf was permitted to sit in any seat he deemed most convenient. Many years ago this compulsory method of sitting was done away with. At the top end of the Parish Church there is still an appropriated part, containing a number of sittings for the Corporation.

2. The duties undertaken by Werden were those of beadle, sexton, scavenger, swineherd, &c. At this time—middle of the 17th century—the beadles of some towns were regularly occupied in walking through the streets, &c., for the purpose of preventing "rogues and other wandering beggars" and restraining the "native poor" from begging. Earlier, in the same century, at certain places—probably this was the rule throughout the country—a special official eye was kept on wanderers, beggars, &c. For instance, in 1614 the Manchester Court Leet appointed a beadle or marshal to secure and take to the constable "all rogues, vagabonds, and sturdy beggars" found begging or wandering in the town; the remuneration of the said beadle or marshal consisting of a fixed salary and 4d. for every person of the sort named who got whipped. The statement as to Preston being "full every day of Country poore" points to the distress or depression, the scarcity of work, lowness of wages, and poverty prevalent in the surrounding rural districts. And in towns the state of affairs was by no

performeinge neither. Wee therefore thinke fittinge and present that ye Baliffes shall appointe a newe Swyneard imediately, that soe the townes revinue may not bee vainely given, butt yt ye Benefitt may bee found by ye inhabitants for whose case such officers were first elected; and that Mr. Major will bee pleased to Comannd such Idle persons as theis to such offices, and such as refuse to send them to ye house of Correccion,¹ haveing noe subsistance and Liveinge Places.

means good. Wages were at this time—in the early stage of the Protectorate—better than when the civil war was raging; but they did not, allowing for the difference, amount to much—wages generally being for artisans 1s. 6d. and for labourers 1s. per day, whilst the price of wheat was about 50s. per quarter.—The “Idle persons,” &c., are named at the end of the presentment; one of them being the eldest son of a Preston Corporation Bailiff.

1. The House of Correction stood upon a portion of the site if it did not actually absorb part of the structure of the old Friary, which was situated between the present Lower Pitt-street (nearly opposite the centre) and the canal—a structure which, after the Dissolution by Henry VIII., was occupied as a private family residence by the Breres, and later, probably about 1680, transformed into a gaol under the foregoing designation. In 1690 the Governor of this House of Correction (William Higgins) was evidently a person with considerable contumacy in his composition. The county magistrates, who had executive control of the establishment, decided that one William Tomlinson should supersede Higgins in the governorship. Sir Richard Standish, Alexander Rigby, of Layton, and other magistrates were deputed to obtain possession for Tomlinson; and on a certain day they went to the House of Correction with this object in view; but they could not gain admission—the doors had been fastened against them; and within the building were several rough-looking fellows with fire arms, one of which was discharged, apparently for the purpose of frightening the magistrates, who had to go away without accomplishing their object. Some time afterwards Tomlinson was installed Governor of the House of Correction. When he actually entered on his duties I cannot say; but he was clearly “in harness” in 1693. The Marsh corn return, for 1693, in connection with Lea Demesne, which at that time was owned by Sir Charles Hoghton, Bart., contains an entry respecting “Mr. Tomlinson Mr [Master or Governor] of ye House of Correction.” John Howard, the prison philanthropist, visited and severely condemned the condition of this House of Correction; and the erection of the gaol at the eastern end of Church-street (opened in 1798) was chiefly due to the strictures he passed on the old establishment, which, after being abandoned as a correctional place, became known as the “old Barracks” (why, cannot now be explained). Later, the structure was made into a cotton factory; next it became a store in connection with a foundry (J. C. Stevenson and Co.’s for many years and afterwards Stevenson and Co.’s, Limited), which it immediately

The Bayliffes shall, as is their duty, goe twice in their office and drive the more to see that foriners goods beinge there-upon kepte may bee secured till course may bee taken with ye owners, and in particular that ye Bayliffes may Cause Thomas Loxam¹ to bee sworne whether those number of sheepe upon ye moore bee his or noe, beinge supposed that neither they nor ye Coulte are his; also it is desired that Mr. Major and ye Companie may continue their perambulacon [perambulation]² to see what incroachments are erected and made upon ye townes ground and Comons of fullwood.

adjoined, on the north-east side, and as such it was used until the end of 1891, when the foundry was closed (the whole of the property having been purchased for railway extension purposes) and the business operations of the company transferred to a new place in Fylde-road; and now all that remains of the old building is a brick wall, about twenty-six yards long and ranging from three to six yards high, which formed the main portion of its north side, and which will, by-and-bye, no doubt, be pulled down to make room for additional railway sidings.

1. Loxam is a name which crops up somewhat numerouslly in the records of Preston. It is first met with in the list of burgesses, "Per Rotul' Cur'," for 1622 (Guild). Various persons named Loxam were Bailiffs of Preston, viz., Robert in 1671; Thomas, 1675; John, 1693; and Richard in 1742-80-86. John, who was a Guild Alderman in 1702, became Mayor of Preston in 1709, and Richard was elected a member of the Town Council in 1745.

2. At a certain fixed time the Mayor, Corporation, &c., went along the boundaries of the borough for the purpose of viewing and confirming their course and stopping encroachments thereon, if any happened to be met with. The custom was usually called "boundary riding"—some who participated in it rode on horses, but the bulk walked; and it was kept up till about 1835. The borough boundary was, of course, at the time the presentment was made, much more limited than it is now. Commencing on the south side, it followed, from the Ribble, the course of Swillbrook, going past Fishwick township, afterwards northward by Ribbleton Moor to Eaves Brook, proceeding at the side thereof, westward, to its junction with the Savick, and there bending south to the Marsh, crossing it near the "Colt Hole," then up the north bank of the Ribble, ending at the Swillbrook outlet—the point started from. The boundary riding took place periodically—generally on a Shrove Tuesday. The Mayor and Corporation, with friends and miscellaneous followers (the whole being preceded by a band of music and colours), took the course named. There were various scenes—noisy, humorous, and eccentric—on the way. On reaching the "Colt hole"—a sort of pond near the bottom of Marsh-lane, north side—some of those in the procession crossed the hole, a few managing to jump over it, but more floundering in the water and making ludicrous spectacles

Edmund Watson,¹ milner, of Avenham, beinge noe free man, doth keepe a horse upon ye townes wast. It is desired that Mr. Major take Care aboute his removall or security, hee haveinge a wife and Childeren as yett not come into ye towne. Butt for keepeinge his horse upon ye townes waste to pay xijd.

George Mery is a Breaker of hedges, and did Cutt an Assh tree downe upon Mr. Ashtons Lands and other mens; therefore to pay three shillings fower pence, and to bee made a publike example to the terifinge of all others as Mr. Major shall thinke fitt.

Those persons hereunder named are Comon and ordinary Hedge Breakers, and therefore for this offence to bee punished

of themselves. On the boundary-riding day the newly elected Bailiffs were "broken in," by being whipped round some of the town's pumps. Other persons, it is said, were also flogged simultaneously. The chief whipping was done at a pump at the top of Lord-street. But in time the diversion, owing to its increasing peculiarity and severity, became intolerable. Not only was whipping of the ordinary kind indulged in, but blacksmiths, working at shops or smithies near the pumps where flagellation took place, used to rush out while the "ceremony" was being performed and beat the "victims" with rods of iron; and at length, owing to this maltreatment and the introduction of a comprehensive measure of reform in municipal matters, the custom was discontinued.

1. On the Guild Rolls there are several persons bearing the name of Watson, with a slight variation in the spelling thereof. The first burgess of this name—John Watson—was of the "foreign" order, his enrolment being made at the Guild in 1622. The primary in-burgess Watson was Nicholas, his enrolment, which was immediately succeeded by that of his two sons, Thomas and John, taking place in 1662. The freedom of the three was renewed at the Guild in 1682, and at the same time another son (John) of Nicholas was enrolled as an in-burgess. Later, other Watsons, some of them, no doubt, descendants of certain of the foregoing, figure in the burgess lists. In 1764 a John Watson was elected a member of the Town Council; and in 1782 Thomas and John Watson were members of the Guild Council. The only Watsons, in addition to the foregoing, connected representatively with the Corporation of Preston have been the following: William Watson, a native of the south of Scotland, and in the drapery line, a Councillor for Christ Church Ward from 1851 to 1860; Robert Green Watson, solicitor (a native of North Lancashire), who was a Councillor for Fishwick Ward from 1867 to 1872, when he was made an Alderman, and so remained till his death in 1879; and his brother, Henry Proctor Watson, auctioneer, &c., Councillor for Christ Church Ward from 1871 to the time of his death in 1877.—The Edmund Watson mentioned in the presentment was an entire stranger to Preston, and he evidently never secured any definite connection with the town, for his name does not appear on any of the Rolls.

at Mr. Major's pleasure, either by stockes¹ or ye Rouges Poste,² and, if that will not serve turne, that Mr. Major will be pleased [to order] some more seveare Course for punishment as hee may conceive meete, vidz.:—George Morrys Children, George Werdens wife and Children, ould Myres wife, ould Sheppards wife, James Wasle, George Woods servants and prentices, Thomas Patricke sonne and daughter, John Weengreene Children, Roger Moss Children.

Henery Haworth, Richard Claytons sonne John Clayton, Thomas Stringer al[ias] Richardson, doth usually and ordinarily gett whines upon Spittls mosse and Rattenwall Bancke,³ to sell them, and will doe it, which is a greate perjudice, that the super-visore cannot gett a whine to helpe the high way; therefore to pay apeece three shillings fower pence; and John Birchel is guiltie of ye same offence, and to pay ye like fine.

1. The stocks were in the Parish Churchyard, at the upper south-west corner, and they were kept in use or remained there till about 1825. The severest use of the stocks seems to have been in the case of persons disobeying or abusing any public officer or officers in the execution of his or their duties, or reviling or rebuking the same for or in respect thereto. Every person so offending had, according to an order made at the Guild of 1562, and "establisshed for ever" by the Mayor, Stewards, and Aldermen, to be "punished in the Stockes" for three days, kept on bread and water only, and fined 6s. 8d.

2. The rogues' whipping post was not far from the north-west corner of the Market Place, and near the old fish stones which were removed in 1853. Long before that date, however, the post was done away with; but flogging was continued at the same spot—on the triangle plan—till about 1830. Part of the punishment of numerous male prisoners consisted of flogging. They were brought to the place referred to from the House of Correction or the lock-up (which appears to have been primarily in the Town Hall, and afterwards for several years in Turk's Head yard, Church-street), then fastened to the triangle, whipped with a cat-o'-nine-tails, and immediately afterwards taken to one of the adjacent public-houses in New-street, on the north side of the Market Place, where their lacerated backs were washed with rum or salt and water. [The buildings in New-street, along with other property on the same side of the Market Place, were pulled down in 1894.] The last woman publicly flogged in Preston was Christina Fellowes. She was fastened to a cart's-tail and flogged, on her bare back, at certain street corners. This was in 1786.

3. "Rattenwall Bancke" is not specified on any of the maps of Preston, and there is no reference to it in any of the local histories.

There are maine complaints of ye Inhabitants in the Lower end of the fryergate for want of water, having none but at a great distance or upon leave, which is burthensome and uncertaine, and they being a people to their power as readie to observe and keepe all commannds which come from ye Major and Councell as their fellow inhabitants which have recd ye like favour and libertie, not repininge thereat but rejoycinge, onely hopeinge and prayinge they may enjoy ye same priviledge where ye Maior and Councell shall think fittinge and at ye most easiest charge, wee therefore apprehend their said requests reasonable and ought to bee done when the convenientest tyme may appeare to Mr. Maior and his Councell.

Henery Haworth and Thomas Wiggans did hange doggs and lefte them in ye high way unburied, to the greate anoyance of ye high way and danger to mens goods that pass to ye Marsh, and beinge found faulte with they replied they would doe it, and if they pleased they would hang them upon ye pinfould Rayles; therefore to bee punished seaverly at Mr. Major's discretion; either of them to pay iijs. iiijd.

Theis persons hereunder written are brought unto us by the houselookers, and therefore Mr. Major is disired to secure the town of them till they be removed, and if they thinke fittinge stallanged.—[Here follow the names of upwards of a dozen persons, one of them being harboured by a Bailiff of the town.]

Roberte Bayliffe,¹ Roberte Shakeshafte, Mr. Will Bannaster, widdow Hodgkinson, widdow Catterall, and Sr Richard Houghton² shall cause their inmates [to be] Removed before the twenty fowrth of June, else every one to pay 13s. 4d., and every month after [till removed] sixe shillings eight pence.

1. Bayliffe is a name which does not appear in the burgess lists; nor is it met with in the stallenger records.

2. Persons bearing these names, with the exception of Shakeshaft, have previously been dealt with. The earliest burgess reference to Shakeshaft is in 1542. Robert Shakeshafte named in the presentment was evidently an in-burgess of Preston in 1642 and 1662. Later records contain the names of several burgesses bearing the like appellation. One of the six churchwardens of the parish of Preston, in 1647, was named Raynold Shakeshaft. William Shakeshaft, whose very excellently drawn map of Preston was published in 1809, was a native of this town. His parentage was very

That Mr. Major may cause the Bell man¹ to give notice that all ye inhabitants forbear to take in anie Inmates unless they first acquaint Mr. Major and his Councell, upon paine of forty shillings, or some other way notice may bee given, as ye Major and Councell shall thinke fittinge, that they remove not from house to house as formerly.

Theis persons hereunder named haveinge married ffreemens widdowes,² they [the persons named] not being ffree or [not] as yett compounded with, that Mr. Major wil bee pleased to take care herein that ye inhabitans may not Loose theire prevelledge,

humble; his education, if he got any at all, was of the meagrest kind; he began work as a common labourer, but before long became steward of the building property of John Horrocks, M.P., who was the first to discover his natural abilty; land surveying as well as kindred work was afterwards studied by Shakeshaft; later he issued his map of Preston; next he became land steward for Sir T. D. Hesketh, Bart., of Rufford Hall, and, after holding that post for about 20 years, he died, in 1834, at Rufford.

1. The bellman would, in all probability, be the parish sexton. A previous presentment expresses a desire that the Mayor would "give notice, by the sexton, to all the inhabitants" respecting certain sanitary matters; and, as it was customary to attract attention in different parts of the town by ringing a handbell before giving notices to the public, the presumption is that the sexton was likewise the bellman. The practice of going round and ringing a bell, immediately before shouting out a public notice, ceased in Preston about 1882, owing to the development of bill-posting; but the place of bellman continues to exist, and on the payment of a shilling, at the Corporation bill-posting office, any person can now put in motion the old process.

2. The transference of burgess privileges to the widows of burgesses had a very early origin, and the plan thus established was confirmed as well as to some extent enlarged by an order made at the Guild of 1562; but that order did not specify anything in the shape of an extension of the privileges to non-freemen who might marry such widows. It ran as follows:—"Where[as] it apperithe by Auncyent Recordes that Widowes heretofore beyng late wiffes of burgesses have after the death of their husbondes come in and done their ducties accordyngly as their husbondes in their liff tyme did, and that some other like Widdowes have bene suffred to have like lib'tie contrarye to the welfare of this Town, it is now ordered, constitute[d], and stablISHED by the Mayor, Balives, and Aldermen of this Guild for ever, for the proffitt of all the burgess[es] of the said Town, that all and any Widowes hereafter beyng late Burgesses Wiffes of this Gild or that hereafter shall be made by Gild Merchaunt or by Court Roole shall have and enjoy such liberties and ffreedomes duryng their Widowheade as their husbondes in liff tyme had and enjoyed by reason of their burgesshippe," &c.

vidz. :—Edward Mitchill, who married Jannett Cowper, Leonard Hawksworth who married John Sidgreaves widdowe, Ralph Sharrocke who married Elizabeth Cowper, Robert Tomlinson who married Thomas Beconsall daughter.

That Mr. Major and Councill would bee pleased to allowe two shillings a week to either swyneard, 12d. a weeke beinge to litle to have a Livlyhood, and a disincoradgment to all for beinge swyneard, which is the greatest and comonest losse that is suffered and sustained amongst us ; also 6d. a weeke for a boy to helpe them.

Court Leet held in the Moot Hall, on Wednesday, October 22nd, 1656, before Seth Blackhurst (Mayor), John Cottam and Henry Wilson (Bailiffs), and Evan Wall (Steward of the Court).

Presentments :—

Artillery is not used and exercised within the Towne accordinge to ye forme of ye statute in yt case made and provided, And ye now Bailiffes shall putt ye Butts in Repaire att or before ye 25th day of March next, upon paine of vjs. viijd.

Ye now Bailiffes of ye towne shall sufficiently Repaire ye Moote hall floare and ye Topp, and shall repaire the Councill house, and whitelime ye same, at or before ye first of May next, upon paine to forfeit xls. apeece.

Ye now Bailiffes shall repaire Syke troughs¹ upon Avenham and Spittle Mosse before ye 25th Mar[ch] next in paine of 6s. 8d.

James Townend, for sufferinge his hedge to lye downe next unto Mr. Pattens garden,² whereby ye swine hath much spoyled ye said garden, to pay for ye tyme past iijs. iiijd.

1. "The Syke," which supplied the troughs "upon Avenham" with water, had its rise in the elevated ground near where St. Saviour's Church now stands, and ran down Leeming-street, Shepherd-street, past the bottom of Syke Hill, behind Cannon-street Independent Chapel, the Grammar School, &c., then across Winckley-square, along Garden-street, by the south end of the land on which the railway station stands, afterwards for some distance going south-west, and eventually flowing into the Ribble opposite the end of Taylor-street. The other trough or troughs would be at or near the north-west corner of Spittle Moss, adjacent to the top of Fylde-road.

2. Mr. Patten's garden would be that which adjoined Patten House, as to which see note pp. 55-56.

Ye now Bailiffes shall cause to bee erected a cuckstoole over ye washingpoole, nere ye Almeshouses, att or before ye 25th of March next upon paine of xls. apeece.

Accordinge to ye 37th pntmt of ye last leete, yt is therein pnted yt they have gotten sand and made holes in ye way towards ye bridge by ye Almeshouses and leading towards new-hall,¹ which upon evidence appeares to us yt [according to] ye Indefnnett ptickle [indefinite particulars] they to bee [those responsible are] Mr. Willm Sudell and Nicholas Sudell his sonne, And therefore to bee repaired and ye way made good att their own charges, att or before ye 25th day of March next, or els to pay 6s. 8d. a peece.

1. New Hall is suggestive of the name-origin of New Hall-lane. There are some people who fancy that this lane derived its name from the New Hall in Samlesbury, which is on the south side of the main road running through that township. But this is an entirely untenable supposition. If hall proximity to the road on the east side of the Ribble had governed the application of the name, then the appellation would not have been New Hall but Old Hall-lane; for Samlesbury Old Hall is quite close to the main road, whilst the New Hall is half a mile from it. And if hall nearness to Preston rather than to the road in question had been the regulating nomenclative factor, then Farington Hall or Ribbleton Hall, Fishwick Hall or Cuerdale Old Hall—any of them—would have come before Samlesbury New Hall in this case. But the conclusion I have arrived at is that New Hall-lane was so called in reference to a large building (shown on Lang's map) near to the almshouses already referred to. In old times the road deviated from the line of the present main way; it took a somewhat lower course to the right, went a little south of where now stands the Deaf and Dumb School, through some land to the east, since covered with trees (Eyes Wood), and thence to the side of the Ribble, passage across which was secured at two places—near Brockholes old mill, by stepping stones, and higher up, about 150 yards above Samlesbury Church, by a ferry. When New Hall-lane first got its name I cannot say, but it had it at least 130 years ago. It is stated that, for some time after the Dissolution, Mass was secretly said, at night time, in a barn up New Hall-lane, on the south side, and near the top of a narrow road which ran down towards Fishwick Hall. An idea became current that the building was haunted. But the fact was—a few Roman Catholics were at the time in the habit of meeting, periodically, in the barn—very quietly, at night; and certain sounds, &c., which superstitious outsiders had exaggerated into apparitional phenomena, were simply the devotional essentials or accessories of the worshippers within the building. Long after Roman Catholics had ceased worshipping secretly in the manner mentioned, the superstition that the old barn was haunted remained very strong. All over the town, and especially on the east side, the building was known as the "Boggart barn." Up to about 1830 the

Mr. Maior shall cause all ye Inhabitant Burgesses within this Towne, being of ye age of xxj yeres and upwards, and as yet have not taken ye oath of a burgesse, to bee sumoned to appeare before him, to bee sworne accordinge to ye Custome of this Towne, And as many as shall refuse soe to doe to bee fyned att his discrecon.

Ye supvisors of ye Highway shall repaire and mend ye Cawsey at ye entrance upp into Ribbleton Laine, being very dangerous to passengers frequentinge our markett and towne, And desire Mr. Maior and ye Councell to see such a good worke pformed. And wee further find and pnte ye Highway on both sides of Debdale-brook¹ to bee insufficient and not passable either for man or horse, Cart or Carriadgs, And desire ye like consideracon of ye Maior and his bretheren to see ye same pformed.

Noe Inh[ab]itants within this Towne shall lay any middinge before their doores in ye street to continue there above 20 days, and in default of evy pson [every person] so offendinge to pay iijs. iiijd., the one halfe to ye towne and ye other halfe to ye Townes Serjeant.

Mr. Maior shall cause summons to bee given to all Inhitants within this Towne who utter or sell beere or Ale, and have not been lycensed, that they appeare before him and receive Lycense according to ye Statute in yt case made and pvided.

John ffisher, John Whinrall, and Thomas Shawe for keepinge constant tiplinge in their houses on ye Sabboth dayes,

barn had a boggarty reputation. In 1879 it was pulled down, and part of Sutcliffe-terrace now stands on its site. The first dwelling-houses built in New Hall-lane were some small cottages (on the north side, about 200 yards from the entrance) for the accommodation of hand loom weavers, who worked in adjoining sheds, specially put up for them at the same time (the beginning of last century). Both the cottages and the sheds were erected by John Horrocks, the principal pioneer in the local cotton trade; they stood in a portion of "New Hall-lane fields;" and collectively they were called "New Preston." In 1836, and probably earlier as well as for some time later, the west end of New Hall-lane went by the name of York-street.

1. Debdale-brook means Deepdale Brook, which passes under Deepdale-road, a short distance north of the railway station, and afterwards becomes Moor Brook.

Letimes in ye morninge and in tyme of Divine service and sermon, and late att nights of ye Sabboth dayes, And therefore wee conceive them guiltie of ye penalty of ye Act of parliament in yt behalfe, And not to be lycensed at all but upon their better reformacon, And Mr. Maior is desired to see this pformed accordinge to Act in yt behalfe.¹

John Higham hath suffered his fence to lye downe adjoynge to a feild called Toby-croft,² now in ye possession of Mathew Dickson, to ye great losse and damadge of ye said Mathew Dixon, ye said Croft being now sowne with wheat, and upon information to us, upon Oath, wee conceive him to bee much dampnified by John Highams horses treadinge and spoylinge ye same wheate, Therefore yt be said John Higham shall make his fence sufficient, and scoure his watter course wch goes ye Right way to ye moor, att or before ye second day of ffebruary next, upon paine of xijs. iiijd.

Ye psons herundr written, who being not free burgesses, inhabited a longe tyme within this towne and cannot conveniently bee removed, to bee caused to give bond accordinge to ye orders of this towne, and to bee stallenged att the discrecon of Mr. Maior and his bretheren.—[Here follow the names of 30 persons, two of them being widows].

There is a great abuse by sevall of ye Inhibtants, Burgesses, to take upon them to encroach upon ye Townes wast,³ and to erect and build upon ye towne Land without ye acquaintinge ye Maior and his Councell aforesaid, by wch ye towne is much priudiced, Therefore wee desire Mr. Maior and his bretheren to

1. An old order of the Council—it was made on October 21st, 1616—directs that none shall “tipple or drinke in anie ale-house above one houre att one tyme nor after neene [nine] of the clocke at night, nor in the tyme of devyne service or sermons on Sabaoth daie or other festivall daies, other then travellers or such as shall accompanie them, upon paine, &c., ijs. iiijd.” This order was in accord with or mainly based upon the then existing statutory regulations.

2. Toby Croft was on the north side of the town, presumably between the town and the Moor.

3. The Charter granted by Henry III. appears to define or detail more fully than any preceding Charter, as well as to some extent enlarge, the general area of waste and other land owned, for the town, by the Corporation; and it was confirmed by subsequent monarchs.

make an order according to ye power of our Charter, and to informe ye Inhabitants thereof yt they shall not under such a penalty erect or brake ye earth or encroach upon ye towns wast without ye Maior and Councells privy first had and obtained upon ye penalty of ye said Order.

Ye Marsh is gone to decay by reason of ye Inundacon of ye waters; and ye opposite calls [cauls] on ye other side, made by Willm ffarington, of Worden, esqr.,¹ have gott much upon our side, and, if not tymely prvented, in tyme will destroy our pte

1. At this time the manor of Penwortham with the fishery rights in the Ribble belonged to the squire of Worden (William ffarington). The fishery included the south half of the Ribble; its length being proportionate to the contiguous line of manor land. The cauls mentioned would be in the form of half-weirs, made of stakes or beams, projecting to or near the centre of the river, for either fishery purposes or the preservation of the bank on the south side, and the change in their position had, no doubt, been caused by "ye Inundacon" (a flood). ffarington is a very old and conspicuous name in our local and county annals. The initial ff is merely an old form of the capital letter F. Originally the first f was somewhat less than the second, and was apparently adopted, in writing, as a primary "flourish;" but in time the ornamental part was made the same size as the letter, and hence the ff—a double initial which is not solely confined to the above patronymic. On the Preston Guild Roll for 1397 Henry son of William de ffarynton is named amongst the out-burgesses. This is the earliest mention, locally, of the name. The great bulk of subsequent Rolls specify burgesses bearing the name—some containing quite a formidable number. The William ffarington mentioned in the presentment resided at Worden Hall, near Leyland. He was High Sheriff of Lancashire in 1636, a colonel of militia, a commissioner of array and collector and treasurer of the subsidy for the King (Chas. I.), one of the defenders of Lathom House, was taken prisoner in 1646, compounded for his estates in 1647-8, died in 1658, and was interred at Leyland. In 1732 Henry ffarrington, whose father was Valentine, second son of George ffarrington, of Shawe Hall, became Mayor's Bailiff at Preston; in 1735 he was elected an Alderman; in 1736 he was made Mayor of the borough; and in 1742 he was the Guild Mayor. An old Corporation minute book states that on the 4th of October, 1752, Henry ffarrington was "at his own desire discharged from the office of Alderman of the Borough, being much afflicted with the gout and other disorders;" that on the 23rd of June, 1753, he was "elected a Councilman, in the room of Robert Ashburner, gentleman, lately deceased;" and that on the 24th of June, 1755, Robert Escolme was "elected a Councilman in the room of Henry ffarington, Esq., who died on the 11th of June" in that year. The Worden estates were bought by Sir Henry de Faryngton (from the Ander-ton) in 1534, and Worden Hall was the family residence until the early part of the 18th century, when it was superseded, for residential purposes,

[part] of ye marsh begininge on this side of ye brooke adjoyn-inge¹ neere unto the wood holme² all alonge westwards where ye old Call [caul] is. Therefore wee desire Mr. Maior and his bretheren to tak speedy care abt it, and to pvide to have it psently pformed.

Ye bridge att swillbrooke is gone to decay and ruinated by ye late Inundacon of watters, and as yet for any thinge wee heare or can inquire of one halfe of it belongeth to ye Townepp [township] of ffishwicke³ and ye other halfe to ye Towne of Preston, wch wee desire Mr. Maior and his Bretheren to take into consideracon, yt speedy course may bee made for ye repaire thereof, and, if upon due consideracon had with his Councell it apeare yt ye said Towneshipp of ffishwicke ought to repaire the one halfe of ye said Bridge, wee desire they may bee sent unto about it; if not pformed by them, then to pnte [present] ye said Towne[ship] of ffishwicke before ye Justices att ye next sessions [quarter sessions], or what other course ye Maior and his bretheren shall thinke most meet.

by Shawe Hall, near Leyland, and subsequently became, what it is still, a farm house. About 1842 Shawe Hall was rebuilt, and called Worden, by James Nowell farington, the then only surviving son of William farington who died in 1837. After the death of James Nowell farington, in 1848, without issue, Worden became the property and residence of his sister, Miss Susan Maria farington, with whom lived her sister, Miss Mary Hannah. The latter lady died about 1892; the former died in 1894, aged 85 years, her successor to the Worden property being William Edmund farington, a minor (born November 28th, 1886), and now receiving his education at Eton. This heir to the property is a grandson of Admiral William farington, of Woodvale, West Cowes, Isle of Wight, who was related to the late Miss Susan Maria farington, through a common ancestor, William farington, who married, in 1694, Elizabeth, daughter of James Rufine, of Boulogne.—The faringtons of Ribbleton were descendants of the faringtons of farington and Worden. The first of the Ribbleton faringtons was named Hugh, who is mentioned, along with four of his sons, in the out-burgess portion of the Guild Roll for 1542.

1. The brook referred to would be the end portion of Moor Brook, on the north side of Watery-lane, between the Wheat Sheaf Inn and the Old Quay.

2. "Wood holme" was presumably near the west corner of the Marsh. The old caul was near the Old Quay.

3. Fishwick, formerly a separate township, is now within the borough boundary of Preston.

Inquisition taken on the 16th of November, 1656, before Seth Blackhurst (Mayor), John Cottam and Henry Wilson (Bailiffs), and Evan Wall (Steward of the Court).

Presentments :—

Ye now Churchwardens of this Towne hath not set a steele¹ at either end of the Clarke yard,² according to tyme given, And have therefore forfeited ye some of vjs. viijd.

Mr. James Hodgkinson hath not opened his platt and scoured his Ditch at Hesketh field,³ according to ye tyme given him ; therefore hath forfeited ye some of vjs. viijd.

Mr. Maior, Mr. Werden, George Addison, Bartholomew Worthington, John Mitton, and Henry Chorley shll cause their middings lying before their Barnes, in fishergate Lane,⁴ to be removed before ye first day of May next, in paine of every one makeing default vjs. viijd.

1. Steele is a dialect word for stile.

2. Clarke yard would be the narrow passage, still retaining the same name, on the north side of Church-street, between St. John-street and North-road.

3. Hesketh field may have been Hesketh Croft, which is referred to in a special order of the Corporation made in the latter part of the 17th century, and was at the rear of a residence called Hesketh House. This house was on the west side of Friargate, evidently somewhere between what is now the top end of Marsh-lane (late higher part of Bridge-street) and the present Edward-street, and presumably near the entrance of the latter way.

4. Fishergate-lane was the present Fishergate-hill. When this presentment was made, it is probable, almost certain, that there was not a dwelling-house of any kind on Fishergate-hill; and for many years afterwards the state of affairs, in respect to the absence of houses, large or small, in this part, was precisely the same. On each side of the road-way, from top to bottom, barring the openings to branching lanes, there was a hedge. No flanking building is shown on the Rebellion map (1715), or on Buck's "Prospect" (1728), or Lang's map (1774); and there is none visible on Shakeshaft's plan of the borough (1809), the nearest existing buildings shown thereon being a house at the bottom of the hill (on the same site and probably the same building as that which in later years became, and still is, the Regatta inn), and two houses, or a dwelling with an adjoining barn, about 100 yards off the road, on the north side, close to a field a portion of which, transversely, afterwards formed the site of Stanley Terrace. Between 1809 and 1812 three houses were erected on the south side of Fishergate-hill, near the top—the present Nos. 8, 9, and 10. On the north side there were built, within the same period, four or five houses, which ran up to the south-west corner of a newly laid-out but unnamed and structureless street, on the line of what had been an old lane, about 60

Mr. James Hodgkinson, Mr. Wm. Shawe, Mr. John Marsh shall Lay upp their Timber close to ye Church wall side, and soe shall all others yt have any timber there, before ye first of May next, upon paine of every one vjs. viijd.

Great Court Leet, held on the 30th of March, 1657, in the Moot Hall, before Seth Blackhurst (Mayor),¹ John Cottam² and

yards long, leading to some fields. This street afterwards became part of Bow-lane. Two or three houses adjoining and at the bottom of those on the north side were put up at or about the same time, and they formed the nucleus of the lot now on Spring Bank; the site of them being at the top end of an enclosure called Spring Head Field. Stanley Terrace, off Fishergate-hill, on the north side, was laid out between 1809 and 1812; but at the latter date it contained only one or two houses, at the north end. Between 1812 and 1822 there was no addition at all to the houses on the south side of the hill—the entire number on that side being only three. But some extensions were made on the other side, viz., three houses near the entrance to Spring Bank—one above and two below; Spring Bank was also nearly filled in with houses, whilst Stanley Terrace was completed. The hill road about half-way down its course was likewise widened and somewhat straightened—an advantageous alteration made, no doubt, under the Improvement Act obtained by the local authorities in 1815. Up to 1822 fields mainly were at the rear of the houses on each side of Fishergate-hill. In the 14 years from 1822 to 1836 there was not much building indulged in on Fishergate-hill; only ten additional houses were erected—five on the south side, two immediately above the entrance to Walton's-parade (which in 1836 contained about half a dozen dwellings near the north-east corner), and three directly below it; whilst of the remaining five, on the other side of the hill, two were between Jordan-street and Bow-lane, and three between Bow-lane and Spring Bank. From 1836 to 1861 there were built, on Fishergate-hill, thirty-one houses; between 1861 and 1880, three; and from 1880 up to the present, seventeen; and all these, with the exception of two (adjoining and immediately above Bow-lane), have been built on the south side. Some of the houses are now used for both residential and business purposes in combination. The whole of the houses, &c., in the streets flanking Fishergate-hill on the south side below West Cliff, with the exception of South Meadow-lane, have been built since about 1847—the great bulk, in fact, since 1868.

1. See note p. 20.

2. At the Guild of 1622 William Cottam, described as a chapman, was made an in-burgess, by Court Roll, on the payment of 20s. A William Cottam later became an Alderman, &c., and he was the first Cottam of the in-burgess order. John Cottam, described as a gentleman, appears as an in-burgess on the Court Roll for 1662. Five other Cottams are mentioned on the same list. There is a John Cottam named on the Roll for 1682; but apparently he is not the one just referred to. William, whose name appears on the same Roll, and who is described as a salter, was

Henry Wilson¹ (Bailiffs), and Evan Wall (Steward of the Court).

Ye Supvizors of ye height wayes shall repaire and amend ye Causey at Salter house,² and make ye lane from thence to Swillbrooke good and passable for cart and carriage, before ye first of June next, in paine of xs.

Ye persons hereafter named, whoe contrary to theire oathes as burgesses beinge sumoned by ye Sergeants not havinge or cravinge any Lisense from Mr. Maior, did absent themselves from

chosen the Mayor's Bailiff for 1682-3; in 1685 he was elected a member of the Council; and in 1696 he died. In 1694 Samuel Cottam was the Mayor's Bailiff. The Roll for 1702 contains the names of several in-burgess Cottams; and later burgess lists include persons of the same name. After 1683 no one bearing the name appears to have been connected, in a representative character, with the Preston Corporation till 1860, when Henry Cottam was elected a member of the Town Council—a position which he occupied for three years.

1. Wilson is an old and oft-recurring name in the local burgess records; and it is several times met with, but at considerably later stages, in the Council lists. There are several in-burgess Wilsons on the 1622 Roll, one of them bearing the name of Lawrence, who died some time before 1642, and whose son Henry, a glover, is named as an in-burgess on the Roll for that year. This Henry—the Henry, no doubt, who sat as a Bailiff at the Court Leet—along with three of his sons and a grandson, as well as another Henry, who was in all probability a relation, appears amongst the in-burgesses on the Roll for 1662. He died before the next Guild came round (1682), and at that time the Roll included only two of his direct descendants—a son and a grandson. By and by, this Wilson line gets still smaller, and the next Guild Roll does not, apparently, contain the names of any burgesses having a connection with Henry. In 1759-60 the town's Bailiff, at Preston, was one Thomas Wilson, and he, or a person of the same name, was a member of the Guild Council in 1782, and the Mayor's Bailiff at the Guild in 1802. Richard Wilson was the town's Bailiff in 1768-9, and W. Wilson was the Mayor's Bailiff in 1787-8. The name does not come up again with any prominence in connection with the old Corporate regime; and since the time when the "reformed Corporation" was fully constituted, in 1836, until now only two persons bearing the name have been members of it, viz., William Wilson, who had a seat for Trinity Ward from November 1st, 1843, to November 15th, 1847, and Edward Wilson, solicitor, of Broughton House, near Preston, who was one of the representatives of Christ Church Ward from December 22nd, 1857, to November 1st, 1863. The latter is the only surviving member of the Guild Corporation of 1862.

2. Salter House was probably situated in the present Manchester-road, near the south-east corner of Shepherd-street, beyond which there was, down to about the end of the 18th century, no residential property nearer than this to Swillbrook.

theire duty to this Leete without any Lawfull cause as abovesaid, Wee amerce the[m] in evy one of them iis. apeece.—[Here follow the names of 70 defaulters.]

Henry Burton for keepinge false weights for buyinge and sellenge . . . wee leave to bee examined and considered upon by Mr. Maior and his Councell.

The now bailiffs to cause ye Causeway¹ to bee repaired betwixt ye bridge and the schoole house,² and that ye same be repaired before ye first day of June, upon pain of iij. s. iiij. d.

Mr. Wm. Patten for yt his sonne and His servante have abused and foyled³ ye Towns bull, by sleating⁴ doggs upon him ; therefore wee referre ye ffine to bee ordered by Mr. Maior and the most pte of his councell.

James Parcevell did make a Tusle in ye Church with Willm Clarkson and abused him, wherefore wee amerce him to pay js. iiij. d.

Margt ye wife of Nicholas Watson for making a Tusle with Richard Tyssinge, and struck at him with a board, and did hit him on ye face, and thereof did Drawe blood, therefore wee amerce her to pay 5s.

The pinders . . . have not brought unto us any presentments, and therefore for their neglect wee amerce them, to pay vjs. viij. d. apeece, or els to be punishd at ye discrecion of the Maior and his bretheren.

[After the presentments there is a list of persons, 29 in number, made stallengers ; the money paid for the privilege varying from 2d. (two widows are respectively charged this amount) to 10s.]

Inquisition taken at Preston on the 3rd of October, 1657, before the Mayor, Bailiffs, and Steward aforementioned. Only one presentment, as follows, was made by the Jury, viz., That upon

1. The causeway would be either at the bottom of Syke-hill or along the line of the present Shepherd-street.

2. The "schoole house" was the old Grammar School situated at or near the bottom of Stoneygate.

3. "Foyled" means to oppress, or overcome, or cause to fall.

4. "Sleating" is the old provincial English word slating, signifying to set a dog or dogs loose at anything.

viewe of one Hyde of Tannd Leather of ye Goods of Mrs. Assheton, of Cuerdall,¹ they find one piece of ye neck thereof to ye value of 9d. to bee insufficiently tanned, but do not find yt ye same was exposed to sale, And ye same is acknowledged by Roger Tomlinson to bee searched and sealed by him amongst other hydes at unawares.²

Great Court Leet, held on the 23rd of October, 1657, before Edmund Werden (Mayor), Thomas Bostock and Roger Rivington (Bailiffs), and Evan Wall (Steward of the Court).

Presentments:—

The exercise of Artillery is not used, exercised, within this Towne accordinge to the forme of ye statute in such case made and provided, and ye now bailiffs of this Towne shall forthwith cause the Butts to be prepared and keepe them in good repaire, and shall sett Railes about them to preserve them from Cattell rubbing upon them and pulling them downe.

Ye Assize of bread and Ale is not observed according to ye statute, and desire Mr. Maior will take care yt ye officers sworn for ye purpose do duely execute theire office.

Ye now bailiffes of this towne shall cause the ffish stones to bee put in good repaire before the 13th day of December next, in paine of vjs. viijd.

John Hodgkinson, butcher, did affront and abuse Thomas Burton, sergeant of this towne, in ye due execucon of his office, upon ye 28th of October last, being ye ffayre day, on wch hee would had [have] tryed ye weights according to his oath and

1. Evidently there was at this time a tannery, or some receptacle for hides when tanned, in Cuerdale. The goods referred to had apparently been brought to Preston, but not openly offered for sale. Mrs. Assheton, of Cuerdale, was most probably the wife or widow of an Assheton related to or a member of the Assheton family who for many years resided at and owned Cuerdale Hall as well as a quantity of adjoining property. Cuerdale Hall was in some parts rebuilt by William Assheton, in 1700. It is now and has been for many years occupied as a farm house. A short distance west of Cuerdale Hall, and close to the Ribble, there was unearthed, in 1840, a leaden chest containing various ingots and ornaments of silver and about 7,000 coins which ranged in date from A.D. 814 to 900—hidden, it has been conjectured, at a time when some serious trouble or conflict prevailed or was apprehended.

2. "Unawares" means by mistake on the part of Tomlinson, the sealer.

office, And forasmuch as ye same abuse was contrary to his oath (if a sworn burgesse) and to ye evill example of othrs, and absolutely repugnant to the XIth ordr of Mr. Prestons Guild,¹ wee do therefore according to ye said order amerce him, ye said John Hodgkinson, vjs. viijd.

There is a great abuse by reason of swine pulling mens sacks in pieces on the markett day, and for the prvencon thereof wee do give in verdict of all ownrs of swine shall keepe them upp on ye markett daies, upon paine of every one offending to forfeit for every offence xijd. Mr. Maior is desired to appoint a man on purpose to take notice of such offences and offenders.

Inquisition taken on the 27th of October, 1657, before the Mayor, Bailiffs, and Steward. Only one jury presentment, viz. : —That a piece of a Bend and one piece of Lether of the Goods of Thomas Cardwell to ye value of xvijjd. is insufficiently tanned.

Inquisition taken on the 10th of February, 1658, before the Mayor, &c.

Presentments :—

John Twisleton, Mr. Willm Sudell, and Mr. Edward ffrench, and Mr. Willm Hodgkinson—that they clense their ditches along ye side of ye dacker gate,² that ye water may have a right Course, before ye 25th of May, upon paine of evy one of them 06s. 08d.

1. Mr. Preston was Mr. William Preston, who was Guild Mayor in 1622. The Guild order referred to states that inconveniences and discontentments tending to the breach of the King's peace and to the prejudice of the free Burgesses and Inhabitants had been stirred up by some idle, young and greenheaded, ill nurtured and worse educated persons, as well against the Mayor and Bailiffs as against Jurors, Sergeants, and other inferior officers, &c., for reformation whereof it was ordered that after the sealing up of this Guild any person or persons whatsoever within this Town or the Liberties thereof saying any uncivil word or doing any uncivil act or deed against the Mayor, or any of the Aldermen or brethren of the Common Council, or any Bailiff, Steward, or other officer, should for the first offence forfeit the sum of 6s. 8d., for the second offence be fined 13s. 4d. and imprisoned at the discretion of the Mayor and Council, and for the third offence be disfranchised.

2. "Dacker gate" would be a road or way afterwards called Acregate, and forming the line of the present Acregate-lane on the east side of the town.

Mr. James Hodgkinson—that hee scoure his ditch along ye side of ye longe accker,¹ before ye 25th day of March upon paine of 06s. 8d.

Mr. James Hodgkinson—that hee open his platt and scoure his ditch alonge ye side of Hespitt field, before ye 25th of March upon paine of 06s. 08d.

Rich Rydinge—that hee scoure his ditch alonge ye Rydinge hey,² from his house along lane to ye sikes, before ye 25th March, upon paine of 13s. 04d.

Robte Shakeshafte—that hee scoure his ditches at ye end of his 2 closes called ye great park and ye little park, in Meadow lane, before ye first of April, upon paine of 06s. 08d.³

Mr. Maior—that hee scoure his Ditch alonge the side of Crooke Accor⁴ to ye lane, before the 1t of Aprill, upon paine of 06 08d.

Mr. Willm Sudell—that hee open his ditch alonge ye Docke accer,⁵ from Mr. Morts yate, all alonge the side to ye lane, before ye 1t of Aprill upon paine of 06s. 08d.

Robert Haighton—that hee cast up his cope⁶ and sett two steeles at ye hobie horse field,⁷ before ye first of Aprill, upon paine of 06s. 08d.

Ye pindrs to give Notice to all ye Inhabitants of this Towne that they make their Gardens hedges and Ringe yards⁸ before the 5th of March or pay 06s. 08d.

1. Two fields between Ribbleton-lane and Newhall-lane, and about 300 yards east of where the House of Correction stands, used to be called Long Acres. Most likely "longe accker," or Long Acre, was one of them.

2. See note p. 26.

3. "Meadow lane" was just below the present West Cliff; Grafton-street now runs more or less on the line of it. "Great park" and "little park" would be two fields, one being about a third larger than the other, on the upper and west side of the lane.

4. See note p. 19.

5. Docke accer, *i.e.*, Dagger Gate—Daker Gate, or Acre Gate.

6. Cop, a Northern dialect word meaning an enclosing bank.

7. Hobie horse, *i.e.*, hobby horse—a small, light, or medium-sized nag; sometimes a name given to a small horse or pony chiefly in Scotland. There was, in the latter part of the 18th century, a field called Little Horse Hey, on Maudlands, close to the higher part of the present Well-field-road.

8. Ring yards were staked or hedged fences for the temporary enclosure of certain portions of land. In the records of the Urmston Halmote (Court

Great Court Leet held on the 7th of May, 1658, in the Moot Hall, before Edmund Werden (Mayor), Thomas Bostock and Roger Rivington (Bailiffs), and Evan Wall (Steward of the Court).

Presentments :—

The exercise of Artillery is not used or exercised within this Towne accordinge to the statute in such cases made and pvided, and the now Bailiffs of this Towne shall forthwith cause the butts to bee repaired and keepe them in good repaire, and shall set railes about them from [to prevent] Catle rubbinge upon them and pullinge them downe.

Widdow Huson—that shee set 2 sufficient steeles and scouer her ditch alonge hollin head square,¹ before ye 25th of March, and to keepe it open, or pay 06s. 08d.

Lawr. Cowp—that hee make his weare betwixe him and Mr. Langtons sykes,² at the Lower end of the field Called Heppgreave,³ before ye 25th of March, or pay 06s. 08d.

John Higham—that hee scour his Ditch and cut his wood, at ye North end of the Allow lane,⁴ to his own yate, that ye water

of the Demesne Manor) there occur the names “Ring yate,” “Rendyard,” and “Ring yard”—the last appearing most frequently. In his “Court Rolls of the Honour of Clitheroe” Mr. Wm. Farrer says that a Ring yard was a temporary fence, probably made of stakes and moveable cross-bars. Mr. H. T. Crofton in his “History of the Ancient Chapel of Stretford in Manchester Parish,” &c., observes that a fence of the kind just mentioned was probably erected upon a reean, roone, or uncultivated strip of land, in order to separate commonable meadow land or stubble from growing crops of either grain or grass, and was made moveable, so that, when the crops had been cut and harvested, the stubble or cleared meadow might then be thrown open to the adjoining common again for the pasturage of cattle, and that the ren-gard was put up again between mid March and mid April, in illustration of which he cites two old bye-laws, one made in the Halmote at Colne, in 1496, directing that “whoso has his ryng yorde not made up by myd April sall lose ijs.,” and the other passed at Extwisell, in 1561, ordering “all ringe yarde to be made afore ye xv of March yearly, sub poena iij s. iiij d., and at ye same day al cattel to be avoyded out of ye fields under like pains.”

1. In the 16th and 17th centuries persons named Hollynshead and Hollinhead resided at Preston. None of the old maps locate this square.

2. Langtons sykes would be Furham Sykes.

3. See note p. 23.

4. Allow lane may have been Alley-lane, which, presumably, was on the south side of Marsh-lane, on or about the line of the present Buckingham-street.

may have its usuall Course, before the 25th of March, upon paine of 06s. 08d.

Geo. Blundell—that hee scoure his ditch to ye lane,¹ along sucklinge sikes,² and open his groops³ downe thorow ye middle of ye sikes, before ye 25th of March, or pay 06s. 08d.

Theise sevall psons hereafter named for the forestallinge of the Markett,³ by Buyinge of fish in the Market and taking the same to their houses and afterwards on the same day bringeth the said ffish soe bought by them, by pcels from their said houses, and sellinge ye same againe in the Markett, and therefore to bee fined at the discretion of Mr. Maior and his Counsell, vizt., Evan Huson, John Duckworth, Jo. Cowborne, and Jennet the wife of John Harrisan.

Willm Threlfall, John Kilshawe, Ralph Kilshaw, and George Gray are forraigners and suffered to inhabit within this Towne, and to sell Wood and Wooden Vessells all ye weeke alonge, to the great Prejudice of other [? the] free Burgesses within this Towne. Wee doe therefore pnte and say that they shall forbear to Trade till they have Compounded⁴ with Mr.

1. The lane would be that mentioned in the last presentment.

2. Sucklinge sikes was probably another name for Furham Sykes, which had different names at different places in its course.

3. The word groop primarily means a drain or gutter in a stable or cow house; in a secondary sense it means a small trench, ditch, or open drain in a field; and in the latter sense it is evidently used in the presentment.

3. At this time forestalling was an offence at common law: it consisted in the buying or contracting for merchandise or victual on its way to a market with the intention of selling it at such market at a higher price, or dissuading persons from bringing goods or provisions thereto, or persuading them to enhance the price when brought. But the above-mentioned cases simply involved buying and selling in the market on one and the same day. Nothing is said in the presentment as to the chief object of forestalling—increased selling price. The oldest Charter in the archives of the Corporation of Preston—that granted by Henry II.—includes forestalling amongst the penalised offences. Forestalling was abolished, as an offence, by 7 and 8 Vic. c. 24.

4. The words “till they have compounded” would seem to imply (vide Taylor's *Kuerden*, p. 63) till they had been made Court Roll burgesses; whilst the alternative “or bee stallenged” meant the securing of permission from the authorities to trade in the town; and each plan involved the payment of sums varying with the different circumstances of the persons concerned.

Maior and his Councell for their freedoms or bee stalled, upon paine for evy of them to forfeit for evy offence the some of vjs. viijd.

Great Court Leet, held on the 22nd of October, 1658, before Evan Wall (Mayor),¹ Oliver Shawe and John Sumpner (Bailiffs), and William Shawe (Steward of the Court).

1. Evan Wall, the Mayor at this time, who had previously occupied the same position, in 1650, and who for some time subsequent thereto had officiated as Steward of the Court Leet, was connected with an old and very important local family. For many generations—from the early part of the 15th century to the latter portion of the 18th—persons of the name of Wall were prominent in-burgesses of Preston, and several of them held high municipal positions in the borough. In 1542 one of the Guild Stewards was named Evan Wall. From 1580 to 1592 a person called Wall was the Vicar of Preston. Evan and Lawrence seem to have been favourite or very persistent names amongst the Walls: they appear on nearly every Guild Roll for 220 years, commencing on that for 1542 and being noticeable on all the subsequent Rolls—in respect to Evan till 1742, and in the case of Lawrence till 1762. The Guild Roll for the latter year contains but two burgesses named Wall—Lawrence and Edward Wall, both of Preston, and both attorneys-at-law. The name of Wall does not appear at all on the Roll for 1782. And for many years afterwards it was, burgessly, non-existent. The Mayoralty of Preston was held 15 times by persons bearing the name of Wall. An order was made when Lawrence Wall was Mayor, for the second time, showing that the Council had the right or power to appoint a curate for Preston Parish Church. A minute, under date February 20th, 1722-23, in the Corporate records, says:—"Mr. John Young, the present Curate of Preston, being lately presented to Brindle, the Council ordered that Mr. James Mathews be elected Curate, at the same salary." As the money given by the Council for this remunerative purpose amounted to only £10 a year, such sum could not have been the full salary, but simply an allowance or contribution towards it. A few years after the above order had been made the Vicar or somebody in authority at the Church had apparently come to the conclusion that the parish Beadle was more of a Corporate than ecclesiastical servant—anyhow, that he was not further entitled to certain pecuniary favours which he had in the past enjoyed in connection with the Church, and the whole or a portion thereof was stopped. At the time the duties which devolved upon the official in question were of a decidedly complex, incongruous character, and amounted to a sort of ludicrous jumble: he was, simultaneously, the beadle, sexton, town crier or bellman, swine-herd, and public scavenger. By way of retaliating for the stoppage or curtailment of the pecuniary favours alluded to, the Council, on the 20th of February, 1728, "ordered that the salary of £10 per annum which had been paid for some time to the present Curate of Preston out of the Towns Revenue be withdrawn and suspended during such time as the Beadle of the Corporation has any of his perquisites withdrawn and taken from him."

Presentments :—

The stallengers allowed by Mr. Maior and Councill may not have Libty to the Moore and Marsh to turne catle to, or to Keepe comon Alehouses, wch we conceive a great prejudice to ye free Burgesses of this Burrogh, and desire that care may bee taken for the prvencon thereof and that or [other] Libtyes and freedoms may bee maintained.¹

Whereas there was a Barrelle of Beefe left in ye comon streete in ffryergate, which beinge disowned by ye supposed owners, John Clifton and George Birches, and noe one layinge clayme thereunto, And pte of wch said Beife was carried upp and downe the streete by doggs and swine, to ye great greefe of the neyghborringe Inhabitants, Wee therefore thinke fittinge yt ye Overseers for ye poore shall cause the remaindr thereof valued, wch is fittinge for mans meat, and ye same to distribute to ye poore Inhitants of this Burrogh as they may see cause. Pte of the said Beefe as before was valued by John Hodgkinsin, Christor Darwen, Tho. Comberall, and Henry Graddell at 10s.

Anderton, sonn of John Anderton, pulls downe mens hedges, and therefore to bee punished at ye discession of Mr. Maior.

Inquisition taken on the 9th of February, 1659, before the Mayor, Bailiffs, and Steward, who sat at the last Court Leet.

Presentments :—

The Bailiffs shall repaire the Two Cawles wch is made upon the Marsh, and [we] doe desire that Mr. Maior and his Council wold ordr two more to bee made neare unto the Place where the old Milne² stood, or where it may bee thought most conveynent, haveinge found by experience the benefitt of the said Cawles.³

1. The Mayor, as Chief Magistrate, and one or more of the Council—not because they were members of that body, but in consequence of being magistrates—had power to allow or forbid the selling of ale within the borough.

2. The old mill was near the north-east corner of the Marsh.

3. The two additional cawles would be for weir or dam-head purposes.

Upon the oathes of tenn ould men, there is a Comon foote-path and Highway¹ from Ribble Bridge down by Albon Steepe,² upon a baulke lyinge betweene the Lande late of John Sudell, feltmaker, now in the possession of Edward Hindle, and the Lande of Lawrence Bostocke, butcher, in a crtaine ffeild called Water Willowe,³ and from the said Albon Steepe upon the said Bawke to the house end of the said Lawrence Bostocke, in Cockerhoale,⁴ wch said footpath and Highway was stopt by a staffe and bande hedge⁵ by the said Edward Hindle appointment, to ye great prjudice of the Inhabitants of this Towne. Therefore the said Edward Hindle shall cause the same [to be] pulled downe before the twenty fift March next, else to pay xxxxs. And if ever hee or any for him shall hereafter Comitt ye same Trespasse shall forfitt xli.

Mr. James Hodgkinson hath not scowred his ditches in Newhall Lane,⁶ accoringe to tyme given him, to the great priudice of that way, and therefore to pay vjs. viiijd.

1. A considerable portion of Swillbrook-lane, south-east of Lark Hill, takes the line of the old footpath. Ribble Bridge crossed the river about 90 yards below what is now called Walton bridge. It was superseded by that bridge, which was built in 1779-81, and it was soon afterwards pulled down—all of it, with the exception of portions of one or two piers, the last visible remnant thereof being demolished in 1867.

2. Albon Steep was the slope of a brow in a field called Great Albin Hey, on the higher side of which Lark Hill house was built, about the beginning of last century, by Mr. S. Horrocks, one of the Parliamentary representatives of Preston from 1804 to 1826. A residence called Albyn Bank was erected at or about the same time a little to the north-east of Lark Hill. And the name seems to be of the persistent or favourite kind, for in the neighbourhood of Albyn Bank there are Albyn Bank-road, Albyn Bank-street, and Albyn-street.

3. The field named Water Willow (described in a subsequent presentment as "a Coman feild") was immediately north of Great Albin Hey.

4. Cockerhole was the north or Church-street end of Water-street.

5. A "staffe and bande hedge" would be a hedge made with stakes raddled with thorns or hazel, generally both. The Wesleyan Methodist chapel in Woodplumpton, near Preston, which was erected about 1819, used to be called by many of the local folk "Staffanban chapel," and it is said that this name was given to the edifice because there was in front of it, or near it, a staff and band fence.

6. This presentment contains the first mention of New Hall-lane in the Court Leet records.

Great Court Leet, held on April 19th, 1659, before Evan Wall (Mayor), Oliver Shaw and John Sumpner (Bailiffs), and William Shaw (Steward).

Presentments :—

The now bailiffs for the neglect in their office . . . have not caused a stopp to bee set at the end of the Turne steele in the Weend leadinge downe to Minspitt Well, to prvent horses and catle for goeing downe to the same, And have not repaired the said Well and the stones set in odr, As also have not paved within the barrs, from Barres to Barres, in needful places, as in Chur[ch]gate, ffishergate, and ffryergate, Therefore to pay for their Contempt 6s. 8d. a peece, and if not done before the 15th oi August next 10s. a peece more.

Ellen Haworth, wife of Roger Haworth, for scowleinge and abuseinge Mary, the wife of John Higham, with verry uncivell Language, to the bad example of others (if unpunished), as appears by an Informacon, given upon oath before Mr. Maior, Therefore to pay for this offence 2s. 6d., otherwise Mr. Maior is desired to cause the said Ellen punished by bridleinge¹ her through the Towne or otherwise as Mr. Mair shall thinke fitt.

1. "Bridleinge" was effected by means of a bridle, more frequently called brank—a gag for scolds. A brank consisted of a sort of horizontal iron hoop, surmounted by an arched band of iron, sometimes centrally hinged, rising from the front and the back. The hoop was, as a rule, laterally hinged: it was put round the lower part of the face and head, the line of it extending on each side from the chin to the nape of the neck; on the inner side of the front part of it there was a "bit" or gag—a piece of metal, generally flat and smooth, though in some instances rough or spiked, which pressed upon the tongue so as to keep it quiet. The surmounting band, which had in front of it an aperture through which the nose passed, went over the head, and, when fastened at the back, it prevented the "victim" from removing the brank. A small chain was usually attached to the hoop, and by it the scold was led along the general route specified in the court presentment, &c. In some places—certainly at Nottingham—clamorous, bad-tongued men as well as female scolds were subjected to the brank; but it was mainly put on the latter—as a rule put on when the tumbrel or the cucking stool had proved ineffectual. There used to be a brank at Preston House of Correction. About 1838 brank punishment at Preston House of Correction was discontinued. At the time referred to the brank had been put on a female prisoner there. By some means, the Home Secretary got to know of this, and directly afterwards—in accordance with an order received by the Governor—the old gagging plan was discarded, and the brank sent to London.

Great Court Leet held on October 12th, 1659, before William Sudell (Mayor), Symon Hynd¹ and Thomas Dewhurst² (Bailiffs), and Evan Wall (Steward of the Court).

Presentments :—

Anne, the wife of Matthew Dickson, who by Informacon of Jennett, the wife of John Preesall, declareth that the said Anne

1. In the latter half of the 16th century persons named Hynd first come into view as burgesses of Preston: in the century directly following several bearing the name took a conspicuous part in local municipal affairs. On the Roll for the Guild in 1702 only one is met with—a clergyman of Manchester. After this the name disappears entirely—in neither the in nor the out-burgess section is it met with.

2. The first reference in the burgess records of Preston to any one named Dewhurst occurs in a curious note immediately following the general list of persons admitted by Court Roll at the Guild in 1622. The note runs as follows:—"Will'm's Dewhurst admitted a Burgess att the instance of George Wilkinson of Spattle Moss yff the said George leave hym the said Will'm his estaite in the livinge w'ch hee the said George nowe haith and yff not the free-dome of the said Will'm to bee utterlie voide xxs." The sum specified is what was paid for the conditional burgess freedom. As the name of this William Dewhurst does not appear in any subsequent Roll, he evidently did not inherit Wilkinson's estate, and consequently his freedom became "utterlie voide." The earliest "regularly made" burgesses named Dewhurst appear on the "in" portion of the Guild Roll for 1642. Five—two called James and three Thomas—were enrolled in-burgesses at the Guild in that year. In 1659-60 Thomas Dewhurst was the town's Bailiff at Preston. The name of Dewhurst is entirely off the Guild Roll for 1682; but it crops up again on that for 1702, though apparently in connection with the members of a separate family. On the Guild Roll for 1722 eleven in-burgesses are named Dewhurst; towards the middle of the century the number still further increased—on the Roll for 1742 there were 15 Dewhursts, four bearing the name of Thomas. At the Guild in 1882 five Dewhursts were enrolled in-burgesses. The Guild Roll for 1902 contains just one burgess named Dewhurst—one of the "in" kind, and described as a guildier. Several persons named Dewhurst have had a Corporate connection with Preston. In 1819 Hugh Dewhurst was elected Mayor of the borough (his Bailiff being named Thomas Dewhurst), and he was chosen to fill the same position in 1827. From 1838 to 1844 one of the Councillors for St. George's Ward was Daniel Dewhurst; from 1839 to 1845 Thomas Dewhurst was a municipal representative of the same ward; John Dewhurst, corn miller, was a Councillor for St. Peter's Ward from 1839 to 1848; Thomas Dewhurst (corn and flax mill manager and a nephew of the afore-named Daniel and John) was elected a Councillor for Trinity Ward in 1864, and he continued as such till his death in 1877; and Thomas Dewhurst, auctioneer, &c. (a nephew of the gentleman last named) is now a Councillor for Maudland Ward.

swore two oathes by God, for wch offence wee amerce her to pay vjs. viijd.

Mr. Maior shall cause the Inhabitant Burgesses within this Towne being of xxj yeares of age and upwards [who] asyet hath not taken the oath of a Burgessese to bee sumoned to appeare to bee sworne before him according to the custome of this Towne; and as many as shall refuse to take their oath to pay vjs. viijd.

Great Court Leet "of or [our] Sovereigne Lord Charles the Second,¹ by the Grace of God Kinge of England, Scotland, ffrance, and Ireland, Defender of the ffaith, &c., holden at the Burrogh or Towne of Preston aforesaid, in the Moothall there, the Elleaventh day of May, in the Twelfth yeare [1660] of his Maties Raigne," before William Sudell (Mayor), Symon Hynd and Thomas Dewhurst (Bailiffs), and Evan Wall (Steward of the Court).

Presentments:—

Ann Ingham for layinge her worthinge² by the Churchgate barrs, at the way syde leadinge through Cockerhole, to the great annoyance of the said way, that shee remove it before the first of August or to bee fyned at the discretion of Mr. Major and his Councell, and not offend by layinge any more in that place, upon paine to forfeite for every offence 3s. 4d.

Great Court Leet held in the Moot hall, on the 19th of October, 1660, before James Hodgkinson (Mayor), Richard Hodgkinson and James Abbott (Bailiffs), and Evan Wall (Steward of the Court.)—The Latinising of the Court heading—discontinued during the Commonwealth—is now resumed.

1. Charles Prince of Wales, who was the eldest son of Charles I., and who should have become King by right on the death of his father, but whose proclamation was prohibited by the Parliamentary party, is here recognised as King. The Commonwealth period is completely ignored in the heading, and Charles II.'s reign is computed from the time when his father was beheaded, on the 30th of January, 1649, to the day when the Court Leet met—a little over 11½ years.

2. The "worthinge" which is referred to as being such an annoyance was decaying animal or vegetable substances.

Presentments :—

Edward Eccles of this Towne hath denied [refused] to sell ale and beare according to the 9th Statute made in the first year of Kinge James, and therefore wee fyne him xxs., according to the said Statute.¹

Robert Brindle of this Towne doth make and sell Mault within this Towne Contrary to the jjth [11th] ordr of Mr. Catterall's Guild.² Therefore wee desire that Mr. Maior will puse [peruse] the said Ordre and impose wt [what] fyne or impose such punishment as hee thinks fittinge.

Great Court Leet, held on the 10th of April, 1661, before James Hodgkinson (Mayor), Richard Hodgkinson and James Abbott (Bailiffs), and Evan Wall (Steward of the Court).

Presentments :—

Thomas Silcocke is an Eve dropp, commonly called Eseing dropps,³ and stands under mens windows lisoning and carrying stories betwixt neighbour and neighbour, to the great disquietnes of neighbours and to the evell example of others, therefore to pay xiijs. iiijd.

1. The object of this Act of Parliament was "to restrain the inordinate Haunting and Tipling in Inns, Alehouses, and other Victualling-Houses." The preamble states that "the ancient, true, and principal Use of Inns, Alehouses, and Victualling-houses was for the receipt, Relief and Lodging of Wayfaring people travelling from Place to Place, and for such supply of the wants of such people as are not able by greater Quantities to make their Provision of Victuals, and not meant for Entertainment and Harboursing of lewd and idle People to spend and consume their Money and their Time in lewd and drunken Manner." By one section of this statute—apparently the section which Eccles, named in the presentment, refused to comply with—it is enacted "that if any Inn-Keeper, Alehouse Keeper or Victualler shall at any Time utter or sell less than one full Ale Quart of the best beer or Ale for a Penny, and of the small Two Quarts for One Penny, that then every such Inn-Keeper, Alehouse Keeper or Victualler shall forfeit for every such Offence, being duly proved in Manner above limited, the Sum of Twenty Shillings of Lawful Money of England."

2. "Mr. Catterall's Guild" was held in 1602, when Henry Catterall was the Guild Mayor. The 11th order of the Guild named prohibited strangers or non-burgesses from making malt in the town.

3. "Eve dropp" or "Eseing dropps"—i.e., eavesdropper—is a name originally applied to a person who stood close to the eavesdrop of a house (or the ground between the wall and the part on which fell rain water from the edge of the overhanging slates or thatch) for the purpose of secretly listening to the conversation of the people within.

Henry Graddell, upon the jjth Order of Mr. Prestons Guild for abuseinge of officers, ffor that hee by railleinge speeches, uncivell and unseemly words, and Curseings utterd and spoken against the Maior of this Towne and Comon Councell of the same towne, to the Evell Example of others to offend in the like if not prvented, wee therefore amerce him accordinge to the said ordr, for the first offence, in vjs. viijd.

Great Court Leet held on the 4th of October, 1662, before William Bannester (Mayor),¹ Thomas Hodgkinson and John Kellet² (Bailiffs), and Edward Rigby (Steward of the Court).

The presentments so frequently made as to "artillery," butts, and the assize of bread and ale are repeated, and they are succeeded by the following, amongst others:—

There is neither Pillory³ nor Tumbrell⁴ within this Towne,

1. William Bannester, the Mayor, belonged to a very old local family, previously referred to. It was apparently his grandfather (Thomas Banastre, who was Mayor of Preston in 1617-18), with whom Taylor, the "Water Poet," lodged during his visit to the town, and to whom the following lines, in his "Penniless Pilgrim," published in 1618, refer:—

Vnto my wayward lodgings often did repair,
Kind Master Thomas Banastre the mayor,
Who is of worship and of good respect
And in his charge discreet and circumspect;
For I protest to God I never saw
A town more wisely governed by the law.

It also appears to have been Thomas Bannester, brother of William Bannester, the Mayor who presided at the above Court Leet, of whom mention is made in that peculiar production called "Drunken Barnaby's Journal." "Drunken Barnaby" (Richard Brathwaite) came to Preston, in the course of his rambles, about 1630, and this is what he says, in his "Itinerarium," about the visit:—

Thence to Preston, I was led-a,
To brave Banister's to bed-a;
As two born and bred together,
We were presently sworn brether.
Seven days were there assigned;
Oft I supped, but never dined.

2. Kellet is a name which frequently appears in the records of Preston.

3. Originally, the pillory was at the east end of the town; afterwards it was set on the north side of the Market Place. It was last used on the 11th of January, 1816: a man about 60 years of age was at that time put into it for keeping a disreputable house in Back-lane. Prior to this the pillory had not been used in Preston for about 40 years. In the course of 1816 punishment by the pillory was abolished in respect to all offences except perjury; and in 1837 an Act of Parliament was passed doing away with it entirely.

4. The tumbrel was a rough wooden chair, fixed at the end of two long poles or shafts on a pair of wheels. It was the punishment for scolds

and the now Bailifes shall erect and make the same, according to the statute in that case made and pvided.

Edward Chernocke doth keep unlawfull gaming in his house, to the great injury of severall psons, by harbouring their sonnes and servants at unlawfull times of the night, And [we] doe therefore refer him to Mr. Maior to be punished according as the law hath required in that case. Also we finde and prsent Thomas Burchas and Thomas floole to be guilty of the like misdemenor with the above said Edward Chernocke, and to bee pceeded against accordingly.¹

The foote bridge betwixt Preston and Ashton,² upon the marsh, wanteth rayles, to the danger of all mens psons that pass over it; therefore that the now bailifes of this Towne doe repayre their part of the saide bridge within fowerteen daies after notice given.

Thomas Shepheard hath done much damage to Jane Walmsley, de Holehouse, by cuting downe in the night a payre of doore cheekes, to the great danger of her whole family; therefore he shall sufficiently repayre the same within seaven daies after notice, or to forfeit for his neglect xls.

John Greenwood doth, contrary to the oath of a Burgesse, suffer foreiners to buy and sell and cut cloath in his house; therefore he shall hereafter not suffer any such abuses to the Towne to be done in his house, upon payne of xls. a time, and that the offences by past shall be left to Mr. Major to be punished accordinge to the crime.

Immediately after the presentments there is the following minute:—"Tuesday, October 23, 1662. In pursuance of an Act of Parliament intituled An Act for the well governeinge and

of a better social order than the ordinary ones. In some places the offender, after being fastened in the chair, was wheeled through the town or village in which she resided; in other parts the tumbrel was used as a cuckstool—the scold being tied fast in it, then taken to a pond or pit of water, and ducked therein.

1. A marginal note says that the persons mentioned had "to pay 10s. a pees."

2. This was very probably Swansey bridge, at the west corner of the Marsh.

regulateing of Corporacons,¹ made in the thirteenth year of the raigne of our soveraigne Lord King Charles the seacond, Wee the Comrs hereafter named administred ye severall oathes in the aforesaid Act menconed and took the severall subscriptions to the Declaracon in the said Act contained of ye severall psons whose names hereafter follow.”—Preceding the names of the persons in question there is this declaration:—“I doe Declare that I hold that there lyes no obligacon upon me or any other pson from the oath comonly called The solemn league and covenant,² And that the same was in it selfe an unlawful oath, and imposed upon the subjects of this Realm against the knowne lawes and liberties of the Kingdome.” The names include those of the Mayor (William Bannester), the two Bailiffs (Thomas Hodgkinson and John Kellett), the Steward (Edward Rigby), and twenty-three of the Court Leet Jury, four of whom are

1. The regnant year in which was passed the “Act for the well governeinge and regulateing of Corporacons” dates from the time when Charles should have become King, in immediate succession to his father, Charles I.; the Commonwealth period being left out of the computation entirely.

2. The Solemn League and Covenant was originally an agreement which the English Parliament entered into with the Scotch nation, in the time of Charles I., when the civil war was going on; its object being the suppression of Popery and Prelacy. The English Parliament, in 1642, had asked the Scots for assistance—a request which was in the year following made with more urgency. At that time the Covenanters were predominant in Scotland—were the “masters of the situation” there—and they made it a condition precedent to sanctioning or giving assistance that the English Parliament should “take the Covenant, and assimilate the doctrine and discipline of the churches of the two nations.” On the 25th of September, 1643, Parliament, along with the Assembly of Divines and the Scottish Commissioners, took the Covenant, after it had been somewhat modified by the Assembly, in St. Margaret’s Church, Westminster. Subsequently these bodies, in their respective places of general assembly, confirmed their assent, by signature, on a Parliament roll. The House of Commons afterwards directed that the Solemn League and Covenant should be taken by all persons, on next Lord’s day, in their own parishes. Charles II. took it in 1650, and also at Scone, when he was crowned by the Scotch, in 1651; but at the Restoration he rejected the Covenant, and in 1661 he sanctioned the burning of a copy of it by the common hangman. In 1662 it was abjured, in both England and Scotland, by an Act of Parliament; and hence, no doubt, the repudiation of it, in the latter part of that year, at Preston.

marked as being unable to write. Amongst the Commissioners who administered the oaths and took the subscriptions to the declaration was Lord Derby.—Later minutes show that four additional Jurymen, also the new Mayor elect, the Bailiffs, &c., took the oath of supremacy, &c.

Great Court Leet held on April 16th, 1663, before William Bannester (Mayor), Thomas Hodgkinson and John Kellet (Bailiffs), and Edward Rigby (Steward of the Court).

Presentments:—

Henry Blackburne upon fryday the xijth day of June [? January], 1663, did in open Markett buy off John Loxam a veale calfe for the price of viijs. and Immediately After upon ye same day did againe sell ye same calfe to Edward Oram, butcher, for eigh shillings vid., which is contrary to ye Statute made against regrators,¹ and therefore to pay viijs. vid. ye vallue of ye goods, and to be further punished accordinge to ye forme of ye statute in that case made and provided. Also we find and prsent Henry Wildinge, then servant to Richard Whittle, for byinge of two sheepe comeinge to ye Markett within four Milles of ye towne, and the same day sellinge ye said sheepe againe in open market, contrary to ye Statute made agt forestallinge, and therefore to forfeit ye sume of xis., being ye value of ye said goods, and further to be punished accordinge to ye statute in that case made and provided.

The Kay on this side on ye rivr Ribble, were ye boat Landeth, in great decay, and the present balliffes shall take a care to repaire and amend ye same before ye 29th of Septem next, upon paine of vis. viijd.

Upon the informacon of the houselookers those persons ffollowing doe live in ye towne as Inmates not being ffre Bur-gesses, and therefore to be removed by ye Maior. [Here follow

1. Regrating—defined by the statute of Edward III. as “the buying of corn or other dead victual in any market and selling it again in the same market or within four miles of the place”—was, like forestalling and engrossing, contrary to the common law of England, and was also forbidden by positive statutes ranging in the time of their enactment from the reign of Henry III to that of Elizabeth. In 1844 these “offences” were abolished.

the names of upwards of a dozen persons, nearly all men with wives and children.] And whereas ye psons abovenamed, accordinge to ye late Act of parliamt, for ye maintenance of ye poore, may claim a settlemt within this Burrough, not haveinge recd Legall disturbance within ye space of 14 dayes now last past; therefore to prvent ye like inconveniences for ye future wee thinke fitt to prsent yt ye Maior of this Corporacon for ye time beinge shall for ye future cause ye house lookers to make their presentmts to ye Maior every month, who shall Imediatly thereupon give a note of ye names of such as shall be prsented as Inmates to ye Churchwardens and overseers of ye pore wth a warrant to remove them, yt soe they may not claime a quiet and an uninterrupted settlemt by ye space of 40 dayes, and thereby become settled by Lawe in ye towne, and ye towne be bound to manteine them.

The remaining presentments made at this Court Leet sitting include four of very considerable length. The first of them contains a complaint against the Mayor, for retaining or keeping from view the Orders made at the Guild in 1662, fines his Worship £5 "for his offence," and directs that the said Orders be published for the guidance and benefit of the burgesses; the second and third relate to a couple of local charities—Henry Bannester's and George Rogerson's; and the fourth pertains to several sums of money, amounting in all to upwards of £600, raised and received at the Guild of 1662, by the Mayor, Aldermen, and Common Council, for the use of the Mayor, Bailiffs, and Burgesses, and calls upon the Mayor, Aldermen, and Common Council to give, at or before the next Court for the election of officers for the borough, to the burgesses present, "a pticular accompt in writeinge how and in what manner they have disposed of ye said 600l., and to what uses, yt soe the said Burgesses may be satisfied howe they have discharged ye trust they have undertaken on ye said Burgesses behalves." A Council minute, made on the 12th of December, 1662, shows that the Corporation receipts at the Guild in that year (mainly derived from the granting and the renewing of the freedom of the borough) amounted in the aggregate to £632 11s. 11d.; that

the expenses were £230 13s. 11d.; and that the balance, designated "the remaind'r of the p'fittes of the s'd Guild," and amounting to £401 18s., had been "paid in" to the Mayor by Mr. Thomas Sumner, one of the Guild Stewards.

Great Court Leet, held in the Moot Hall, on the 23rd of October, 1663, before William Turner (Mayor),¹ George Addison and Lawrence ffarington (Bailiffs), and Edward Rigby (Steward of the Court).

Presentments:—

Thomas Martin, Alderman, continues Layinge his Middin behinde the ffriergate barrs, before a croft² in ye possession of George Woodhouse, contrary to severall presentments . . . therefore to pay for the time past . . . vis. viijd., And if he Continue soe doeing to forfeit and pay for every offence the like penalty.

The Late Balliffes of this towne (Thomas Hodgkinson and John Kellet) did not Repaire the Key wch is on this side the River of Rhible, where the boat Landeth, according to ye prsentmt of ye Last Leete, wch shold have beene performed by them before ye twentyninth of September last, and is as we conceive of Evell Example to Succeedinge Bailiffes; therefore to pay ye ffyne of vis. viijd. Imposed upon them by ye said prsentmt. And for as much as the said Key remains hitherto unrepaired, occasioned by ye neglect of ye said Thomas Hodgkinson and John Kellet, beinge Repugnant to ye said prsentmt, we doe therefore ffind and prsent ye now prsent Balliffes yt it is theire dutyes to undertake and see the same in all things well and sufficiently Amended wth whatsoever is needfull or belonginge unto ye Key afforesaid, and that before ye first day of March next, upon paine to fforfeit ye like sume of vis. viijd.

1. William Turner was apparently the son of Thomas Turner; both are amongst those who qualified as in-burgesses in 1642. William Turner was one of the Guild Aldermen in 1662, and in 1663-4 he was Mayor of the borough.

2. On each side of Friargate, at this time, there were fields, large open spaces of ground, and in certain parts small enclosures called crofts. It is probable that the croft mentioned was not far from the east end of the present Edward-street.

The Assize of bread and beare is as we Conceive much neglected, although Corne beare soe lowe a rate yet nothinge is done in reliefe thereof, which is Contrary to ye Statute in yt case made and provided, And that ye officers ellected ffor that purpose may be Enquired of and Instructed by Mr. Maior.

John Miller of this towne and his wife contry to severall orders and prsentmts made against suffringe mens servant sonnns and Apprentices to harbour, tippie, and drinke, did in time of divine service sufferr an Apprentice of William Haworths to tippie and drinke in their house wth other boyes and Apprentices on the Lords day; therefore to pay xxs., and we desire Mr. Maior will take course for the ffuture.

There is a Comon ffrequentinge of divers people in the ffriergate, at higher draw well,¹ every Sabboth day, in the morninge, and that for the space of 2 howers of the same day yt [they] gett and drawe water, wch is a violation to the Sabboth, and if they soe Continue this towne will be evill spoken of, yt ye governmt thereof is not better had in regard; we therefore, to prvent this Inconveniencie, thinke it ffitt yt Mr. Maior wold Informe the sexton to give notice forthwith to all ye inhitants wthin this towne yt they shall forbear to gett or carry any water upon ye Lords day, upon paine to forfeite every one soe, after notice of offendinge, vis. viijd., yt soe the good and wholesome lawes dependinge thereunto may not be soe wilfully ffustrated, and that Mr. Mair shall cause this order to be observed, els to be ffinde at ye discrecon of ye first Leete after he is discharged of his office.

Great Court Leet held on the 15th of April, 1664, before the Mayor, Bailiffs, and Steward.

Presentments:—

The prsent balives, Mr. George Addison and Mr. Lawrence ffarington, have not repaired the new Key accordinge to ye prsentmt of the last Jury Leet, therefore that the sume of six shillings eight pence be paid by them, accordinge to ye said

1. The higher draw well would be on the south-west side of Friargate, opposite the entrance to Melling's yard.

presentmt, and that they repaire the said new Key before the 29th day of Septembr next, upon paine of 6s. viijd. more.

Ye pinfould is out of repaire having its pticons [partitions] within broaken downe, so that mens goods are in greate danger of beinge spoyled by reason that horses, beasts, sheepe, swine, geese are all togeather, when ffoulded, and being of soe generall consermt for the good and welfaire of this Corporacon, therefore that the said balives cause the Pticon to be made upp againe, and yt the pinfould be putt into as good and sufficient repaire as it formly hath beene, upon paine of xxs., before the 15th of August next.

All ye psons within this Corporacon who doe Keepe ale to sell are unlicensed, and doe sell the same without Lycence, contrary to severall Statutes in that case made and provided.

Those sevrall psons following [the wife of Thomas Leigh, Mary Sergeantson servant of Edward Hindley, and Margaret Burton] have voyolated the sabboth day publicquely by carrynge burdens of water on the sabboth day, contrary to the presentmt of the last Jury Leet, and Contrary to ye good and wholesome Lawes of this Kingdome, and contrary to ye good govrmt of this Corporacon; thereafter to pay 12d. a peece; for every offence hereafter to pay 2s. a peece.

Great Court Leet held on the 6th of April, 1665, before Luke Hodgkinson (Mayor), William Preston and Henry Blundell (Bailiffs), and Edward Rigby (Steward of the Court).

Presentments:—

The highway wthin the towne, ffrom the Churchgate barrs to the townes end,¹ is much in decay and ruine, not only the Causey but that wch was formly the wash way,² and the same ought to be repair[ed] by ye Corporacon of Preston.

Mr. William Bannester, late Maior of this towne, the Aldrmen, and Comon Councell have not as yet accompted to the Burgesses of this towne for the pffitts of the last Guild Marchant

1. The "highway" extended from a point in Church-street, near the Water-street entrance, to the south end of Deepdale-road.

2. The "wash way" would be the road to certain water pits in and about the land now occupied by the Observatory, &c., between Stephenson Terrace and East View.

here holden, being six hundred pounds and upwards, And they shall at or before the next Cort of Elleccoon of officers give unto the said Burgesses then prsent a pticuar accompt in writing how and in what mannre they have disbursed and disposed of the said 600l., and to and for what uses, that soe the said Burgesses may be satisfyed how they have discharged their trust on the Burgesses behalves.

Elizabeth Woodhouse widd hath broken the pavemt in ye Streete and make a Sawe pit to the great priudice of the town and a bad Example of others, and wch is indeed contrary to the Guild order in that case made, and therefore to pay six shillings eightpence for her contempt, and to fill upp the same sawe pitt and pave the same again before the 24th of June, 1665, upon paine of vjs. viijd.

Wee are informed and of our owne knowledge knowe to be true that sevrall priudices harmes hath beene Comitted and donne by a Dogg of Mr. Joseph Boultons, and wch as wee are informed is a most unsufferable dogg to be kept wthin this Burrough without a chaine or mussle, wch the said Mr. Boulton hath denyed to do unlesse Mr. Maior wold fynd him one. The Sergeant beinge sent unto him, to Comand him to keepe his dogg to be mussled or kept upp, he replyed in Scornfull and abusive Language, vizt., he wold keepe his dogg unmussled in dispite of Mr. Maior and Jury, and if the towne wold have him mussled they should fynde him a Mussle for his dogg or els he wold not ; and therefore for his Contempt and abuse unto the towne and officers to fforfeite the sume of 40s.

Great Court Leet, held on the 20th of October, 1665. Edward Rigby, Steward of the Court, is the only person named in the heading.

Presentments :—

There ought to be a pillory and tumbrell wthin this towne, and, there being neither, wee prsent therefore the prsent Balives doe cause both errected and set upp over the wating poole at the east end of this towne, or in some other convenient place, before ye xth of March next, otherways the fine of xxs. to be imposed upon them if in case they doe neglect ye doinge thereof.

Mr. Edmund Wearden shall scowre ye ditch alonge the highway at ye side of Lancr meadowe,¹ wch troubleth the highway soe yt people affoote cannot passe dry shodd, before the first of January next, upon paine of 3s. 4d.

By the Guild booke, the sevall psons hereafter named are ffree Burgesses. and have not as yet taken the Oath of A Burges according to the orders of this towne, and every one makeinge defaulte after notice shall forfeite vis. viijd. [Here follow the names of 76 defaulters.]

The Cart way Leadinge downe towards the marsh, from the house of Correction, is very ruinous and impassable, soe that neither cart nor loaded horses (as complaint hath beene made unto us) in that place cannot passe, but are in danger of being overthrowne, wch cause if it should happen might be prjudiciall to this towne And that the Supvisors cause the same to be sufficiently raised with gravell from the water² before the feast of Easter next, or upon default we Amerce them in the sevrall sumes of xxs. a piece.

The styles belonging to ye Clarke yard³ are out of repaire, to the spoyling of neighbours gardens, and as wee conceive ought to be repaired by the Churchwardens of this towne, and that the said Churchwardens doe putt them into sufficient repaire before the 20th of December next, in paine of xs.

Ann Hughson, John Holme the younger, Henry Bretherton, Thomas Cumbrall, and Thomas Haydocke constantly make middensteads at their doores in the streete belowe the ffryergate Barrs, to the great Annoyance of their neighbors and shame to ye govrnmt of this Burrowe, whereas they have convenient places on the backsides of their houses for the same purpose, And

1. Lancaster meadow may have adjoined Old Lancaster-lane, which, when the presentment was made, was a public way having a connection in Cadley with the main road going north.

2. "The water" from which the Supervisors were directed to obtain gravel would be the Ribble.

3. Clarke yard was evidently, when the presentment was made, Church property—anyhow, property in which the representatives of the Church had an interest and for which they were responsible; and from some ecclesiastical connection, or existing clerical possession, or vicarial benefit involved, its name was, no doubt, originally derived. Cf. note p. 77.

therefore the said Middings by them bee removed before the 2nd of february next, in paine of every one soe neglecting the sume of vjs. viiijd.

There is the like undecencie used with middings lying wthin the ffishergate barrs continued from yeare to yeare, and therefore all owners of the said Middings shall cause them to be removed wthin tenn days after notice shall be given them by an officer unto his or theire grounds or some other convenient place, that soe the highway may not be annoyed or hindered as fformrly, upon paine of neglect of every one soe offending vis. viiijd., and for every month after they remaine unremoved vis. viiijd. a piece more.

Ye psons abovesaide nor any of them, nor any of the Inhabitants wthin this towne, shall lay or make any more middings or Dunghills wthin ye towne streets, but on the backside of theire houses or barnes, in paine of every one of them offendinge contrary to this prsent to fforfeit and pay for every offence vis. viiijd. The execucon of these wee hope Mr. Maior will take care to be pformed. [A marginal note says "to be Donne."]

The occupiers of Toogood¹ shall keepe open the brooke wch runneth into ye Marsh Milne damme, and stake and wind broaken places, to keepe it in it's right Course that it overflowe not the Marsh nor annoy not the highway as it hath done, upon paine to fforfeit xxs.

Whereas divers prsentments have beene hertofore brought against Mr. Willm Bannester² for that he hath not accompted together with the comon coucell of this towne for the pffitts [profits] of this last Guild merchant, therefore wee prsent Mr. Willm Bannester afforesaid and the counsell of this towne according to ye afforesaid prsentmts in regard as yet they have not as yet accompted to the ffree Burgesses of this corporacon

1. The probability is that Toogood was a small field or enclosure immediately above the old mill dam at the north-east corner of the Marsh. Several years before the presentment was made there were prsons in Preston called Toogood; maybe, one of them owned the field or enclosure in question; if so, this would account for its name.

2. Mr. William Bannester or Banestre was elected Mayor shortly after the Guild in 1662. See note p. 93.

according to ye afforesaid presentmts in regard as yet they have 600l. and upwards remaining in theire hands, And that they shall before the next Cort of Elleccon [Court of Election] of officers make a pticuler accompte in writeing how and in what manner the same hath beene disposed for the satisfaccon of all, wch as wee thinke is most reasonable.¹

Great Court Leet held on April 27th, 1666.

Presentments :—

Mr. Richard Wallcott, being lately came into this town, for brewing and uttering of Ale and beare without Lycence, and fine him in xxs.

Mr. Bushell, vicarr²—that he cause sufficient steeles [stiles] sett at ye Clarke yard, before ye first day of July next, upon paine of vis. viijd.

By ye ninth presentmt of ye last Jury of ye leete yt A pillory and tumbrell should have beene Erected and made by ye now Balives before ye xth day of March last, and find ye said Balives to have forfeited xxs.

Ye said Balives shall cause a pillory and Cookstoole erected in such place as ye Maior and Councill shall thinke fitt before ye first day of July next, upon paine of xxs.

Mrs. Preston shall lay at [? a] Raile at ye ffoote Bridge in ye ox hey³ before ye first day of July next, upon paine of vis. viijd.

Great Court Leet held October 15th, 1666.

Presentments :—

The Occupiers of Hinginge browe,⁴ belonging to Wilkinson's

1. There is a marginal note opposite this presentment, as follows: "Mr. Bannister to account to Mr. Maior att next election or forfit 10l.; Mr. Maior to forfit other 10l. if hee Doe not ca [cause] him to Doe it."

2. Mr. Bushell was the Rev. Seth Bushell, at this time B.D., and later D.D. He was the eldest son of Adam Bushell, Esq., of Cuerden. From 1663 to 1682 he was Vicar of Preston Parish Church. In the latter year he became Vicar of Lancaster. He died in 1684, and was interred in Lancaster Parish Church. Dr. William Bushell, the founder of Goosnargh Hospital, was his grandson.

3. Ox hey was the name given to several fields on the north side of Moor Brook between the present Murray-street and Ripon-street. The footbridge alluded to would pass over Moor Brook.

4. Hinginge browe, *i.e.*, Hanging Brow, would, it is very probable, be a field on the west side of the town, on the hill going up to Ashton.

tenant, shall set a raile at the Bridge in ye ffootway from plump-ton [Woodplumpton] to this market¹ before the 2d of ffebruary next upon paine of vis. viijd.

These psons following for suffring theire swine comonly graseing and rooting in ye Church yard and [are] prsented unto us by the pindrs; therefore wee amerce them and every of them, according to ye guild ordr in yt behalfe made, in vid., for every time such swine have been taken there.²

Hugh Rimmer³ doth entertaينه in his house or keepinge one Henry Gradwell and ioyner by trade, he not being a ffreeman of this Incorporacon, And suffers him to worke for his owne Advantage and pfitt upon Condition yt within 2 yeares time ye said Gradwell shall teach him ye said Rimer the trade of a Joyner, wch ye said Hugh Rimer begunn to be, contrary to sevrall Guild Ordrs of this Burrowe; therefore wee ordr and say that ye said Henry Gradwell shall forbear working any more as a [joiner] wthin this towne upon paine of xxs. for every time he shall soe offend, And yt If Hugh Rimmer doe at any time after notice suffer ye said Henry Gradwell to worke wthin any part of his House then ye said Hugh Rimmer to fforfeite for every offence xxs.

Willm Dolfin and John Bostocke, contrary to ye ordes [orders] of this towne, have brough[t] calves forth [away from] ye appointed market, for the use of there masters, for wch offence according to the guild ordr we ffine them in 40s. apiece.

1. This footbridge would cross Moor Brook.

2. Here follow the names of nine persons, all having offended twice; the total number of swine owned by them and found in the Church yard being 26! Some time before the presentment was made, the Church yard, it was reported, "doth in most unchristianly manner lye wast and open, being daily spoiled and abused by swyne, for wante of makeinge upp the walls and fences about the same." Five years after this statement was made the yard was described as being "wast and unfenced." And later still—seven or eight years after the presentment was made—though the walls and fences might be in a better state, the church yard was in a disorderly, unseemly condition; human bones from graves being scattered on the surface of the ground, and some even lying exposed within the church! In old times there were footpaths through the Church yard, "leading to Stonygate"; they were closed at the beginning of last century.

3. Hugh Rimmer was an in-burgess.

Mr. Thomas Birches and Robte Tomlinson doe keepe unlawfull gameing in theire houses, to ye great losse and damage of sevrall people, and therefore wee Amerce them in xxs. apiece, and desire Mr. Maior will take further Corse to see ye same reformed.

John Threlfall for suffering gameing in his house upon ye Lords day, and therefore doe Amerce him in xs., and desire Mr. Maior will take Corse for the reforming of it.

Great Court Leet held on the 22nd of April, 1667, before Thomas Sumpner (Mayor), Ralph ffarnworth and James Archer (Bailiffs), and Edward Rigby (Steward of the Court).

Presentments :—

Alexandr Swansey for seting his dogg upon ye townes bull, being then upon ye Marsh belonging to this towne, and thereby forcing into great confusion and disordr the Cattle belonging to the Burgesses inhabitants wthin this towne, to ye manifest hazard and damage to many of them, upon ye Lords day, to the evill example of others, and therefore to pay ye fine of xxs.

John Kellet, groc [grocer], frequently and obstinately, after divers prmonicons [premonitions], hath kept open his shopp doore and sould goods upon ye Lords day, thereby greatly pvoking [provoking] god and given occasion of Scandall and offence to men, and contrary to ye second ordr of the last Guild concerning the sabboth,¹ and therefore we amerce him to pay

1. At the Guild in 1662—the Guild referred to in the presentment—all the previously made orders were thoroughly revised and codified, and new ones, to meet actual or probable requirements, were likewise adopted or incorporated. Order 2 contains the following clause:—"From and after the publication of this present Gyld merchant no person or persons whatsoever, either Inhbnt wthin this Towne of Preston or the liberties thereof, nor any foreiners whatsoever, shall keepe open his or their Shop or Shopp, or sett up any Stalls or other devices within this Towne, to sell any victualls, fflesh, or other comodities upon the Saboth day, upon Paine of Imprisonment and forfeiture of all such victualls, fflesh, and other Commodities so sold, offered, or shewd to be sold Except in case of urgent necessitie, and those to be made knowne to the Maior of the Towne for the time beinge, and likewise to be mannaged and procured with the greatest Privacie and least observance of other people that possiblie may be contrived and brought about, excepting likewise the preparinge of or necessarie medicines by any Apothecarie in [? on] speedy messages, urgent occasions of Dangerous Sickness that cannot, without much hazard of life or health, admit of any delay."

the fine of iijl. vis. viijd. for his past offence, And such other corporall punishmt as Mr. Maior shall thinke meet for soe great an offence, according to ye afforesaid Ordr, and further yt he pay ye fine of xxs. for every sabbboth day hee shall continue to comitt the like offence, besides his corporall punishmt appoynted at ye discrecon of Mr. Maior as afforesd.

Thomas Gregson for giving notice to floraingrs of and thereby preventing an intended seizure of goods forfeited to this towne, contrary to ye sixt Article of his Oath,¹ therefore we amerce him to pay for this his first offence ye fine of vjs. viijd.

The new hall Laine is in great decay, and yt ye supvisr doe cause ye same to be repaired, and ye cawsall to be paved a Long ye Lane side Leading to ffishwicke.

Hugh Martin and John Critchley doe ffish wthin this river of Ribble and wthin the bounds and Libties of this Incorporacon wth netts whose maske [mesh—from the A.S. *max*; middle English and German *masche*] is not above an Inch broad [though] by ye statute it ought to bee two Inches and one halfe broad, and therefore wee doe amerce them to pay ye sum of 5li.

Ye bridge at ye end of ye broadgate Lane being many times repaired, yet in a short time is brought to decay by ye force of water yt comes often upon it, and for yt ye passage is very dangerous over it at High water when ye usefullnes of it is most necessary to ye people that passe that way; wee therefore thinke it most advantageous to ye towne yt an arch of stone bee made over ye said watercorse for ye prventing ye inconveniencies yt doe and may arrise for want thereof, and yt ye now balives doe cause ye same to be done accordingly.

Robt. Hall and his wife have not only throwne in theire wash but also filled upp a well upon ye townes wast, by wch a great many families now [? are] supplied with water, wch was done by him wilfully and resolutely with scorne and contempt to

1. An entry on one of the Rolls favours the supposition that Gregson was connected with the leather trade. The sixth article of his oath, as an in-burgess, was as follows:—"You shall know no foreiner to buy or sell any Merchandise, with any other foreiner within this Town or the franchise thereof, except at Faire Time, but you shall warn the Mayor or Bailiffs thereof."

ye govrnmt of this towne, and yt hee bee therefore severely punished according to ye discrecon of Mr. Maior for ye offence past, and yt he give security to forbear such violence to ye wrong and priudice of ye neighbourhood for time to come.

Great Court Leet, held on October 14th, 1667.

Presentments:—

These psons following who are at Lawfull yeares to take the Oath of A Burgesse as appears by ye guild booke, and as yet have not; therefore that they shall wthin one weeke after notice given them by serjeant come before Mr. Maior and take ye said oath, otherwise to forfeit 3s. 4d. apiece.¹

Mr. Lawrence Wall and Robte Hesketh, supvisors of the highway the last yeare, did not Amende the plat in Ribbleton Lane, nere the half mile stone,² being often moved thereunto, for wch neglect wee amerce them to pay each vjs. viijd.

Elizabeth Woodhouse, wid [widow], for scandalous and Rayling words agt Mr. John Cottam and Robte Loxam who were swore jurors in ye townes Cort of Tryalls,³ terming them as base in theire verdict as if they had picked her pocket, this being soe foule A prsident [precedent] and Incouragement to others to doe ye same to others Jurors, wee doe Amerce her to pay vjs. viijd.

Willm Bannester, gunsmith, for breach of ye Sabbboth, being taken at Cards, at Thomas ffooles, and full of drinke, wee doe amerce him to pay vjs. viijd.

Thomas ffoole for keeping an unLawfull gameing house, to ye utter undoeing of divers psons, and for harbouring sevrall

1. One hundred and four persons are included in the list of defaulters. A copy of the oath is given in a previous note. See pp. 35-36.

2. On the east side of Ribbleton-lane, at a point just midway between the first and second mile, reckoning the distance from Preston Town Hall, there used to be the pedestal of an old stone cross, and this may have been the "half mfe stone" referred to. On the same side, about half a mile from the "Churchgate towne end"—the bottom of Church-street—there was an enclosure called "Half Mile field."

3. The "Cort of Tryalls" was the old "Court of Common Pleas," still in existence, and called the Borough Court.

psons upon ye Sabboath to play at Cards, wee doe fine him in xxxvjs. viiijd., and yt he forbear to sell Ale upon ye penalty of 4s. a month.

Ellis Meaking for excerciseing ye trade of A gardiner within this towne, not being a freeman, to pay xs., And for every month hee shall follow ye same xs.

Willm Blacoe, for refuseing ye Alefounders a tast of his Ale and abusing them with bad words, and tould them he neither knew nor would obey any such order or office they had to pforme—for this his denyall and brewing without Lycence he is amerced to pay ye fine of vjs. viiijd.

Willm Bannester, gunsmith, for breaking ye prisons¹ [is presented and ordered to] repaire ye same and pay ye fine of xxs., [and] for using scandalous words agt ye prsent balives, Mr. Shaw and Mr. Whalley, to pay ye sume of xiijs. and iiijd.

Ye bridge upon ye moore yt leads to Caddiley Causey² is not repaired, and therefore yt ye Balives doe cause it [to be] repaired before ye first of May next, upon paine of vjs. viiijd.

Inquisition held on the 18th of February, 1668, before Seth Blackhurst (Mayor), John Shawe and Thomas Whalley (Bailiffs), and Edward Rigby (Steward).

Presentments:—

Nicholas Wadson for laying his timber in the street nere unto his house, and likewise for laying Timber in the Market place, to ye great annoyance and danger of the Kings maties people and contrary to ye last guild ordr, hath forfeited ye sume of xs., and he shall remove ye said Timber according to ye said Guild Ordre therein menconed upon the penalty therein specified.³

Willm Charnock, Thomas Walmsley, Butcher, and John Helm, junr., very frequently and usually water their horses at

1. The "prisons" would be the borough lock-up, which at this time was in a part of the Moot or Town Hall.

2. The bridge would be on the north-west side of Preston Moor, and would cross the boundary stream—Eaves Brook. "Caddiley Causey" (Cadley causeway) is on part of the line of the Roman road which branched from Watling-street and ran as far as Rossall Point, near Fleetwood.

3. A marginal note says, "To pay ijs."

ye draw well at ye lower end of the ffryergate,¹ to ye great annoyance of the neighbors wch use the same well; therefore wee amerce them in the sevrall sumes of vjs. viijd. apiece, And yt ye said psons and every of them and all other psons shall forbear to committ ye like offence at any time hereafter, upon paine of every one soe offending ye sume of vjs. viijd. apiece.

John Cottam has in-Croached in yet Market place by erecting a bulke² before the shopp windowe now in possion [possession] of Timothy Woodward, being 2 yrds and a half long and one yard broad, and therefore to be rented at ye discrecon of Mr. Maior and his Councill.

Great Court Leet held on April 3rd, 1668. The only person named in the heading is Edward Rigby, Steward of the Court.

Presentments :—

Ye now Balives have not caused ye minspit well, ye goose well, and ye foure draw wells within this towne to bee sufficiently Clensed and Repaired according to ye time given them, and therefore have fforfeited ye sume of xxs.; And therefore yt ye said Balives shall cause ye said minspit well, the goose well, and ye said draw wells to bee sufficiently clensed and repaired at or before ye xxth day of July next, upon paine of xxs.

Ye now Balives have not repaired the pavemts and made a particon wall in the pinfould according to ye time given them, and therefore have forfeited ye fine of xxvis. viijd., And therefore yt ye said Balives shall cause ye pavemt to bee repaired and ye particon wall to bee made in ye said pinfould at or before ye 29th day of July next upon paine of vli.

John Smith for a grosse abuse, by striking a boy, servt unto Thomas Scholes, with a bunch of Keyes, and thereby did breake 3 of his teeth, wee Amerce in iijli. vjs. viijd.

We continue all prsentmts heretofore made by sevrall other Juries of this Leet concerning an accompt to be rendred to ye

1. The draw well was on the west side of Friargate, between Edward-street and Hope-street.

2. Bulke was the name given to a framework projecting from the front of a shop—a stall.

Burgesses of this Incorporacon of ye sume of 600li and upwards, raised by ye last Guild, and yt Mr. Maior yt now is doe cause an accompt to be made and given in writeing to ye said free Burgesses of this Burrough at a certaine day appoynted by Mr. Maior, at or before ye first day of August next, and due notice to bee given thereof to ye said Burgesses of the day and time upon paine of Cli.¹

Ye pindrs for neglect of their office and denying to drive mens kine to ye Marsh and likewise for suffering mens kine to bee miched² upon the Marsh to ye great Losse and annoyance of sevrall psons within this Burroughe, wee amerce in xxs.

Great Court Leet held on October 20th, 1668; Edward Rigby, Steward, being again the only Court official mentioned.

Presentments:—

Nicholas Watson for laying sevrall Timber trees and other wood in ye street before his dore in ye ffryergate, to ye great nuisance of ye Burgesses of this towne and ye hazard of their lives and limbs by falling over or upon ye same in ye night time wee doe Amerce for ye time past vis. viijd., And vis. viijd. more for every week after, untill hee remove ye said wood cleare out of ye street.

George Gregson for yt his wife doth keepe an unruly and unlawful sowe, and suffers her to goe abroad in ye streets, contrary to sevall ordrs of this towne, wch sowe hath pulled sevrall sakes in ye corne market a pieces, to ye great damage of ye ownrs thereof, and ye great losse of their corne, wee doe find ye said Henry Gregson in xxs., And for ye future unles hee keepe upp ye said sowe or otherwise sell or dispose of ye said sowe forth of this towne, wthin six dayes after notice given to Henry Gregson's wife, to pay vis. viijd. more.

Luke Greenfield keepes a very unruly sowe and suffers her to go about in ye streets, and hath pulled ye meat from ye shopp

1. A marginal note says: "There is an Accompt made of the money menconed in this prsent [presentment] as appeares by the white booke of orders, 23d Oct., 1668." The White Book of the Corporation does not contain any reference in its minutes, &c., for 1668 to this matter.

2. "Miched," now almost an obsolete word, means to hide or conceal from view. The word, however, may be "milched."

boards of Butchers in ye shambells, and spoyled their meate, therefore ye said Luke Greenfield shall keepe upp ye said sowe or otherwise forfeite vis. viijd.

Great Court Leet, held on April 19th, 1669, before Thomas Rishton (Mayor)¹, Thomas Winckley² and Lawrence Bostock (Bailiffs), and Edward Rigby (Steward of the Court).

Presentments:—

Richard Brookfield, of ye Meales,³ for forestalling our Markett by buying upp salmon fish upon Wednesday, ye 21st of Aprill last, and on Wednesday, ye 25th of May last.

Ellis Makeinge for exercising ye trade of A gardiner wthin this towne, not being a ffreeman, to pay 40s., and for every month hereafter that hee shall followe ye same xxs.

Ye sevrall psons hereundr named have not taken ye oath of A Burgesse, and therefore wee doe desire Mr. Maior to send for them, and to tendr unto them ye said Oath, and upon ye refusall of any such pson wee Amerce them sevrally to pay iij. s. iiijd.—[Here follow the names of 50 defaulters.]

1. In 1662 Thomas Rishton—the Mayor here named—was one of the Guild Aldermen. Some time afterwards he appears to have withdrawn from the Corporation; but in 1668 he was made an Alderman; in 1669 he became Mayor; and in 1672, whilst still an Alderman, he died.

2. Thomas Winckley was a man of unquestionable local importance; but Winckley is not a very old name in the burgess annals. Edward Winckley—the first of this name mentioned in those annals—became a Preston stallenger, on payment of 35s., at the Guild in 1602; on the Roll for 1622 the name is continued; and so it goes on till 1668, when a descendant, directly or laterally, becomes a Bailiff. In 1669 Thomas Winckley was elected a member of the Council; in 1678 he was made an Alderman; in 1679 he became the Mayor of Preston; in 1682 he was a Guild Alderman; in 1688 and 1697 he was the Mayor; in 1702 he was appointed Clerk of the Recognisances; he was a Guild Steward in the same year; in 1705 he again became the Mayor; and in 1710, whilst still an Alderman, he died. Subsequently three or four persons, bearing the name of Winckley, were Bailiffs. The late Lady Shelley was a great granddaughter of the Thomas Winckley above named. Winckley-square Preston, with adjoining streets, was laid out by Mr. Thomas Winckley, in conjunction with Mr. William Cross, a lawyer and deputy prothonotary in the town, who afterwards acquired Red Scar and the Cottam Hall estates.

3. "Ye Meales" no doubt means North Meols, on the south side of the Ribble estuary.

John Singleton for suffering his dogg, being unmusselled, to byte Elizabeth, ye wife of Thomas Walmsley, Butcher, and Jane Walmsley, to pay 13s. 4d., and if hee suffer him to goe unmusselled any longer to pay vis. viijd. p weeke.

Ye Balives [to] repaire and clense A well comonly called Lady well¹ before ye xvth of August next, or els to pay vjs. viijd.

John Preston, gen., for 2 sevrall tussells and an affray made upon ye body of Willm Wearden, postmaster, to pay vjs. viijd., and we find that Wm. Wearden did in his owne defence then also Tussle wth ye said Mr. John Preston.

Oliver Hatch and Elizabeth Harrison, widd [widow], doe not observe the weight of bread, being breadbakers, and therefore desire Mr. Maior to bee Carefull to Rectifye ye same.

Thomas Holme, of Euxton, being a forraigner and noe ffreeman of this Incorporacon, taketh to sale wthin this Corporacon upon ye market day, sadles and sadler ware, not haveinge beene bound apprentice to ye trade of A sadler, and hath exposed ye same to sale wthin this Corporacon for ye space of one month last past, therefore doe Amerce him in xs.

Thomas Cooper, of Leyland, hee being a forreigner and noe ffreeman of this Corporacon, exposeth sythes and other hardware to sale, being not of his own makeinge, and therefore doe Amerce him for ye time past in 40s., and for every weeke yt hee shall continue hereafter to doe ye like to pay 5s.

Great Court Leet held on October 14th, 1669, before Henry Blundell (Mayor), Robert Gremsworth and Thomas Myers (Bailiffs), and Edward Rigby (Steward of the Court).

Presentments :—

Mathew Porter not being a freeman of this Incorporacon doth contrary to sevall ordrs Brew and retaile Ale and beare, and doth also keepe a very unlawfull house of Carding and tipling at unlawfull times of ye night, and therefore wee do amerce him to pay xxs.

1. The present Ladywell-street was named after this well, which was just on the west side of the land forming the course of the roadway.

Elizabeth Woodhouse for striking and abuseing Thomas Beckonsall, Beadle of this Incorporacon for executing of his office Comanded by Mr. Maior, to pay vjs. viijd.

James Whiteside doth lay his worthing adjoyning to ye mill hill in Churchgate towne end¹ to ye great annoyance of ye highway, therefore wee amrce him to pay vjs. viijd. if he do not remove it before ye 20th day of ffebr next.

Ye Balives sufficiently repaire the townes hall, being in decay in sevrall places, before ye first of may next, upon paine of £10.

Ye Balives remove ye Tumbrall to some Convenient place before ye first of may next upon paine of xxs.

Thomas Shephard for pulling ye Call downe at ye water side and carrying some away with him to his fathrs house, to pay xxs.

Inquisition taken on the 8th of February, 1670, before the Mayor, Bailiffs, and Steward last named.

Presentments:—

Ye supvisors of the highway amend or repaire ye platt in Ribbleton Lane, over against ye Lady hey,² and repaire the sevrall breaches in the Cawsey wthin ye said Lane, and open or make a wyde gripp at ye higher end of ye said Cawsey seaven or eight roods in Length, at or before ye xxiiijth of June next, upon paine of xxs.

John Barker for suffring his dying stuffe or Liquors wch comes from his leads or ffatts to run into ye ffryer lane, to the great annoyance of ye highway, and ye same, Runing into ye springs or wells there, is supposed to bee very dangerous for

1. There used to be two enclosures, respectively called "Town End Field," near the bottom of Church-street, between Park-road and Deepdale-road, and it is very likely that the mill stood in the field next to the latter thoroughfare. It does not appear in Lang's map (1774). In Shaft's map (1809) there is a windmill shown in the field adjoining Deepdale-road, and behind the present range of houses called Mill Bank.

2. On the north side of and adjoining Ribbleton-lane, between the present Lutwidge-street and Young-street, as nearly as can be made out, there were four fields when the presentment was made, two being called Lady Heya and the others respectively Middle Lady Hey and Farmost Lady Hey.

Cattle yt usually drinke at ye said springs of [owing to] Gaules [galls], copprous [copperas], verdigrease, and sevrall other Compounds yt are in ye said dying stuffe or Liquor, and yt hee shall cause ye same to bee carryed or Conveyed some other way yt it may bee noe more annoyance to ye said way or springs, at or before ye first day of may next upon paine of xxs.

George Bennet, millr, for suffring ye watr to breake out of ye milne damme to ye annoyance of ye marsh, shall sufficiently repaire ye said damme, and keepe ye watr in its right Corse, And hee shall lay a sufficient platt ovr ye water course wch cometh forth of ye Tulketh grounds to Preston Brook¹ at or before ye first of may next, upon paine of xs.

Ye now Balives Repaire the syke troughs upon spittle mosse wth Leade where it is wanting and open the gripps for ye springs to run into ye said syke troughs at or before ye first of may next, upon paine of vjs. viiijd.

Ye supvisrs of ye highways to repaire ye highway on spittle mosse to ye wash way² leading downe to ye marsh, and to raise ye same way with Earth over agt Mrs. Laws house, ye same being worne and beaten soe lowe yt ye springs break forth and draweth ye water from ye sykes, and yt ye same bee so repaired and sufficiently amended at or before ye xxiiijth of June next upon paine of xijjs. iiijd.

That Mrs. Lawe or Henry Boulton her tennt [tenant] cause a sufficient ffoot bridge wth a Raile to bee sett over the Brooke³ near the dawe Banck,⁴ And also set one othr Bridge with a raile as aforesd neare, adjoining to ye ox hey⁵ belonging to Mr. Preston, yt ye people yt comes Laden with sevrall Commo:dytyes to sell in this market may have easy and ready passage ovr ye

1. Preston Brook was Moor Brook.

2. "Ye wash way" would lead to a pool or pit used for clothes washing purposes, and in all probability would be on the line or close to the north side of the present Fylde-road.

3. This would be Moor Brook.

4. Dawe Bancke would be some property which, according to a map made later than the presentment, went by the name of Doo Banks—two fields on the east side of Old Lancaster-lane, and a short distance from Moor Brook.

5. Ox Hey—see note p. 104.

same bridges, at or before ye xvth of Aprill next, upon paine of xs.

The occupyers of George Hodgkinsons estate, Roger Charnock, ye occupyers of Mr. Luke Hodgkinsons estate, and ye rest of the Inhabitants repaire the Causey way ovr ye peelee moore¹ and ye ffoot bridges² over ye valley Leading to ye furthr moore³ at or before ye xxiiijth of June next, upon paine of iijs. iiijd. apiece.

By ye informacons of sevrall old men wthin this towne there is a Comon ffoot path and highway Leading to this townes market through a little Close or pcell of Land called ye Titmouse Croft,⁴ lying betweene a certain close of Land called the Tentr hey⁵ and another close called ye greene crofts, wch said footpath and highway is stopped with a strong hedge, made by Willm Hold[e]r or by his appoyntmt, to ye great piudice of ye Inhitants of this towne, and people yt usually come to ye markett, by reason of ye Leane [lane] being not passable for people on foot in ye winter season; Therefore ye said Willm Hold[e]r shall set styles as hertofore, yt there may bee a free way and passage through ye said Croft, at or before ye 29th day of Septembr next, upon paine of 40s.

Great Court Leet held on the 8th of April of April, 1670.

Presentments:—

John Mosse, contrary to ye statute agt regrators, upon ye xvth of Aprill last did buy of A stranger a load of cockles, and did sell and offer ye same to bee sold ye same day in or [our] open markett; therefore to pay ye sume of iijs. iiijd., wch wee conceive to bee ye vallue of ye goods, and also that hee bee further punished according to ye statute in yt case made and provyded.

1. Peele Moor was on the east side of Deepdale-road. See note p. 22.

2. The footbridges would cross Deepdale Brook.

3. The "furthr moore" would be north-east of Peele Moor.

4. On Syke Hill there was at this time a small field called Titmouse Croft; but the close or parcel of land bearing this name, and mentioned in the presentment, was another plot of land to the south of Crown Piece and to the west of Green Crofts.

5. Tenter Hey was to the south of Titmouse Croft, and at the west end of the present Tenterfield-street. The word "Tenter" is derived from the dialect word "tent" used in Lancashire and the North, and meaning to look after, to watch.

Alexr. Swansey for rescousing and takeing sevrall flocks of geese from John Coulburne as he was bringing them to bee impounded and in the execucon of his office; therefore to pay xs.

Great Court Leet, held on the 14th of October, 1670.

Presentments :—

These persons following [Willm Charnocke, sen., Willm Charnocke, jur., Mary Charnocke, and Elizabeth Seddons] for fighting and fliteing¹ each wth othr, to pay iijs. iiijd. apiece.²

Henry and Richard Myers have made quantities of breecks, part of wch they have since sould, wch is not according to ye usual size of this Incorporacon, to ye great losse and prjudice of such inhabitants as have bought ye same, and desire yt Mr. Maior and his Councell would please to take such care to reform ye same as ye Lawes and customes have pvided.³

Inquisition taken on February 14th, 1671, before Thomas Walmsley (Mayor), William Lemon and Christopher Nowell (Bailiffs), and Edward Rigby (Steward).

Presentments :—

Thomas ffoole shall scoure his ditch and open his platt upon ye north side over against ye new hall barne at or before ye first of May next upon paine of iijs. iiijd.

Ye Supvisors shall lay gravell to ye pyles on both sides of ye new flagged Cawsey leading to ye swillbrooke,⁴ before ye xxiiijth of June next, upon paine of vis. viijd.

Ye now Balives shall cause a footbridge to bee laid over ye brooke betwixt Preston moore and ffullwood⁵ in ye high way

1. "fliteing" is derived from flite—an old provincial English word, signifying to scold or brawl.

2. The fine in each case was afterwards, according to a note, reduced to 6d.

3. A marginal note says that the case is "Referd to ye Maior and Councell."

4. The "cawsey" would be on one side of the present London-road, which passes over Swillbrook a little above the junction of Salmon-street. The piles were, of course, for lateral support or protection. The systematic flagging of causeways or street footways was not commenced, in Preston, until the latter end of 1821. The work was begun by order of the Police Commissioners.

5. The "brooke" was Eaves Brook, over which there is now and has been from time immemorial a footway, leading from Preston Moor, of

leading towards sharowe and Broughton at or before ye xxiiijth of June next upon pains of xiijs. iiijd.

Great Court Leet, held on May 3rd, 1671. Edward Rigby, Steward of the Court, is the only person named in the heading.

Presentments :—

Robte Loxam for a bloodwipe in breakeing Ellen Gregsons head ye sune of 3s. 4d.

Hugh Martin and Willm Crichley wth the rest of ye ffishers—for yt theire netts for fishing wthin ye River of Rible are unlawfull and contrary to ye statute in yt case pvided, in y^e sune of £5, and for so offending after warning given them £10 for every month.

Great Court Leet held on October 13th, 1671. Edward Rigby, the Steward, is again the only person officially mentioned in the heading.

Presentments :—

Thomas ffoole of this towne, Richard Mosse of Longton, and two other psons unknown to ye Balives, were gameing at ye tables for money, in ye said ffooles house, upon ye sabbath day, about 4 of ye clocke in ye morning, being ye 26th day of Oct last, and fyne ye said ffoole and Mosse in xxs. apiece.

[On] ye aforesaid day, about 5 or 6 of ye Clocke in ye morning, there were three men gameing at Cards in ye house of John Woods of this towne, and fine ye said Woods in twenty shillings for suffring them.

About 3 or 4 of ye clock in ye morning of ye said 26th day a ffidler (whose name ye Baliffes know not) was playing in ye house of James Dawson, And ye Baliffe, Robte Loxam, having apprhended him, to take him to Moote hall, ye said James Dawson rescued ye ffidler from ye Baliffe, and therefore to pay £10.

Jane Mitton, widd [widow], for causeing three shooting butts erected upon ye spittle mosse, being contrary to ye use there, and being dangerous to passengrs yt passe that way, and to ye losse of ye soyle there, fynd her in xxs.

which Moor Park now includes the bulk, to Watling Street-road, Fulwood; continuation northward, from the footway, being by Sharoe Green-lane, &c.

Inquisition held on February 19th, 1672, before John Hynd (Mayor), Richard Taylor and Robert Loxam (Bailiffs), and Edward Rigby (Steward).

Presentments:—

Ye supervisors [highway surveyors] shall repaire ye narrow lane from Graystocke house towards Swillbrooke before ye xxiiijth of June next, upon paine of xiijs. iiijd.¹

Ye occupyers of ye mawdlands—that they lopp the Hedge all along ye south side of ye watery lane leading to ye marsh before ye 15th of Aprill, upon paine of xiijs. iiijd.

Thomas Patten hath not repaired the house at ye moore side ~~formly~~ in ye possession of Willm Bayley, according to ye time given him, and therefore hath forfeited ye sume of £10, and hee shall sufficiently repaire ye said house before ye xxviiiijth of June next upon paine of ye further sum of five pounds.

Edward Walker shall make a gutter along ye side of his new house in ye Clarke yard, and remove his midding and Rubbade there, yt ye water may have its free current, at or before ye xvth of Aprill next, upon paine of xs.

1. On the east side of the borough three narrow lanes ran towards Swillbrook (the present London-road, on that side, was a highway when the presentment was made). The farthest of these lanes was Fishwick-lane; but neither in it nor near it, so far as regards the length between New Hall-lane and Swillbrook, was there a residence of any kind. The second, about 250 yards west of Fishwick-lane, had in it a small building of some kind—probably a barn, but it immediately adjoined Swillbrook. The third was at the end of Stanley-street, south-west corner, opposite the entrance to Newhall-lane; and evidently this was the lane referred to as leading “from Graystocke house towards Swillbrooke.” A local deed, bearing the date 1719, describes two closes of land adjoining a lane called New Hall-lane “over and against Graystock House.” The map of Preston, by Lang, shows a building at the head of the third mentioned lane, and directly opposite or facing the entrance to New Hall-lane, and also looking towards some fields adjoining that entrance, on the north side. The lane, not now in existence, ran past the building alluded to—westward for a short distance and then due south towards Swillbrook. When the Court Leet presentment was made there were no houses at all within the borough of Preston on the east side of Stanley-street (with the exception of a few of the alms kind at the top, and the New Hall), and none in what is now called London-road. The building at the head of the lane opposite the entrance to New Hall-lane, &c., was evidently Graystock House, which stood alone.

Great Court Leet held on the 11th of April, 1672, before Richard Hynd (Mayor), Richard Taylor and Robert Loxam (Bailiffs), and Edward Rigby (Steward).

Presentments :—

Ye supervisors of ye high way—that they cause ye causeway on ye moore, leading towards Lancr [Lancaster],¹ to be paved before ye xvth of August next, upon paine of vli.

Ye same supervisors—that they fill upp ye Cookstools pitt before ye aforesd xvth of August next upon paine of vli.

Mrs. Elizabeth Hodgkinson—that she scoure her ditch in Salter-lane,² before ye seaventh of August next, upon paine of vjs. viijd.

Ellis Mackin for washing Carrotts at ye Sike troughs, And Anne Haworth, Anne Abbott, and Annas Bullen for washing puddings there, to pay ijs. iiijd. apiece.

Great Court Leet held on October 14th, 1672. Edward Rigby, Steward, is the only Court official mentioned in the heading.

Presentments :—

Ye Balives have not drest ye minspitt well and made good the Causey adioyning to it, as also ye Syke troughs, haveinge Lawfull warning to have done them before ye xth of December last. vli.

Whereas Richard Taylor and Robte Loxam, draps [drapers], late Balives of this towne, ought by ye rules and custome of this towne to make True and Pfect accompts of all their receipts and disbursemnts during ye time of their office, And the said late Balives have in their accompts of the disbursemnts by them made within the said Time unduely discharged themselves of 18s. by

1. This "causey" would be an old, narrow, lane-like way, running on the line of or parallel to Garstang-road as far as Watling Street-road, the continuation thence towards Lancaster being westward, by the Withy Trees into Cadley-lane, passing over Cadley Moor into Broughton township, and then onward through Broughton village, &c.

2. Salter-lane ran from the top of Tithebarn-street to the junction of Moor-lane with Garstang-road, taking in its course the line of the present North-road.

them pretended to bee for wine bestowed upon Sir Gilbte Ireland¹ and Mr. Sudell,² ye 24th of January, wch was in ye yeare of our Lord God 1671, And that ye said Balives did not according to theire said accompts bestow in wine on ye said Sr Gilbte Ireland and Mr. Sudell nor upon either of them ye said sume of 18s. or any other sume of money on ye said 24th of January or anyother time, for wch false accompt wee fine them in either vli apiece.³

Great Court Leet held on April 14th, 1673. No official names are mentioned in the heading.

Presentments:—

Richard Baliffe, plaisterr [plasterer], being able to worke, and contrary to ye Law turnes beggar and idle pson, and manifested to us, in respect hee waited amongst other beggars as old people and children, at ye Judges retorne from ye last Assizes,⁴ craveing for reliefe, therefore to bee punished according to Law.

1. Sir Gilbert Ireland, of Hutt and Hale, was High Sheriff of the County of Lancaster in 1622-23 and 1648-49. Early in February, 1649, directly after the execution of Charles I., Sir Gilbert, acting under an order from Parliament, issued a statement to the effect that whosoever proclaimed a new King without the authority of Parliament would be deemed a traitor. This statement was proclaimed and published in 20 of the towns of Lancashire (according to a letter Sir Gilbert sent to Lenthall, Speaker of the House of Commons); one of them being Preston, where the statement was proclaimed, &c., at 10 o'clock on the morning of February 10th. The name of Sir Gilbert appears in the out-burgess part of the Guild Rolls of Preston for 1622 and 1642; but his freedom does not seem to have been renewed at the Guild in 1662. He died in 1675.

2. The "Mr. Sudell" here referred to was William Sudell, Mayor of Preston during a portion of the municipal year 1671-2 (through the death of Thomas Walmsley). He was for many years an Alderman of the borough, and died in 1678.

3. A marginal note says, "Ye amerciment remitted."

4. The Judges would be returning from Lancaster Assizes—at this time Lancaster was the only Assize town in the county—and it is very probable they would put up for the night or stay for refreshments and a change of horses at the White Bull (now the Bull and Royal) Hotel, in Church-street. The Bull is a very old hotel. In 1693 it was demised by William Worden to Richard Jackson, on three lives, at a rent (after a preparatory lump-sum payment) of 40s. per annum. Some time afterwards it passed into the hands of William Bushell and others, from whom it was purchased, in 1731, by John Winder. Subsequently the Bull became the property of John Smalley and others. In 1773 they sold it to Lord Stanley, who succeeded as 12th Earl of Derby in 1776. Since his

Mr. Thomas Bannester and Mr. John Chorley, prsent Balives—that they pcure [procure] the Cawsey at ye further end of ye Stonygate betwixt ye platt and ye yate going to Avenham milne¹ to be paved at or before ye first day of September next, otherwise to pay xxs.

These psons following [Thomas Loxam, Thomas ffarnworth, Ralph Eeaves, and Thomas Hodgkinson]—that they sett styles in the anncient accustomed places in their severall closes Leading through ye Cliffs into meadow lane,² at or before ye 15th day of August next, otherwise to pay vjs. viijd. apiece.

Henry Graystocke hath taken away the stiles at ye west end of New well brow,³ and sufferrs his fences to ly open, wch is

purchase, in 1773, this hotel, has remained continuously in the possession of the Stanley family. If the Judges referred to in the presentment did not call at the Bull, it is almost certain they would halt at the next most commodious or important hotel then in Preston—the Castle Inn, Market Place, which was built in 1623.

1. This “milne” would be a wind mill, and would probably be near or on the high ground on the south side of Avenham-lane between Pleasant-street and Great Avenham-street.

2. “The Cliffs” were fields on the east side of the present West Cliff. A footpath, in some parts fenced, and open in others, went from the bottom of Mount-street westward, across the north end of the Cliffs, and then turned into Meadow-lane, on the line of which Grafton-street now mainly runs.

3. New well brow would be on the west side of Maudlands. A lane, going to some extent on the line of the present Podder-street, &c., crossed about half of the ground, being succeeded by a footpath which went westward over the other half, then down Spa Brow, and so to the Marsh. The west boundary of a pretty large enclosure, called Well Field, adjoined half of the Brow. “New well brow” may have been on this half: if not, then the sloping ground north-west, traversed by the footpath mentioned, which passed the Cold Bath, would probably be it (Cold Bath-street, which is near where ran a part of the old lane referred to—east end—got its name from this Bath). A few yards from the Bath—opposite the south end of it—there was a well. Immediately north-east of the Bath, which was done away with for bathing purposes about 1864, there was an enclosure which used to be called Spaw Brow Field (Wellington-terrace now occupies a portion of it); near it was Well Field, extending east as far as Ashton-street, and south-east to the lower part of the present Wellfield-road, whose name is obviously derived from this same field. It is probable a well, obtaining its supply from one of the springs above or east of the old well, was sunk not so long before the presentment was made; and, if this were the case, then the brow on the west side of the field in which it was situated might be designated “New well brow.”

very ly beleaved, and that upon good grounds, he intends to take ye advantages agt ye ownrs of such Cattle as shall enter therein, and that in respect hee hath severall times threatned the pindrs to Indict them for their going through ye said Browes, being an annient way to ye marsh, and therefore to pay xxs., and also to pay 5s. aweeke so long as ye said styles remains unsettt upp, and ye fences belonging to ye same unsufficiently made.

Great Court Leet held on October 15th, 1673. Edward Rigby, Steward, is the only Court official named in the heading.

Jury presentments:—

The Baliffes shall lay the hippin stones¹ anew in Cocker Hole and mend the railes before the first of January next, upon paine of xxs.

The scavenger[s] for not makeing cleane the Cawsey betwixt the two Channels from Browne Channell² to ye friergate Barrs, and yt for the future the scavengers shall doe the same upon paine of tenn shillings aweeke.

Henry Wilding shall scowre his ditch and lay a new platt at ye end of his close neare ye wind mill in Broad gate,³ before ye first of ffebr, upon paine of xxs.

Inquisition taken on February 18th, 1674, before George Addison (Mayor), William Werden and Josiah Gregson (Bailiffs), and Edward Rigby (Steward).

Presentment:—

Whereas there now is, and from ye time whereof ye memory of man is not to ye Contrary hath beene, a Comon and usuall ffootway in and through a certaine Lane or weend called

1. Hippin or hippping stones are large stones usually placed in a brook, &c., to enable persons on foot to step on them, and so cross the water without gettingt wet.

2. "Browne Channel" was in Friargate, and must have had its outlet at or somewhere near the present north end of Lune-street. An agreement which I have seen, dated August 23rd, 1713, relating to the sale of a house, &c., on the east side of Friargate—the site of the house now occupied by the Old Britannia Inn and that of other property by Lill's Court—describes the situation thereof as being "over against the Brown Channell."

3. This wind mill is not shown on any of the old maps.

Chetham Weend,¹ from a certaine streete in Preston called Churchgate unto ye Sykes, and so to Avenham and ye waterside, at ye entrance into wch said weend from ye sd street there hath Constantly every time of ffares, vizt., upon ye ffaire day wthin Preston aforesd, beene placed a pson to take and receive Toll from such psons as did at such times use and goe through ye sd way, Now wee find and prsent Mary Sudell, of Preston aforesd, widdow, for that shee the xxvijth day of March, in ye xxvith yeare of ye Raigne of our Sovereigne Lord King Charles ye seacond yt now is, did stopp ye sd way, by nailing and staking upp a dore at ye bottom of ye said Weend, and wch opens to ye said sykes, to ye Comon nuzance and prjudice of ye subjects of our sovereigne Lord ye King, and therefore wee doe amerce her in ye sume of xls., And if shee ye said Mary Sudell doe not open or cause ye sd way to bee opened as formerly in the usuall place upon or before the xth day of Aprill next, then wee doe amerce her more in ye further sume of xxs. a month.

Great Court Leet held on the 28th of April, 1674.

Presentments :—

Isabella Hall bought butter and other things and sold them again ye same day and Inhansed the markett thereby, and fine her in xs.

Hugh Aynscough and Richard Withington, ffarmors of ye ffishing in Ribble, that ye meases of their netts are straiter than ye statute in yt case directs, and fine them in xls. apiece.

1. The name of the "Lane or weend" mentioned does not appear on any of the old maps of the town. Lang's map shows four passages, between Water-street and Main Sprit Weind, running from the south side of Church-street down to the Sykes, viz., Stoneygate, the Bull Hotel yard, Turk's Head yard, and Old Cock yard. The passage in question could not be Stoneygate or Main Sprit Weind, for whenever reference is made to either of these in the Court Leet presentments the full name is given or very plainly indicated by the name of some adjoining place; nor could it be the Bull Hotel yard, which was a private or tenanted way directly connected with and forming part of the holding; neither would it be Turk's Head yard, for when the presentments was made that yard was called Cockshutt's backside; so it would seem that Chetham weend—a name which has been dropped for generations—must have been the passage now known as Old Cock yard.

Great Court Leet held on October 23rd, 1674, before James Ashton (Mayor) and Edward Rigby (Steward).

Presentments :—

These milnrs as trnsgressors agt ye Law in takeing unreasonable toll or moulter of Corne, therefore to bee punished accordingly—Willm Holme miller to Mrs. Eliz. Werden, George Bennet miller to Mr. John Langton, Adam Morris millr at Avenham millne, Rich. — millr at ye Marsh milne. It[em] wee doe thinke fitt that Mr. Maior cause to bee brought before him their toule dishes¹ to cause them to bee made right and sealed as othr measures.

John Gregson, Butcher, in yt hee ye 20th of June and ye 4th of July last, did Contrary to ye last Guild orders buy Calves before nine of ye Clocke, therefore to pay xxs. according to ye said order.²

Great Court Leet held on April 5th, 1675. The only official name which appears in the heading is that of Edward Rigby, Steward of the Court.

Presentments :—

Nicholas Watson³ for Laying his Timber in a certaine street of this towne called ye ffryergate, to ye great annoyance of ye Inhabitants, . . . [to] pay for ye said offence iij. s. viij. d., and yt he remove ye same before ye first day of August next, upon paine of xls.

Thomas Gregson for turning a heifer to ye Marsh wch hath not had a calfe, contrary to ye orders of this towne, to pay for ye said offence vj. s. viij. d.

1. See note p. 9.

2. Ordinarily, at this time, the cattle market was held in Church-street, every Saturday; and, as it did not open till nine o'clock in the morning, Gregson was guilty of forestalling.

3. Nicholas Watson was an old and most persistent offender. At time and time for upwards of 20 years he had thus trespassed, chiefly if not entirely in Friargate, and though proportionately "presented," and fined by the Court Leet, he apparently could not or would not refrain from this peculiar way of "Laying his Timber."

Edward Rigby,¹ Serjeant at Law, and Richard Kewerden, Dr. in phisicke,² being ye overseers of ye highways, for not repairing ye highways belonging to this Corporacon, and yt they cause ye way betwixt ye Almes houses at Churchgate end³ and ye Swillbrooke, ye high ways in Ribbleton lane, ye cawseye Rampier betwixt ye more brow and ye horse bridge leading to Caddiley,⁴ ye lane called Salter lane, and ye high way called ffishergate barrs⁵ and ye water side, to bee put into good repaire betwixt [now] and ye xvth of August next, upon paine of vl. apiece.

Great Court Leet held on [blank] day of October, 1675, before John Kellet (Mayor) and Edward Rigby (Steward).

Presentments :—

Henry Myres has built a lime kill at ye backe of his house, wch is to ye feare of all his neighbours ; wee doe therefore ordy yt hee pull down ye same before ye xxvth of March next, upon paine of xxs.

1. Edward Rigby—a son of Colonel Alexander Rigby, who had charge of the military operations against Lathom House during the first part of the memorable siege there in 1644-45—was Steward of the Court Leet, *i.e.*, Town Clerk. Between 1660 and 1680 he sat in three Parliaments as one of the representatives of Preston. In 1682 he was Clerk of the Guild here. He died in 1686.

2. Richard Kuerden was born at Cuerden, near Preston, about 1620. He was a physician, historical writer, &c. The bulk of what he wrote has never been printed. Much of his manuscript work is now in the Heralds' College, London; some of it is in the Chetham Library, Manchester; and a small portion of it is in the British Museum. A description of Preston, written by Dr. Kuerden between 1681 and 1687, was published (along with "occasional notes" from the pen of Mr. John Taylor) in 1818, by Mr. Isaac Wilcockson, printer, &c., Market Place, Preston. This was the first history of the town which, up to that time, had appeared in print.

3. The Almshouses were opposite the bottom of Church-street, and the "way" between them and Swillbrook consisted of the present Stanley-street and the higher part of London-road.

4. "Moor brow" would be that part of the high road extending from Moor Brook, at the bottom of Moor-lane, to the present entrance to Moor Park Avenue. "The horse bridge" would be at the entrance to a lane on the west side of the brow, about midway, and something like 100 yards from the highway. Water from a pit, north of Gallows Hill, ran under a small bridge there, into Moor Brook. The lane passed Moor Hall, and from it there branched at different points two footpaths to Cadley; one entering Cadley near the present Plungington Hotel, and the other opposite what used to be Hatch Mill.

5. Fishergate barrs should be Fishergate.

Ye supvisors of ye highways . . . repaire ye lane at Cockerhole along from ye fflagged Cawsey to ye scholehouse before ye xxvth of March next upon paine of xxs.

Great Court Leet held on April 4th, 1676, before John Kellet (Mayor) and Edward Rigby (Steward).

Presentments :—

Ye lane called Ribbleton-lane, ye lane leading downe to Broadgate,¹ ye lane Leading to Ribble Bridge,² ye lane Leading to ye Marsh,³ ye more lane,⁴ ye Long causey upon ye more leading to ye horsebridge,⁵ and ye Lane Leading to ye nearer end of ye Marsh called ffryer weend,⁶ are all out of repaire, and ought to bee repaired by this towne of Preston. And wee do judge and verily beleewe yt tenn pounds may bee a Competent sume to put ye same in good repaire.

David Poole being elected and chosen houselooker by ye Maior and Councell, according to ye custome of this towne, for yt he neglects and refuses to execute his office, therefore to pay vli.

Great Court Leet held on the 13th of October, 1676, before William Lemon (Mayor)⁷ and Edward Rigby (Steward).

1. Fishergate-lane—the present Fishergate Hill.

2. London-road, which at the time the presentment was made diverged west near the top of what is now called "Walton Brow," then went along the back of and not far from the site of Swillbrook Mill, crossed Swillbrook-lane, next slanted to the south, and going along "a winding hollow, down the centre of a sharply-sloping field, came out at the Ribble side, close to the then existing old bridge, about 130 yards below or west of the present bridge.

3. Marsh-lane or Fylde-road.

4. Moor lane.

5. This would lead across the North Moor into Fulwood.

6. "ffryer weend" obviously means "ffryer-lane"—afterwards called Bridge-lane, and now part of Marsh-lane. When the presentment was made there was in Preston a small street or passage named "ffryer weend": it was what in after times went by the name of Anchor Weind—a narrow, dingy way, running from the top end of Friargate, near the north-west corner of the Market Place, to the bottom of Lord-street. Anchor Weind and Lord-street were done away with in 1895-96 to make room for street and building improvements on the north side of the Market Place.

7. Lemon is the name of an old and very important local family. At an early time there were persons bearing this name in Walton-le-Dale. William mentioned in the Court Leet heading was for numerous years an

Presentments :—

Mr. Nicholas Wall and Mr. Nicholas Walmsley, late Baliffs, for not collecting ye tenn pounds assessed for ye reparaire of ye highwayes.

Thomas Sumpner, Ralph Eaves, and Ellize Makin—yt they reparaire ye houses belonging to ye towne upon ye Sykehill before ye xxvth of March next, upon ye penalty of xxs. apiece.

Great Court Leet held on April 5th, 1677, before William Lemon (Mayor) and Edward Rigby (Steward).

Presentments :—

Ye supvisors of the highways that they reparaire ye Cawsey from ye ffishergate barrs all along as farr as ye same has usually gone,¹ formerly presented, and not done; therefore we find [fine] them in xxvjs. viiijd.

Mr. Serjt. Rigby [Steward of the Court] for not scouring of his ditch Leading to Davel Bridge, formrly prsented, and yet not done, wee therefore find [fine] him in xxs.

Alderman Kellett² has broaken ye Cawsey all along from ye schole house to ye wind mill field; wee therefore find him in vis. viiijd.

Thomas Hoghton, strongwaterman,³ not being a freeman

Alderman and five times elected Mayor of Preston (1676-85-94, 1703-15). In 1723 he prayed to be relieved of his Aldermanship "by reason of his advanced age and infirmities," and his request was complied with. Near the end of the following year he died, at the age of 78, and was buried at Preston. He was never married, and "appears to have been the last male descendant of the Lemons of Preston."

1. The repairable length would be from the "barrs" to the bottom of Fishergate-hill and thence along Broadgate to its outer or south end.

2. Alderman Kellett was the Mayor's Bailiff in 1665-6. In 1673 he was made an Alderman. In 1675, and again in 1684, he was elected Mayor. He was one of a deputation of eight members of the Council who in 1687 went to Chester, and there presented an address from the Preston Corporation to James II., congratulating him as King of England, and expressing "loyalty to his royal person and the house of Stuart." It is said that "two Aldermen's daughters" accompanied the deputation "in order to receive the King's touch"—a supposed cure for "King's evil." Mr. Kellett, whose Christian name was John, continued to be an Alderman till his death, which took place in 1693.

3. Hoghton would be a maker or seller of distilled or ardent spirits. "Strong-water" used to be the name given to such spirits.

of this towne, wee do therefore order to remove forthwith, otherwise to pay ye sune of xli.

Great Court Leet held on April 9th, 1678, before Luke Hodgkinson (Mayor) and Edward Rigby (Steward).

Presentments:—

John Millington for getting whins upon spittle mosse, not being free of this Corporacon, to pay iij*s*. iiij*d*.

Richard Woods, for that he suffreth his servts to water horses in ye Buckett at ye well in ye Markett place, to ye great Prjudice of his neighbours, to pay iij*s*. iiij*d*.

Mr. Roger Sudell and Mr. Ralph Woodhouse, prsent Baliffs, for that they have not repaired ye townes streets to pay xls. . . . [and] yt they repaire the townes hall in xxty days or els to pay xxs.

Great Court Leet held on October 14th, 1678, before Lawrence Wall (Mayor) and Edward Rigby (Steward).

Presentments:—

James Moncke, Hoggatt, and Unsworth, for suffring their horses to standing in Arams backside,¹ upon markett dayes, to ye great danger and prjudice of any that pass that way, to pay iij*s*. iiij*d*. apiece.

Tildesley Atkinson and Mary Bateson for being easing droppers under James Halls widdowe [window], to pay vj*s*. viij*d*. apiece.

1. Not far from the Market Place—about 70 yards from the north-east corner, and in a diagonal line with it—there was at one time an open, oblong place called Aram's Backside. In or about 1686 it got a fresh name—was called Molyneux-square. after its then owner (Mr. Thomas Molyneux, second son of Sir John Molyneux), who had made various material improvements in or about it)—and for a great number of years it was known by this name. Molyneux-square occupied a portion of what is now Lancaster-road—about 40 yards of it; the western side being mainly in line with and covered in length by the higher end of the new County Sessions House and the top of Harris-street, whilst the opposite side extended from the front of Ward's End, or World's End, to where the Education Offices now stand, at the corner of Lord-street. On the western side of the Square there used to be a large, substantial-looking brick house, which was occupied for some time in the first half of last century by Mr. James Cheetham, an eccentric veterinary surgeon; and there are reasons for believing that if this were not Aram House it stood upon or very near the site of that residence.

Inquisition taken on February 13th, 1679, before Thomas Winckley (Mayor), John Chorley and Jonathan Seed (Bailiffs), and Edward Rigby (Steward).

Presentments :—

John Ryding had swine graseing in ye Church yard, and ye pinders offring by our appoyntmt to take the same to ye pinfould Hee the said John Ryding or some by his appoyntmt rescued the same swine from ye said pinders, and therefore wee amerce him in ye sune of 1s. for his two swine their so being graseing, and for his Rescue in ye further sune of iijs. iiijd.

The Bailiffes—that they make a new yate and a new Cuck-stoole at ye Churchgate towne end before ye xxth of Aprill, upon paine of 13s. 4d.

The pinders of this towne—that they rake and gather the sticks and wrecke from of ye marsh and burne ye same, and spread ye Ashes, before ye xxth of Aprill next, upon paine of xijs. iiijd.

Great Court Leet held before Lawrence Wall (Mayor) and Edward Rigby (Steward), on March 27th, 1679.

Presentments :—

Willm Welsh for a blood wipe upon the body of Christopher Woodburne, the said Christopher being one of the Jury, to pay vjs. viijd.

These persons followinge for gettinge of Clay, in the high way at the end of the towne, called Churchgate towne end, to the great Decay of the highway—Sr John Mollinx¹ to pay vjs. viijd., Robert Serjeant to pay iijs. iiijd., William Werden to pay 13s. 4d.

1. Sir John Molyneux was the third baronet of Teversall, Nottinghamshire—a branch of the family of Molyneux, Earls of Sefton. He married Lucy, daughter of Colonel Alexander Rigby, of Middleton, in Goosnargh, the officer in charge of the first siege operations against Lathom House; and at or about the time the presentment was made he had some property in Preston. At the Guild in 1682 he was enrolled an out-burges of the borough. Thomas Molyneux, his second son, of whom mention was made in a prior note, was a Turkey merchant, had a residence in Preston, and for some time was a man of political consequence here. He was one of the M.P.'s for Preston from 1695 to 1698, and at an election in 1701 he was again returned as a Parliamentary representative of the borough.

John Baly, Blacksmith, for lettinge his fence to lye Downe unto a Coman feild called Watter Willows, to the great Loss to the occupiers in their Corne, to pay xiijs. iiijd.

Christopher Greenfeild, Esqr.,¹ for Stopinge up the high way Leadinge through a Street called fryergate, and Soe through a house called Heskath house to a certaine croft called Heskath Croft² in 40s. The said Mr. Greenfeild for not erecting a Style at the end of the said croft westward, leadinge to a certaine laine called Green layne and soe forward [fined] in vjs. viijd.

Great Court Leet held on April 20th, 1680, before Thomas Winckley (Mayor) and Edward Rigby (Steward).

Presentments :—

Those psons following for not appearing at this Leet Cort to pay iijs. iiijd. apiece.³

Edward Hollinhurst, Hugh Simmon, John Harrison, Evan Hughson, ffarmrs of ye ffishing of Ribble, for yt they ffish wth unlawfull netts, contrary to ye statute in yt case made and provided, to pay xiijs. iiijd. apiece.

He rearranged and improved a part of the town afterwards known as Molyneux-square. In 1715 he built, a short distance from that square, a range of shambles: they occupied some slightly elevated ground which many years afterwards formed one side of the south end of Lancaster-road—ground which, when the shambles, &c., were demolished some years ago, was made level with the adjoining streets, and which the eastern walls of the Miller Arcade and the Free Library, as well as the interjacent top of Jacson-street, now cover. Thomas Molyneux's son and heir (Rigby Molyneux) was the High Sheriff of Lancashire in 1749; and his (Thomas's) only daughter, Lucy, married Dr. Bushell, the founder of Goosnargh Hospital.

1. Christopher Greenfield was a descendant of the Greenfields originally of Whalley and Wiswell (tenants under the monastery of Whalley); his father being Thomas Greenfield, gent., of Witton. He (Christopher) practised for some time, as an attorney-at-law, in Preston: he married Sarah, daughter of Dr. Bushell, Vicar of Preston; was one of the M.P.'s for Preston from the 20th of March, 1689-90, to the 22nd of November, 1695; was knighted in 1693; and died in 1706.

2. For Hesketh Croft see note p. 77. Green-lane was near such Croft, and may have derived its name through proximity to a bowling green between Bridge-street and Edward-street.

3. Fifty-two are named. Apparently they were amongst those burgesses liable to serve as Jurymen at the Court, and had not, at time and time, complied with notices to attend.

Great Court Leet held on October 13th, 1680, before Thomas Hodgkinson (Mayor) and Edward Rigby (Steward).

Presentments:—

Nicholas Watson, contrary to ye ordrs of this towne and Mr. Maiors pclamacon by ye bellman, letts his Timber ly in ye street before his house, And his seller staires are very dangerous for ye inhabitants of this towne to passe by in ye night; therefore to pay vis. viijd. for ye time past, and remove his Timber and secure his Celler in tenn days time, upon paine of xxs. [Also] hee Letteth his ffence in ye croft called Bostocke croft¹ Ly downe to ye great annoyance of ye neighbourhood; That he make upp ye said ffence betwixt [now] and ye 15th of January next upon paine of xls.

These psons following keepe Greyhounds and course haire contrary to ye statute in that case made and pvided²; that they pay according to ye statute:—Randle Chorlicar, Roger Bannester, gen., Richard Woods, John Blackledge, Thomas Bostocke, Thomas Hatch.

John Garlicke, not being a ffreeman in this Corporation, doth suffer his wife to brew and sell Ale, and she refused to let ye Ale founders tast their Ale or measure their Quarts³; therefore wee fine ye sd John Garlicke in vis. viijd., And leave it to Mr. Maior and Councell to suppress him for ye time to come.

1. Watson resided in Friargate, and it is possible that Bostocke Croft was in the neighbourhood thereof.

2. The 22 and 23 Chas. II., c. 25. This statute prohibited all persons except such as had a freehold estate worth £100 per annum or a leasehold for 99 years of £150 annual value, or were the sons and heirs apparent of 'squires, from having or keeping any greyhounds or other game dogs, or any guns, bows, ferrets, nets, lowbels, air pipes, gins, snares or other engines for the purpose of taking or destroying game; the penalty for non-compliance with such statute being a fine or the seizure of "engines," &c., according to the discretion of the judicial authorities.

3. In the 17th century, when there were married women living at alehouses, such women rather than their husbands had charge of the business, and they were called ale wives; but this name was not confined exclusively to married females connected with such houses. Ale wife meant a woman that kept an ale house; wife being used in the sense of woman, and hence it was a name which was applied to single and married as well as to widowed females. The feminine suffix in the word "brewster" shows that brewing was formerly a woman's trade.

Great Court Leet held on April 8th, 1681, before Thomas Hodgkinson (Mayor) and Edward Rigby (Steward).

Presentments :—

Lawrence Shepard for throwing Carrion in ye highway nere unto Titmouse barne to pay vis. viijd.

The houselookers for not doing their duty to pay xxs.

Ye supvisors of ye highways for not doing their duty to pay xxs.

Great Court Leet held on October 14th, 1681, before Roger Sudell (Mayor) and Edward Rigby (Steward).

Presentments :—

The highwayes within the towne of Preston, vizt., the lane leading downe to broadgate, ye lane called ffryer lane leading to ye Marsh, ye lane leading from Spittle Mosse to ye Marsh, ye way from ffryergate barrs to Spittle Mosse, ye way leading downe to ye west moore,¹ ye ways leading from ye east end of ye towne to Ribbleton and Swillbrooke, are all out of repaire and in very great decay, and wee conceive yt xiiijl. wold bee a competent sume towards ye repaire of ye same wayes.

Lawrence Cowp, for oppressing ye Commons by keeping CC sheepe, four horses or Maires, and two kine, to pay vli.

Inquisition taken on February 16th, 1682, before Roger Sudell (Mayor), Thomas Werden and Evan Hughson (Bailiffs), and Edward Rigby (Steward).

Presentments :—

Thomas Stirzaker and John Hodgkinson for spoyling of ye new well at Churchgate Townend,² to ye prjudice of ye neighebouhood, to pay xs.

The Bailiffes—that they fill upp ye skinpitts at Marsh Millne dame side³ before ye first of May, upon paine of xxs.

Sir Edward Chisenhall⁴ and Mr. John Lawe—that they lay

1. "West more" would be the western portion of Preston Moor, and would embrace part of the land between Fylde-road and Cadley.

2. This well would, in all probability, be near the Almshouses which used to stand at the east end of Church-street.

3. These "skinpitts" would be tanpits.

4. Sir Edward Chisenhall was a son of Edward Chisenhall, Esq., of Chisnall or Chisenhall Hall, in Coppull. This was the mansion of the

a raile and raise ye ramper at ye bridge leading to Daw Bancke,¹ and to repaire ye Bridge and lay a raile at ye bridge leading to Oxhey,² before ye first of Aprill next, upon paine of xxs. apiece.

Ye occupyers of Crowne lane³—yt they sett a gate at ye lane end next to ye moore lane, before ye 25th of March next, upon paine of vjs. viijd. apiece, and ye occupyers and in pticular their names.

Richard Woods for denying to fill ye townes Gallon⁴ with Ale for 6d. to pay vjs. viijd.

Henry Myers to fill upp his clay pitts on ffryergate moore⁵ before ye first of May or pay xxs.

Chisenhall family. Sir Edward's father, who was residing at the hall (now a farmhouse) in 1635, if not somewhat later, was one of the captains in the defence of Lathom House, during the siege of it in 1644-45. Sir Edward Chisenhall was knighted in 1671. He was one of the Parliamentary representatives of Wigan in 1688-9—in the Whig interest. In December, 1690, he was elected Tory M.P. for Preston, defeating Thomas Patten (Whig candidate), of Patten House, Preston, by 57 votes; and he held this position till the election in November, 1695. Sir Edward died in or about 1718. The Chisanalls who became out-burgesses of Preston in 1622 and 1642—Alexander, of Coppull, in the former year, and Edward in the latter—may have been related to the family of Sir Edward Chisenhall.

1. See note p. 115.

2. See note p. 104.

3. Crowne-lane took the line of the present Cragg's-row and Harrison's-hill, on the east side of Moor-lane. Three moderately-sized, closely-adjoining fields at one time extended eastward from Crown-lane as far as the present Lancaster-road, and included, transversely, the space, now occupied by streets, &c., bounded by Singleton-row on the north and Elizabeth-street on the south. Two of the fields were respectively called Crown, and the third was named Crown Piece. Crown-street runs along what used to be the inner or lower side of the northernmost of these fields.

4. Richard Woods had probably been giving short measure when selling his "sixpenny" and refused to have his gallon measure compared with the standard gallon kept by the town.

5. When this presentment was made Preston Moor, or the moorland belonging to Preston, would, there can be little if, indeed, any doubt at all, extend south as far as the bottom end of Friargate—to a point in line with the end of the present Adelphi-street—a street which was not laid out till about 1830; and it is fairly presumable that the land here would be that described in the presentment as "ffryergate moore." Moor-lane would flank on the south-east or cross diagonally a portion of the same moorland.

Ye Baliffes—that they make up ye usuall number of Bucketts,¹ in good order, before ye xxiiijth of May, upon paine of vli.

Great Court Leet held on April 17th, 1682, before Roger Sudell (Mayor) and Edward Rigby (Steward).

Presentments:—

Wee prsent the severall persons following for not appeare-
ing at this Court.²

Thomas Patten, Esqr., for suffering his Milne Damme, upon the Marsh, to goe out of repaire, in the sume of 40s. if the same bee not repaired at or before the 24th day of June next.

The following, being Guild burgesses of this Corporacon, and not haveing taken the oath of a Burgesse, doe amerce them in 12d. apiece, if they doe not take the said oath before the tenth of July next.³

The Bayliffes for not repaireing the Church gate Barrs, and amerce them 6s. 8d.

Inquisition taken on February 11th, 1683, before James Ashton (Mayor), Richard Langton and Richard Woods (Bailiffs), and Edward Rigby (Steward).

Presentments:—

Ye Baliffs for want of a Cuckstoole to pay xxxs.

Thurstan Darwen for keeping and selling goods by false weights to pay xxli.

James Holt for hartlouring of A woman and 3 children, being strangers, to pay xxxli.⁴

Great Court Leet held on April 11th, 1683, before George Addison (Mayor) and Edward Rigby (Steward).

Presentments:—

Mr. George Addison, Major, for not scowring his ditch at banckhead,⁵ to pay iijs. iiijd.

1. These buckets would be for the town's draw wells.

2. The names of twelve persons are given, ten being fined 12d. each. and two, "being of the Councell of the Towne," 5s. apiece.

3. Fifty are named.

4. A marginal note says—"The psons being long since removed, James Holt to pay iijs. iiijd."

5. See note p. 41.

Mr. sergt Rigby [Steward of the Court] for Laying rubbidge in fryer weend to ye prjudice of ye highway to pay xxs.

Ye Bailiffes for want of a sufficient Bridge betwixt this towne and Ashton to pay xxs.

Willm, ye son of John Woods, for abuseing and fighting and drawing blood upon ye body of Ralph Comander, one of this Jury, for offring to hinder him from watering horses in ye Buckett at ye well in ye markett place, to pay xls.

Great Court Leet held on October 15th, 1683, before James Ashton (Mayor) and Edward Rigby (Steward).

Presentments:—

Thomas Hill for driveing a malt trade wthin this Corporacon, not being ffree, to pay xxi.

Roger Santer for an assall and drawing blood upon ye body of Thomas Kirkby, of Lancr post,¹ to pay iij*s*. iiij*d*.

These psons following for Slaughtering beefs and killing veales and muttons in ye shambles, contrary to ye Gyld order, to bee amced [amerced] at ye discrecon of ye Major and Councell.²

1. Kirkby would be either the postman, per horse, or have charge of the postal arrangements between Preston and Lancaster.

2. Thirty-three persons are named. The Shambles were near the east end of the Moot Hall, which stood on some ground now occupied by the Town Hall. After they had been done away with, miscellaneous shops were built on their site. The thoroughfare in which these shops were situated was called the Old Shambles down to the time when the ground they covered was required for street widening and structural purposes in connection with Miller Arcade. The parapet or footway adjoining the west end of this Arcade runs over the land on which the shops stood. The order referred to was made at the Guild in 1682. It stated that the slaughtering of beasts in the Shambles and other places in and about the Moot Hall, where was commonly a large concourse of people, was most manifestly a great nuisance, and might occasion if not prevented distempers and diseases; that such slaughtering was also a great nuisance and prejudicial to the Mayor, Bailiffs, and Burgesses when they assembled in the Moot Hall, to the inhabitants residing near the Shambles, and to "other his Maties Leige Subjects;" that the Guild Mayor, Stewards, and Aldermen had decided that slaughtering in the Shambles was "a great Nuisance and unfit and dangerous to be continued;" and that no person after the 24th of June in the following year—"after the Sealing up of this present Guild"—should "slay or kill or cause to be slayne or killed any manner of Cattle or Beasts in the said Shambles or within any

Inquisition taken on February 4th, 1684, before John Kellett (Mayor), and Roger Pigott and Daniel Dunster (Bailiffs).

Presentments :—

These psons following for forestalling ye markett, in buying of ffish before ye Inhabitance are fitted, to pay 40s.¹

James Whittle—yt he make up his Garding hedge, on back of ye Sevenstarrs,² before 10th of Aprill, upon paine of 6s. 8d.

Great Court Leet held on April 4th, 1684, before James Ashton (Mayor) and Edward Rigby (Steward).

Presentments :—

Ellen Cottam, wid [widow]—yt she contrary to ye Gild Ordrs harboureth John Hatch, shoemaker, being a fforaignr, and

house, Shopp, or place neare unto the same, nor within any Shopp or place next adjoyninge to any of the Publique Streetes within the Barrs of this Towne, upon paine to forfeite and pay to the use of the Mayor, Bailiffs, and Burgesses of this Burrough for every Bull, Oxe, or Cow slaughtered contrary to this Order the summe of five Shillings, And for every Sheepe, Calfe, Swine, or other Beast two shillings sixpence. And it is hereby declared and appointed that the Place or Markett in this Towne for selling of fflesh shall be continued and kept as formerly in the present Shambles and places about the Townes Hall, And noe Butchers be admitted to Expose fflesh to Sale in other places of this Towne Except by leave of the Major [Mayor], when the fulness of the Markett may Require the same, on penaltie of ffive shillings, to be paid as fforfeiture for every such offence, to the use of the Mayor, Bailiffs, and Burgesses of this Burrough."

1. Six persons are named. One of the Guild orders in force at this time directed that no person should "regrate or buy up any butter, eggs, cheese, fish, flesh, cockles, mussels, nuts, fruit, or other victuals and things after the same is brought into the market," in a wholesale manner or for the purpose of re-sale, until the same had been exposed or offered for sale by retail for at least two hours.

2. A Court Leet presentment made in 1695 states that the "Seven Starrs" was in Friargate; but it does not mention any particular part of the street. The present Grey Horse and Seven Stars Inn, on the north side of Fishergate, has been a licensed house since about 1820. Its original name was the Grey Horse. Another Grey Horse inn, which existed before it and which for some time remained open concurrently with it, was in Church-street—adjoined the premises (much altered at different times in the second half of last century) now known as Addison's vaults, on the south side of Church-street, opposite the end of Lancaster-road; but the name of this place, as a public-house, never underwent any enlargement. When the other Grey Horse—that in Fishergate—was opened there was no public-house called the Seven Stars in Preston. Why or when this Grey Horse got its name enlarged, astrally, is a problem.

yt shee remove him before ye first day of August next, upon paine of vjs. viijd.¹

Mr. Roger Bannester² contrary to ye peace and well governmt of this incorporacon, and contrary to ye oath of a Burgesse, did assalt Roger Walshman, one of ye serjts of this towne, in ye execucon of his office, by throwing stones at him and knocking him downe and wounding him in ye head, to ye hazard of his liffe ; therefore do ffyne him in xs.

Thomas Bradley, Taylor, hath sevall bastards in this towne, and hath left them to bee maintained at ye town's charge, and although he absent himselfe yet hee keepeth journey men and apprentices to follow ye calling of a Taylor in this towne, And therefore wee thinke it fitt yt all or most of ye said bastard children should bee maintained out of ye gettings of ye said servts, and do leave it to ye consideracon of ye Maior and Councell.

Great Court Leet, held on May 14th, 1685, before John Kellett (Mayor) and John Warren (Recorder).³

Presentments :—

James Cowp caused his horse or mair to be ffilead⁴ in ye open street, to ye great Anoyance of ye Inhabitants of this

1. A marginal note says—"Wee conceive this presentmt illegal."

2. Roger Bannester was a son of William Bannester, who was Mayor of Preston in 1662-3.

3. John Warren was a son of John Warren, of Poynton, co. Chester; several Warrens, evidently relatives of his, were enrolled as out-burgesses of Preston at the Guild in 1602; he became an out-burgess himself in 1662, the names of his father and a brother (Edward) also appearing in the same part of the Roll for that year; he was a Justice of the Peace for the county of Chester and for North Wales; on the 20th of November, 1684, at a meeting of the Preston Corporation, he was nominated Recorder or Steward of the borough, and at the same time it was decided that his name should be inserted in the new Charter—the Charter which received the Royal seal, at Westminster, on the 14th of January, 1685, and in which it was stated that he was appointed "first and present Recorder" of the borough of Preston. Warren retained the Recordership till his death, in 1706, when he was succeeded in that position by Nicholas Starkie, "Her Majesty's Attorney General for the County Palatine of Lancaster."

4. "ffilead" means flayed.

Towne, Contrary to ye Laws and good Govermt of this Corporation, And therefore to pay ten shillings.

The platt over ye Scoole dike at ye Lower end of Stoniegate is both too Lowe and too Narrow; yt upon a flush of Rayne itte over fflowed with water, soe yt his Majestys subjects in Comming to the markett in this towne and Scollers goeing and comeinge to and from the Scoole are very much Incomoded; yt ye Baliffes of this towne Raise ye Cawsey and lay a Broader Bridge before ye 24th day of June next, upon paine of 20s.

John Hodgkinson, Currier, and John Hall, Shoemaker, Beinge appoynted Searchers and Sealers of Lether for this Corporacon, doth not discharge their duty in their places, but suffereth shoos to be sould in ye Markett, by Edward Sumpner, that are made up wth horse Lether, contrary to ye statute, and therefore to pay 3s. 4d. apeece.

Great Court Leet held on October 20th, 1685, before William Lemon, junr. (Mayor), and John Warren (Recorder).

Presentments:—

The Late Baliffs, Mr. Robt. Pigot and Mr. Daniel Dunster, for neglecting to Plant or Sett 20 plants, vizt., of Oaks, Ash, Elme, and Populor, according to an ordr made the last Gill, to pay 01l.; the prsent Baliffs, Mr. Joseph King and Mr. Jo. Ratcliffe plant or sett 20 plants upon the towns Land where is most needfull betwixt [now and] the 25th March next, otherwise to pay 01l-00-00.¹

These psons following, for not making their brick sizable according to the statute, vizt., 10 Inch longe, 5 Inch broad, 2 and a half in thicknesse, to pay 00l. 15s. 00d. a piece.²

1. Owing to the damage done by flood water from the Ribble, an order was made, at the Guild, in 1682, directing that the Bailiffs were to plant, every year, at least twenty young oak, ash, elm, poplar, or red withing trees, on the town's waste lands, to be used for the repair or employed in the making of cauls on the north side of the Ribble, for the preservation of the Marsh: and it was further directed by the said order that all the tenants of land belonging to the Corporation must plant certain trees for the like purpose.

2. Three persons are named. Ordinary bricks are now generally 9in. long, 4½in. wide, and 3in. thick, or 1in. shorter, ½in. narrower, and ½in. thicker than the common bricks which were used, or required by Act of Parliament to be made, at the time of the presentment, 220 years ago.

These psons following for Watering their horses at the well in fryergate, by the Red Lyon, to pay 00l-03s-04d. a piece.¹

Inquisition taken on January 31st, 1686, before Lawrence Wall (Mayor).

Presentment :—

Willm Wearden—that he scoure the ditch belonging to the White Horse neare to the Water side and amend the foote way betwixt [now] and the 24th of March next.²

Great Court Leet held on October 22nd, 1686, before Lawrence Wall (Mayor) and John Warren (Recorder).

Presentment :—

These psons following for not enrolling their Apprentices, according to an ordr made the last Guild, whereby they have

1. Two are named. The "Red Lyon" would, no doubt, be the name of a public-house, and it would be situated towards the north or the south end of Friargate—which end it is now impossible to definitely say, but probably the latter. Many years afterwards there were two public-houses, respectively called the Red Lion, in Church-street: the older inn, which was done away with in the early part of last century, stood on the north side of Church-street, its site being near the centre of what is now the front of Miller Arcade; the other was the present Red Lion Hotel, in the same thoroughfare, opposite the Conservative Workingmen's Club.

2. No penalty for default is mentioned. The White Horse would be an inn or beerhouse, probably the former, and, if it were actually "neare to the water side," *i.e.*, the side of the Ribble, then it is presumable that it was either the building now known as the "Regatta" inn, at the bottom of Fishergate-hill, or that it stood on or near the site of such building. Presuming, however, that the house was up in the town, then it is not unlikely that it was in Friargate. For many years—though I have not been able to get at any date carrying back its existence to the time when the presentment was made—there was a public-house called the "White Horse" in Friargate: it was at the top of that thoroughfare—on the south-west side, opposite the corner of the present "George" inn. The parents of Richard Palmer, who was Town Clerk of Preston for 51 years, and one of the county coroners for about 53 years, and who died in 1852, in the 80th year of his age, kept the "White Horse" inn, Friargate, at one time—this was when Richard was young; and it is said that after the death of his father the business at the inn was conducted by his mother, "with credit and success for many years." In 1886, after the "White Horse" had been purchased by Mr. A. Clemesha, the license was allowed to lapse, voluntarily, and the premises were subsequently transformed into a shop and a restaurant—the present Nos. 1 and 2.

forfeited for every apprentice xxs., but doe give them tyme till the first of May next for enrolling the same.¹

Great Court Leet held on October 26th, 1687, before Nicholas Walmsley (Mayor) and John Warren (Recorder).

Presentments:—

Ellis Making—yt he draw a gripp² and lett ye ffoot way dry on ye washing stead brow,³ before ye seacond day of ffebr next, upon paine of vjs. viijd.

Mr. Ralph Rishton for not raiseing his pentice,⁴ at ye Corner of cheapside leading into ye markt place, as also John Whittiker for his pentice, wch if not raised before ye xxvth day of March next either of them to pay vjs. viijd.

Great Court Leet held on May 10th, 1688, before Nicholas Walmsley (Mayor) and John Warren (Recorder).

1. Nineteen persons are named. The Guild Order referred to, made in 1682, was as follows:—"For preventing of ffraudes and abuses in takeing apprentices by Tradesmen within this Towne, it is Ordered by the Major [Mayor], Stewards, and Aldermen of this present Guild, and by the authority of the same, that all Apprentices either to Shopkeepers or any Machanic Trade within this Towne shall be taken by Indenture, And that the Masters of such apprentices shall within one month after the Sealeing the Indenture attend the Maior for the time being with his said Apprentice, and then shall procure a short entry or Inrollment to be made in a Booke to be kept for that purpose, containyng the names of the Master and apprentice with the Addition of the Masters Trade or Misterie, the date of the Indenture, and the [time the] said Apprentice is to serve. And it is further Ordered that the Steward or his Deputy shall provide a Booke and make the said Entries in the presence of the Major for the time being, and for his paines in the entry of every Apprentice shall not take or demand above twelve pence. And in case any Master make default in making entry of the said Apprentice in manner aforesaid, then to pay to the use of the Major, Bayliffs, and Burgesses Twenty Shillings by way of fforfeiture; but if the Apprentice is bound at the Townes charge, then the said Entry or Inrollment to be made Gratis."

2. "Gripp" means a small ditch or furrow.

3. "Washing stead brow" was at the south end of Avenham walk. The two terraces in connection with the Walk were made out of it. The Washing Stead, or washing place, was near the mouth of Swillbrook, and just below the brow. At the time the presentment was made the brook was quite an open one.

4. Pentice means a sloping roof on one side only; or a pent house; also a shed standing aslope from the main wall or building and now called a lean-to.

Presentment:—

Henry Graystocke¹ for keeping geese and swine upon ye Marsh, and saying he neither cared for ye Jury nor the presentments, wee find him in xls.

Great Court Leet held on October 26th, 1688, before Thomas Winckley (Mayor) and John Warren (Recorder).

Presentments:—

The Highwaies about this Towne are very far out of repaire, especially the ffishergate lane, Toolketh lane, More lane, and Churchgate town end down to Swilbrooke, and wee Judge twenty marce² may repaire them.

The draw well in the Market place hath beene abused by some disolute person; therefore that the Bayliffes doe forthwith cause it to be clenسد, upon payne of 10s.

The draw wells in the friergate, Market-place, and fishergate are very dangerous to the people of this town, and that the Baylifes set posts and Rales about the said wells betwixt [now] and the 25th of March next, on payment of 20s.

Great Court Leet held on October 18th, 1689, before William Werden (Mayor) and John Warren (Recorder).

Presentments:—

Willm Seddon, James Mosse, and Evan Graystocke for not repairing, laying, and finding a sufficient bridge leading betwixt spittle mosse and towards Hatch Mill,³ if not done before ye xth of Novembr next to pay xs.

1. Graystocke was an in-burgess, and resided in Friargate.

2. Mark. The value of a mark was 13s. 4d.

3. Hatch Mill was in Cadley, near the confluence of the Savock and Eaves Brook, and about 150 yards west of where the London and North-Western Railway now runs. The road to it—that mentioned in the presentment—would begin at Green Bank, going along the west side thereof, then pass by the side of one or more fields, cross others, and so on northward to the mill; the main length of it taking the form of a foot-path. Hatch Mill derived its name from a family or a person who originally owned or worked the concern, named Hatch, and had a contiguous residence. Early in the 18th century (1705) there was a William Hatch living, and it is very probable that he owned or was very directly connected with Hatch Mill, for at a Court Leet held in the year named he, along with another person, was “presented” for not setting a rail at the side of a bridge between Preston and Hatch Mill. In the last

Ye occupyers of ye Myter¹ for suffring an open Wall and a breach therein to lye open betwixt ye said Myter and Willm Cottams, wch is a newsance, if not repaired betwixt and December next to pay xs.

quarter of the same century, according to the pedigree of the Haydocks of Bartle and Leach Hall, William Haydock, son of George Haydock, of the Tag, in Ingol, married Mary, daughter of "Oliver Hatch, of Hatch Mill," who was, no doubt, related to the builder or primary owner of the mill, and in all probability was a direct descendant of Oliver Hatch who was enrolled an in-burgess of Preston at the Guilds in 1642 and 1662. Hatch Mill was in the first instance worked entirely by water from the Savock, the original dam being close to it, on the east side. Later an additional dam, farther up the course of the Savock—on the higher side of the railway—was made, used for numerous years, and then done away with. The work of the mill was mainly, if not entirely, confined to corn grinding; and for a considerable time in the latter part of its career, steam as well as water power was used. The mill was demolished and the old dam filled up in or about 1879. For several years before it was done away with, this ancient corn-grinding concern was called Cadley Mill. The miller's house—Mill Bank—is still standing, and is now, as it has been for the past 35 years, occupied by William Noblett, who last worked the mill.

1. The "Mitre" Inn stood on the east side of the Market Place, at the chief entrance to the Strait Shambles. The Scotch Rebel officers met at the "Mitre," to discuss the question of capitulation, on the afternoon of November 13th, 1715. Next morning, when a general surrender of the Rebel soldiers took place, "the swords of the lords on the Rebel side were delivered up at the Mitre Inn." An old local historian says that on the 21st, of October, 1745, the nobility and gentry of Lancashire met (to formulate defensive measures in case the Young Pretender should make an attempt upon their liberties) "at the Moot Hall, situate nearly opposite the Mitre Inn, Fishergate." This is obviously a mistake, so far as relates to the "Mitre," which, at the time named, was still in the Market Place, and would whilst there be "nearly," or not so many yards from being, opposite the east end of the Moot Hall. It is said that the Young Pretender slept one night at the "Mitre"—either the night of the 27th of November, 1745, when on his way South, or on that of the 12th of December following, whilst retreating to Scotland. Some time after 1745, the license and the name of the "Mitre" were transferred to a house in Fishergate—the present "Mitre" hotel, on the south side of Fishergate and near the top of Cannon-street. This, it is conjectured, would be about 1768: anyhow, the "Mitre" in Fishergate was a well-known and well-established public-house in 1790. Reverting to the old "Mitre" in the Market Place, I may just observe—for landmark purposes—that it stood on the line of the massive front base of the present Harris Free Library building, about half a dozen yards from the south-west corner of that base, and directly opposite the "Castle" hotel yard entrance.

Mr. Birch, ye prsent Viccar,¹ for not opening and scouring his ditch betwixt St. Johns lane² and ye dogghouse,³ if not done before ye last day of November next to pay iij^s. iiij^d.

Great Court Leet held on October 20th, 1690, before Roger Sudell (Mayor) and John Warren (Recorder).

Presentment :—

James Clayton and his wife for washing bowked yarne⁴ in ye Sicke [Syke] trough, and doe fine them in 6s. 8d.

Inquisition taken on February 8th, 1691, before George Addison (Mayor).

Presentment :—

William Jolly⁵ for not tenting the Church Clocke and hall Clocke, and for not ringing eight and four cloke bell⁶ according to his duty.

Great Court Leet, May 8th, 1691, held before Roger Sudell (Mayor) and John Warren (Recorder).

Presentment :—

The Supvisors for not repaireing the Causey betwixt ffisher-gate bars and the Spring head,⁷ and the Laine called ffryer

1. Mr. Birch would be the Rev. Thomas Birch, who was Vicar of Preston from 1682 to 1700.

2. St. John's-lane would be the present St. John-street, probably much narrower at the north end than it is now.

3. "Ye dogghouse" would be a kennel for a dog or a pack of dogs, and it would probably be at the north end of the lane.

4. Bowked yarn is yarn which has been washed in lye.

5. William Jolly was one of the servants of the Corporation. A brother of his—Seth Jolly—was at this time the parish sexton or beadle.

6. The bell-ringing would, in all probability, have some connection with the markets—that at eight o'clock would, at any rate, for the markets opened at eight o'clock in the morning (Wednesday, Friday, and Saturday), from which hour till nine the privilege of buying articles was confined exclusively to the in-burgesses or inhabitants of the borough. After nine o'clock operations were unrestricted—anybody could buy anything there was in the market for sale.

7. Springhead was the name of a field on the north side of the upper part of Fishergate-hill. The present Spring Bank crosses the higher portion of the land which formed this field. There was a very copious spring here, and water from it ran very freely on the north side; a considerable depression in the surface of the land on that side much facilitating its flow. In a cellar under a shop at the south-east corner of Euston-street, directly in line with and a short distance—between 70 and 80 yards—

Laine, and likewise the Rampier nere the ffryergate More gate, and fyne them in 01l. 6s. 8d. if not repaired betwixt this and the 8th of August next.

Great Court Leet held on October 26th, 1691, before George Addison (Mayor) and John Warren (Recorder).

Presentments:—

John Hatch for plowing up A Land Mark or bocke of Land¹ between him and James Drinkwater, lying to the north side of the Towne, Mawdlands, [and fine] in the sume of thirteen shillings and fourpence, if not laid too againe before the first of March next.

The Occuypers of Chrofer Woodburne house (being his wife) for setting [letting] one Margaret Lucas a house, not being free, in the sume of 20s.

Great Court Leet held on October 21st, 1692, before Richard Langton (Mayor) and John Warren (Recorder).

Presentments:—

Mr. John Harrison and Mr. Tho. Gradwell, late Bayliffs, have not planted trees upon the Townes wast Ground, according to an order of the last Guilde; That they sett or plant 20 young trees at the least of Oak, Ash, Elme, Popler or red Withings, betwixt [now] and the seacond day of March next, upon payment of 10s.

The wash troughs about this Towne are out of repaire, and the Draw Wells as well as other wells stand need of Clenseing; that the Baliffes repaire the Wash troughs and Clense the Wells before the tenth day of March next, upon payment of tenn shillings.

Inquisition taken on February 20th, 1693, before Josias Gregson [afterwards Mayor].²

from Spring Bank, there is now a very full-flowing spring of water. This water unquestionably comes from the old "Springhead" land; and it now runs into a drain or street sewer. Formerly the water was allowed to accumulate in a well-shaped hole in or close to the cellar, and many neighbouring people got water from it.

1. "Bocke of Land" means balk of land—the name given to unploughed strips, in open fields, which often served as land marks.

2. Josias Gregson was the only son of John Gregson, of Preston, and he appears to have been the first of his name who evinced a particular

Presentments:—

Hugh Gornall for wating his horses upon the Sabbath day, in the Buckett at ffryergate well . . . [fined] in 3s. 4d.

The psons following,¹ that they remove theire middings lyeing betwixt the Pinfold and St. John's lane, and that they remove the same before May 1st upon paine of 6s. 8d. a peece.

Great Court Leet held on October 23rd, 1694, before William Lemon (Mayor) and John Warren (Recorder).

Presentment:—

The severall psons hereafter named,² All shopkeepers or following Trades within this Town, have every of them taken one or more Apprentices which have served them above a month, and yet have not entred or Inrolled them according to an order of the last Guild Merchant,³ Therefore, psueant to that order, wee Amerce them in 20s. a peece, If the said psons doe not procure the said Apprentices entrd and Inrolled before the first day of May next. They haveinge notice in the meane time given them of this our prsentment.

Great Court Leet held on October 18th, 1695, before Nicholas Walmsley (Mayor) and John Warren (Recorder).

Presentments:—

Chrofer Jackson—that hee being the present Occupier of the lande on both sides the wood bridge usually placed in the Great ffoot way or passage from this Town to Walton, over Swill-brooke, Doe cause a good strong Bridge and Rail placed over the said brook before the twenty-nynth of ffebruary next, Or in default thereof to pay xxs.

regard for or took a marked interest in municipal matters here. It is probable that his family descended, collaterally, from the Gregsons of Elston, near Preston. In 1673-4 he was the town's Bailiff of Preston; in July, 1675, he was elected a member of the Town Council; in February, 1684-5, he was appointed the Town Clerk and Clerk of the Recognizances of the borough; in October, 1693, he was raised to the Aldermanic bench, and shortly afterwards made Mayor: in 1702 he was the Guild Mayor; and he continued his connection with the Corporation, as an Alderman, till his death in 1712.

1. Four are named, one being an Alderman.

2. Thirty-six persons are named.

3. See note p. 141.

Wee the Jury Leet haveing with the Assistance of Mr. Walmsley the prsent Major, Mr. Alderman Werden, Mr. Lawrence Piccop, and Mr. Roberts the Town Clerk, lately Surveyed and compared the present Rales, Bulkes, Seller Staires, and other Incrochmts within this Town, with the Parchment Rentall which was made in the yeare of our Lord 1670, Doe find and prsent these Alteracons following, wch wee Referr to the Consideracon of Mr. Major and the Councell, applying to the Parchmt Rentall by the figures ensueing.¹

Great Court Leet held on May 6th, 1696, before Nicholas Walmsley (Mayor) and John Warren (Recorder).

Presentments :—

Upon the Informacon given to us by the houselookers of and within this Towne Doe find and prsent the severall psons following who are free [? not free] of this Incorporacon, And yet take upon them to inhabite, keep publick houses, and follow Trades and employments therein, to the manifest prjudice of the free Inburgesses inhabiting within this Town, And therefore doe fine and amerce the said sevall psons in Tenne shillings a peece, And order that upon notice to them Respectively given by the Serjeant they severally remove out of the Towne or compound and agree with Mr. Major and the Councell for their respective freedoms before the Twentieth day of September next, Otherwise wee recomend to Mr. Major and the Councell to endeavour the remedying of this grievance soe farr as by Law they can.²

Henry Heaton Bullen, Willm Dolphin, and George Eastham, all of this Towne, for keeping Mastive Doggs or Bull doggs, and not keeping them Musled, the want of which are dangerous, Therefore wee fine them in One shilling a peece.

Great Court Leet held on October 22nd, 1696, before John Atherton (Mayor) and John Warren (Recorder).

1. Eighty-five cases of removals, alterations, encroachments, non-rentals, and such like, in respect to buildings, rails, bulks, posts, porches, horse stones, &c., are specified.

2. The names of 55 persons are given.

Presentments :—

Wm. Walmsley¹—that hee make, place, and sett a sufficient Bridge or plat over the Brook comonly called Graystock brook,² neare unto the Orchard belonging to the Hole house, being a Comon foot way between Preston and Ashton, on or before the fifteenth of february next, on penalty and forfeiture of Six shillings and Eight pence if hee make default.

Upon Informacon given by the House lookers Wee prsent these severall psons being not free of this Corporacon.³

Inquisition taken on the 7th of March, 1697, before Thomas Winckley (Mayor).

Presentments :—

James Clayton for washing and claping yarne in the Syke trough, to the great damage of those that fetches water there, and doe fine him in Thirteene shillings and four pence.

The wife of Wm. Blackledge for carrying fire in a paire of Tongues, in open street, in danger of firing the Towne, and doe fine her in Thirteene shillings and four pence.

Great Court Leet held on April 30th, 1697, before John Atherton (Mayor) and John Warren (Recorder).

Presentment :—

The Bayliffes of this Corporacon—that they doe repair and pave the Cart way in St. Johns weend leading from opposite the Anchor⁴ up to the end of the building late called the Chappel (the same being very much in decay and dangerous to travellers in passing through the same) on or before the first of October next, or in default thereof wee Amerce them in the sume of five pounds.

1. Mr. Walmsley lived at or was connected with Hole House.

2. Graystock brook was the name of a western portion of Moor brook, just below Hole House orchard.

3. Forty-nine unfree or non-burgess persons are named.

4. St. John's Weind appears to have originally included what afterwards became known as St. John-street and Lord-street; the former now being part of Tithebarn-street, whilst a considerable portion of the latter has been demolished. The "Anchor" was an inn situated at either the south end of Anchor Weind or directly opposite that end of the weind—presumably in the latter position. Anchor Weind (called Fryers' weend in Kuerden's MS. description of Preston) was a passage between the top end

Alderman Addison for setting [letting] a house contrary to Law and former Orders to — Browne and his wife, psons conceived may become chargeable and noe wayes ffree in this Town, and fine him in the sume of Thirty shillings for soe doing.

Great Court Leet held on October 19th, 1697, before Thomas Winckley (Mayor) and John Warren (Recorder).

Presentments :—

Thomas Martin (one of the present Bayliffes of this Towne) and Hugh Gurnall for not laying a sufficient ffoot bridge over the Brooke called Graystocke brooke, in the ffoot way leading from this town (in and through the grounds in their possion) to Cowford bridge,¹ And do amerce them in the sume of Six shillings and Eight pence a peece if not well and sufficiently done betwixt [now] and the Tenth day of March next.

Wee haveing psented John Shaw, the present miller at the windy mill,² neare the end of the ffryergate in this Towne, for grindeing corn upon the Sabath day, not haveing any necessity soe to doe, and therefore Amerced him in the sume of Six

of Friargate and the bottom of Lord-street. and was done away with, like the lower half of Lord-street, &c., in 1895-96. According to one of Taylor's notes (p. 10, Kuerden's description of Preston—see note p. 126) the name of the passage mentioned was changed to Anchor Weind "because the house opposite the south end was formerly a public-house, known by the sign of the Anchor." This public-house would, it is highly probable, adjoin the existing narrow, winding passage called Anchor Court, which is opposite what was formerly the south end of Anchor Weind. The "Blue Anchor" inn, for many years a well-known house, in a yard on the east side of the Market Place, and pulled down with other property to secure a site for the Harris Free Library building, was not, it has been conjectured, opened as a licensed place until after the "Anchor" had been closed.

1. Cowford Bridge crossed the Savock, in Cadley, a short distance below Cadley Bank. Many years ago the course of the Savock was straightened here. The present Cowford bridge crosses the stream about 45 yards south of its old channel and the same distance from where the bridge named in the presentment was situated.

2. The "windy mill"—a wind-mill of the ordinary kind—was situated between the top of Mill-hill and Adelphi-street, or about 50 yards north of the present Adelphi hotel opposite the bottom of Friargate. The original structure of Mill-hill Ragged School, built in 1853 (five years after the inauguration of the Ragged School movement in Preston), stands a little to the west of the site which the old mill occupied, and the addition to the school, at the east end, made in 1889, mainly if not entirely covers it. The mill was pulled down about 1848.

shillings and eight pence; And for every other wilfull offence thereafter we do hereby impose upon him the further sune of six shillings and eightpence; But he appearing and makeing a Submission, wee as far as in us lyes doe remitt and pardon the first offence, but order the latter penalty to stand in case of future default.

Willm Greenhalgh for setting or markeing Roger Mosses¹ sheepe marke on his own sheep, And Amerce him for soe doing in Six shillings and Eight pence.

Great Court Leet held on April 26th, 1699, before John Chorley (Mayor) and John Warren (Recorder).

Presentments:—

The Highway or Lane called Ribbleton Lane, The Lane and flaggd Rampier leading towards Rible Bridge, The lane leading downe to Broadgate, The lane leading to the Marsh, The Moor lane, The long Cawsey upon the Moor, And other the Publick Highways and Cawseys in the Town of Preston and the Liberties thereof, are in decay and much out of Repair, And Therefore wee doe Amerce the Inhabitants of Preston aforesaid in the summe of ffifteen pounce for the speedy Repair of the said Lanes, Highways, and Cawseyes, according to the Statute.

Mr. William Tomlinson (now Tenant att the Anker), That hee Cause the Deep and dangerous middingsteed, att the bottom of St. John's Weend, to bee filled up with earth, even with that Weend, before the twenty nynth of September next, Otherwise wee Amerce him in fforty shillings.

John Greenalgh, Blacksmith, and Hugh Gurnall for layeing a dead horse in Alderman Sudell's Ditch, in the South meadow lane, neare adjoineing to the Publick Road, to the great Annoyance thereof; And doe Amerce them for soe doing in three shillings and four pence a peece.

Great Court Leet held on October 20th, 1699, before Roger Sudell (Mayor) and John Warren (Recorder).

1. Greenhalgh was a tailor, and Mosse either a tailor or a glover.

Presentments :—

Thomas Bancks,¹ John Cooke,² John Hardman,³ Richard Stanley, Esq.,⁴ and Henry Darbyshire,⁵ not only for laying their middings within the Barr in the fishergate, But also for not removeing the same upon warneing given by the Bellman,⁶ And wee doe Amerce them in six shillings eight pence a peece if the same bee not Removed before the second day of february next.

Richard Bray, one of our fellow Jurors, and Amerce him in three shillings and four pence for not meeteing upon summons and not attending with us to deliver up this our verdict.

Inquisition taken on March 3rd, 1700.

Presentment :—

Sr Charles Hoghton, Barrt., for not causing the Cawsey after side of Mr. Blundels Great Barne in St. Johns Weend (wch is now used as a Tyth Barne) to bee well and sufficiently paved and kept in Repaire.⁷

1. Thomas Bancks was an out-burgess and is described, on the Guild Roll, as being a gentleman of Wigan. The midden favours the presumption that he had either stabling accommodation or a residence of some kind in or near Fishergate.

2. John Cooke was an in-burgess, and probably a descendant of John Cooke who was made an in-burgess at the Guild of 1602, and who is described as a spinner on the Roll (in-burgess part) for 1622.

3. John Hardman lived in Penwortham, was a cook, and got enrolled as an out-burgess for services rendered by him in the cookery domain—no doubt that of the Mayor—at the Guild in 1682. Probably he had a small shop or a baking place in or contiguous to Fishergate.

4. Richard Stanley was the son of Thomas Stanley, of Eccleston.

5. Henry Darbyshire was not at this time a Burgess; but he seems to have been allowed to reside in the town. The first Burgess reference, locally, to the name of Darbyshire is made on the Guild Roll for 1722 (in-burgess part). In 1723 the Bailiff of the Mayor of Preston was James Darbyshire; and in 1745-6 the Mayor was named James Darbyshire. These may have been related, directly or indirectly, to Henry Darbyshire.

6. The town's Bellman not only went round making ordinary announcements, but conveyed to persons, individually, notices from the Mayor, &c.

7. The cawsey would be St. John's Weind, and the portion of it referred to would be about 20 yards from the Vicarage, which stood nearly opposite the north gable of the tithe barn. Sir Charles Hoghton, of Hoghton Tower, was the lay rector of Preston; he would consequently have some interest in the buildings

Great Court Leet held on April 26th, 1700, before Roger Sudell (Mayor) and John Warren (Recorder).

Presentments:—

Wee fine Alice Garlick, widdow, 6s. 8d. (being as before presented), for not muzeling her mastife Dogg, according to the dirrecon of the said presentmt.

Mr. Alderman Atherton, Mr. Alderman Chorley, Mr. Thomas Graddell, Hugh Walker, and Widdow Garlicke for letting their Middings lye in the back Weend,¹ and also Willm Lytham for setting his carts in the Weend facing ye Church,² And doe amerce them in 3s. 4d. a peece, if not removed on or before the 25th of July next.

Great Court Leet held on October 22nd, 1700, before George Addison (Mayor) and John Warren (Recorder).

Presentment:—

Mr. John Bannester, Govrnour of the House of Correction, for not scouering his Ditch leading to the Sikes on the west side of Alley lane,³ altho he had time allowed for the same till the Tenth of ffebruary, wherefore we amerce him in six shillings and eight pence.

mentioned, and he was evidently held responsible for the state of the contiguous roadway. Representatives of the Hoghton family successively held the advowson of Preston Parish Church for many years, eventually—in 1828—selling it to Hulme's trustees. The tithe barn is still standing: it is near the south-east corner of the short street called the Old Vicarage, is about 25 yards long, 10 yards wide, of medium height, and, with various alterations, now forms part of Messrs. Hall and Co.'s (late Cardwell's) brewery. On the east side this barn was originally open, wholly or for about three-fourths of its length, to Tithebarn-street; in the latter part of last century some intervening structural work was done away with and supplanted by certain new buildings; and now, through these, much of the east side of the barn is hid from external view.

1. Back Weind ran diagonally from a point at or a little north of the Old Vicarage, and joined Back-lane at the south-west corner of "The Orchard."

2. The weind facing the Church would be St. John's Weind.

3. Just below the old House of Correction there were some enclosures called "House of Correction fields." Adjoining were Furham sykes, which flowed into the Ribble opposite the end of Marsh-lane. On their line of flow they went west of a lane which may have been Alley-lane, and which took the course of the present Buckingham-street. Cf. n pp. 84-85.

Inquisition taken on February 13th, 1701, before Josias Gregson (Mayor).

Presentment :—

The Bayliffs for not repairing the Cawles on ye marsh, and Thomas Gregson for not scouring his ditch and making his fence sufficient between Berry field¹ and Bull field.²

Great Court Leet held on October 22nd, 1701, before Josias Gregson (Mayor) and John Warren (Recorder).

Presentments :—

Yt widdow Crabtree open the watercourse att the old Cuckstool pitt³ leading to the Swillbrook before the Twenty fifth of March next, on paine of Six shillings and eight pence.

The psons following⁴ for causeing or pmiting their respective servants frequently to wind, draw up, and carry away water to their severall houses, from the Publicke Draw well in the Market-place, on the Sabboth day, and doe amerce each of them in two shillings a peece.

Thomas Richardson alias Stringer for being staggering drunck and takeing Tobacco publickly in the streets on the

1. On what was at one time called Great Avenham—an oblong quantity of land, on the south side of Avenham-lane, between Frenchwood-street and Latham-street—there used to be an enclosure named Bury field; whilst about 170 yards east of Great Avenham there were two enclosures, one being called Great Bull field, and the other Little Bull field.

2. There was an enclosure designated Bull field (larger than either of the fields referred to east of Great Avenham) near to and on the west side of Deepdale-road, the stream called Deepdale brook forming its northern boundary. A small enclosure between the south end of this field and the land which the Preston and Longridge Railway now goes through might be Berry field.

3. It is probable the pit here mentioned was used before that on the east side of the town for the punishment of scolds, and that when the presentment was made it had been discarded for many years as a ducking place. It is not shown on any of the old local maps; but evidently it was not very far from Swillbrook, and it may have been near the south end of the present Stanley-street, or in the hollow at the south end of Manchester-road, or in a depression a little to the east of the Washing Stead, near the outlet of the stream, below Bank Parade, Avenham.

4. Five persons are named, one of them being Nicholas Walmsley, junr., son of Alderman Nicholas Walmsley and a member of the Town Council.

Sabboth day, And wee doe Amerce him in six shillings eight pence.

James Kitchin, watchmaker, for cutting and selling Linnen-cloth not belonging to his Trade, And doe amerce him in vjs. viijd.

Simon Penington, Edmund Bostock, and Richard Burton, Barbers, for carrying their Basons and Aprons publickly in the streets on the Sabboth day, and useing their Trade on that day, And Amerce them in five shillings a peece.¹

There is now no Rale att late Thomas Walmsleys house in the ffryergate, Nor any Bulke² att Mr. Parkinsons house, next John Harrison, in the ffryergate, Nor any sign post att John Birchalls house, late Tysons, in the ffryergate, Nor any Rales att George Drinckwaters house, in the ffryergate, Nor any sign post att the house late the sign of the Plow, in the Churchgate, Therefore wee Conceive that what is severally charged for the said things ought no longer to bee brought into the Bayliffe Accounts, or continued in the Towns Rentall.

The outstaires at Mr. Alderman Addisons house, in Min-spitt Weend were never charged or brought into the Towns Rentall till the last survey, taken in the yeare 1695, And, it

1. Barbers were at this time blood-letters, as they had been for long before and were for a considerable while afterwards; they also "practised the art of medicine;" and they were called Barber-Surgeons. Bleeding was, in the old days, deemed nearly the only remedy for human ailments, and some persons were periodically bled not for curative but preventive purposes. The "Basons" which the barbers named in the presentment were carrying would be used by them respectively for catching blood after a vein had been lanced. Preston has, at time and time, had interesting and peculiar associations with barbers and their shops. Sir Richard Arkwright—a native of Preston—served his apprenticeship in the shop of a Preston barber. The present hairdresser's shop, No. 140, Church-street, Preston, under the Conservative Working Men's Club, occupies wholly or in part the site of a building which was used for generations by successive barbers, and was so used when Benjamin Franklin twice visited a relative at it, in 1771-5. For years there was in part of the base of Preston old Town Hall—that superseded by the present Hall—a barber's shop. And the remarkable laughing scene caused by Grimaldi, as described in his "Memoirs," edited by Charles Dickens, occurred at a barber's shop in or near Preston Market Place.

2. "Bulke" in the case referred to means a solid or framework projection.

appearing by an Antient Presentmt that those staires are standing on Mr. Addisons own ground, Wee therefore thinck that the Two pence charged yearly for them ought to bee taken out of the Towns Rentall.

Great Court Leet held on [blank] May, 1702, before Josias Gregson (Mayor) and John Warren (Recorder).

Presentments :—

Stephen Pearson¹ for taking Bribes to let persons Cattle wch are not free² goe upon the Marsh, and for this offence doe amerce him in a Noble.³

Henry Rowbotham for badging without a Licence,⁴ and amerce him in thirteen shillings four pence.

Thomas Stringer, William Wasle, and Evan Hodgkinson for being drunk in the streets and breaking the Sabbath, and for this offence doe amerce them in six shillings Eight pence a peice.

Thomas Charnley for opening a shop and selling flax and Iron in Preston, and fine him in five pounds.

Great Court Leet held on October 22nd, 1702, before Geoffrey Rishton (Mayor) and John Warren (Recorder).

Presentments :—

The Supervisors of the Highways of this Town for not repaireing the Cawsey that leads from the mill yate⁵ at the Fryer Gate Town end to the pinfold wee fine in six shillings Eight pence if not repaired within a fortnight.

Mr. Wm. Patten for stopping the Current of the watr that runs of the backside of Willm Tomlinsons house, in Ginbo Entry⁶ (where Serjt. Cort now lives), wee fine in the sume of six shillings eight pence if the same be not mended before Shrovetide next.

1. Pearson was an assistant pinder.

2. Cattle belonging to persons who were not free men or in-burgesses.

3. A noble was 6s. 8d.

4. Badging means to deal as a badger—a badger being a person licensed to buy corn and other commodities in one place and sell in another without incurring the penalties for engrossing.

5. The mill yate would be connected with the windmill, on Mill-hill, near the north end of Friargate.

6. Ginbo Entry was Gin Bow Entry—a narrow, crooked passage between the Market Place and the old, oblong space called Molyneux-

Great Court Leet held on April 21st, 1703, before Geoffrey Rishton (Mayor) and John Warren (Recorder).

Presentments :—

Mr. Alderman Addison, Mr. Henry Taylor, Mr. Edwd. ffarnworth, and Henry Heaton, late Supervisors of the highways, for not making and giving up their Accs to the succeeding Supervisors, for wch wee do amerce them in 40s.

George Rishton for coming into this Town and keeping a publick house, being no freeman of this Corporacon and refusing to make himselfe free, . . . we amerce him in forty shillings.

The persons following for not repairing their severall Cawseys before their housing¹ and not removing their middings, vizt., Tho. Molyneux, Esq., Sr Chrofer Greenfeild, Kt., Willm. Dawson, Mr. Wm. Wall, Mr. Patten, Mr. Parkinson, Mr. Tho. Gradwell, Mr. Johnson,² doe amerce them each in three shillings four pence.

Henry Graystock for bringing wood from the water side to Mr. Cliftons,³ upon the Sabbath Day, wee fine him in three shillings four pence.

Great Court Leet held on October 19th, 1703, before William Lemon (Mayor) and John Warren (Recorder).

Presentments :—

The Supervisors for seting the stoops at ffryer Gate Barrs too

square (now part of Lancaster-road). Its entrance from the Market Place was near the present north-west corner of the massive range of stone work at the base of and fronting the Free Library. In 1751, half a century after the presentment was made, this passage was (according to an item in a schedule of property at the Derby Estate Office, Preston) called Gin Ball Entry. The earliest name of this particular passage, so far as I have been able to ascertain, was Gin Bow Entry. Dr. Kuerden, in his manuscript description of Preston, written between 1681 and 1687, refers to it as "this alley or passage," which "hath been antiently called Gin Bow Entry."

1. Housing means houses taken collectively. It is now obsolete.

2. In this list are included two local ex-M.P.'s (Greenfeild and Molyneux) and an Alderman of the borough.

3. Mr. Clifton had at this time a new house near the north corner of the Marsh.

high, being very prejudicial to Loaden horses in tearing their sacks, and do Amerce them in forty shillings.¹

Richard Cowband for not scouring his ditch adjoining Mr. Gradwell's feild, called Rivington feild,² near New well brow, and is prjudiciall to Madam Patten in stoping the water course running to the Dam, and also for not laying platts over the said water course, wch if not done on or before the twenty sixth of ffebruary next wee do amerce him in twenty shillings.

Inquisition taken on February 19th, 1704, before William Lemon (Mayor).

Presentments:—

Widow Hugall for not repairing the way at bottom of Almeh house Lane.³

The Bayliffes for want of a Sufficient Ladder at the Cucking stool, and do ordr the same to be repaired before the first of April, or fine them 13s. 4d.

Great Court Leet held before William Lemon (Mayor) and John Warren (Recorder) on May 12th, 1704.

Presentment:—

Ellen Greenough, widow, for laying a miding at Titmouse Barn, near Parson Peploes,⁴ being a great Annoyance to him and a stoppage of the way to Avenham, and do amerce her in three shillings and four pence.

1. The horses referred to would be pack horses.

2. Rivington field would be at the west end of Maudlands, near or in the neighbourhood of Spa Brow.

3. This lane was the present Mount-street, on the south side of Fisher gate. It was named Alms House-lane through the erection of an Alms House at the top of it—north-west corner in 1664. In the latter part of the 18th century, when owing to decay the Alms House was cleared away, it was called Brewery-lane (a brewery was, I believe, built in the lane, on the west side, near the top, some time prior to 1774); and since about the beginning of the 19th century it has been designated Mount street.

4. Parson Peploe was the Rev. Samuel Peploe, M.A., who was Vicar of Preston from 1700 to 1727. While the Scotch Rebels were at Preston, in 1715, he "read prayers every day for the King (George I.), and did so once, it is said, in the presence of even the Pretender." He was a very enthusiastic Hanoverian or Royalist, and, according to a story which has come down, the King, on being informed of Peploe's name and his loyal conduct, exclaimed: "Peep-low! Peep-low! by - — he shall Peep high: he shall be a Bishop." This may be true or otherwise; but it is a fact

Great Court Leet held on October 25th, 1705, before Thomas Winckley (Mayor) and Nicholas Starkie (Recorder).

Presentment :—

Robt. Toogood and Richd Taylor for gathering sticks on the Lords day, and do amerce them in 13s. 4d.

Great Court Leet held on April 19th, 1706, before Thomas Winckley (Mayor) and Nicholas Starkie (Recorder).

Presentments :—

William Lorrimer for suffering his meat to corrupt in his shop, in the Shambles, being a nuisance to the neighbourhood, and do amerce him for the same in vjs. viijd.

Henry Rowbotham for suffering psons to Bowl on the Green,¹ on Sunday; and do amerce him in 13s. 4d.

The severall persons following² for not appearing at this Cort Leet, having been duly summoned and warned therto, and for such default do amerce them in six shillings eightpence apeice.

Great Court Leet held on October 23rd, 1706, before John Chorley (Mayor) and Thomas Walmsley (Steward).

Presentment :—

Mr. James Clifton for building a wall that stopps not only the boundaries of this Town but also blocks up the way leading to the house in Mr. Cliftons possession wch he holds undr the demise of Mr. James Werden, and do amerce him in xxs.

that in 1718 George I. appointed Vicar Peploe to the Wardenship of the Collegiate Church of Manchester, and that in 1726 Peploe became Bishop of Chester—a position he held up to the time of his death in 1752. The Rev. Samuel Peploe, junr., his only son, succeeded him (on the nomination of George I.) as Vicar of Preston: he was instituted on July 2nd, 1727, and he remained here till 1743, when he obtained the vicarial benefice of Tattenhall. The present Vicar of St. Peter's Church, Preston (Rev. F. H. Webb-Peploe, M.A.), is a descendant of the Bishop.

1. Lang's map very definitely shows a bowling green near the bottom of Friargate, west side. A much earlier map ("P.M.'s" "Exact plan of ye Town of Preston") induces the supposition that when it was published (circ. 1715) there was a bowling green in the same part; and it is highly probable that the green mentioned in the presentment was here. The rear part of the present Edward-street crosses some of the ground which formed the green to which the maps refer.

2. One hundred and three defaulters are named.

Great Court Leet held before John Chorley (Mayor) and Nicholas Starkie (Recorder) on May 5th, 1707.

Presentment :—

Mr. Alderman Addison, Mr. James Clifton, and Wm. Chesterfield for stopping the foot way betwixt the dye house Lane and the Lane leading to the Marsh Mill,¹ and not setting stiles, at their severall Closes by them occupied, for the passage of foot passengers to the said Marsh Mill, And in case this way be not opened and the stiles set and repaired in a weeks time we do amerce them in six shillings eight pence a peice.

Great Court Leet held on April 26th, 1708, before Roger Sudell (Mayor) and Nicholas Starkie (Recorder).

Presentments :—

Widow Richardson for laying old Thatch in the ffisher Gate street and not removing the same, amerce in ijs. iiijd.

The Bayliffes for not repaireing the Townes clock amerce in ten shillings.

Great Court Leet held on October 21st, 1708, before John Harrison (Mayor)² and Nicholas Starkie (Recorder).

Presentments :—

The Supvisors of the high way for not repaireing a foot Rampert that leadeth from Graystock Lane³ to the Spittle moss . . . amerce in three shillings and four pence, if not done before the first of March next.

1. Dyehouse-lane was the name of either part of Friar-lane, on the line of which the higher portion of Marsh-lane now runs, or of a very small lane (in which there was a dye-house) branching therefrom; and a footway, presumably the one referred to, went from it, up Maudlands, as far as about the south end of the present St. Walburge-street, where it entered a lane which ran west for a short distance and which was succeeded by a footpath going to the end of Maudlands and down Spa Brow, past a corn mill, to the Marsh.

2. Died during his Mayoralty, in December, 1708; George Addison being elected his successor for the remainder of the municipal year.

3. Graystock-lane went north of the moss, and continued in that direction as far as some rising ground—field land—called Graystock's Brows, along the base of which about 300 yards (central part) of the present Aqueduct-street runs.

The Supvisors of the high Way for not repaireing the Way coming from Church Gate Moor¹ amerce in six shillings eight pence if not done before the fourteenth of March next.

Great Court Leet held on May 17th, 1709, before George Addison (Mayor) and Nicholas Starkie (Recorder).

Presentment:—

James Clifton for building betwixt Ashton and Preston amerce in forty shillings.²

Inquisition taken on February 20th, 1710, before John Loxam (Mayor).

Presentment:—

The Bayliffes of this Corporation for not repaireing the way leading to Church Gate Moor and for not repaireing the Cuck-stoole, and Mr. Bushell for not repaireing the way at Stone Style leading from Mince pit Weend to Avenham, and if not done before the next Cour[t] Leet We do amerce them in forty shillings.

Great Court Leet held on May 5th, 1710, before John Loxam (Mayor) and Nicholas Starkie (Recorder).

Presentment:—

Nicholas Starkie, Esq. [Recorder], Mr. Alderman Lemon, George Clark, Henry Bramwell, Richard Myers, and John Bayley all for geting of Sodds upon the Peele Moor and other ptes of the Comons belonging to this Corporation, and do amerce them severally in xxs. a peice.

Great Court Leet held on October 25th, 1710, before George Lamplugh (Mayor) and Nicholas Starkie (Recorder).

Presentments:—

Richard Peddar for wetting Straw for Thatch at one of the pumps, and do amerce him in six shillings eight pence.

1. Church Gate Moor was a portion of Preston Moor, forming the south-east corner: the lowest part of it was about 150 yards from the bottom end of Church-street.

2. The nature of this offence is difficult to determine. There may have been a bye-law forbidding building in the outskirts. James I. prohibited building outside London.

The persons following¹ being above the age of Sixteen years² for not appearing and doing their Suite and Service at this Court Leet, having had sufficient notice and warning, and having no leave for their absence from Mr. Recorder, and do amerce them severally in six shillings eight pence a peice.

Great Court Leet held on April 11th, 1711, before George Lamplugh (Mayor) and Nicholas Starkie (Recorder).

Presentments:—

Roger Banister for not attending the Chain at the Moor Yate, to the great prjudice of many of the Inhabitants of this Town, and do amerce him in vjs. viijd.

The Bayliffs for not provideing a good Clock at the Townes Hall, and if not done before Michaelmas next do amerce them in 20li.

Great Court Leet held on May 10th, 1712, before William Gradwell (Mayor) and Nicholas Starkie (Recorder).

Presentments:—

John Colly for not filling up the Hole or place near Patten field, persons being in danger of breaking their Limbs and other

1. The names of 60 are given.
2. The minimum age rule, respecting "Suite and Service," had at this time, in Preston, undergone a change from the primary regulation recognised or enforced by Leet Courts generally. Originally, all persons above the age of twelve years and under sixty (except peers, clergymen—statutably exempted—females, and aliens) who had been resiant or had dwelt within the jurisdictional area of a Court Leet for a year and a day, whether masters or servants, owed suit to such Court, i.e., personal attendance at it. In the Court they had to take the oath of allegiance. The suit to the Court was understood or said to be real—"regal or due to the King," inasmuch as "everyone bound to do suit to such Court as a resiant was also bound to take the oath of allegiance, unless he had taken it before." A man with "a house and family in two leets, so as in law to be conversant or commorant in both," had to do suit to the leet where he was personally "commorant," i.e., where his bed was located or where he slept; but if he occasionally resided in each, then he was obliged to do suit to the Leet Courts of both. Prior to the holding of a Court the Steward issued a precept to the Bailiff of the leet, directing him to warn certain resiants to be present at it; the time and place of meeting being, of course, duly specified. As soon as the Court was opened the Bailiff handed to the Steward a list of the persons summoned to serve as jurymen along with the "suit or resiant roll;" the names on this roll were then called out, and those persons who did not respond, or were absent, were usually fined.

misfortunes that may happen by reason of the said Hole, and do amerce him in ten shillings.

The Butchers for not removing their Garbidge, Dirt, and other stuffe in the Shambles, to the annoyance of the Town; if not made clean every week each Butcher amerced xs.¹

Inquisition taken on February 16th, 1713, before Ralph Assheton (Mayor).

Presentment:—

The Bailiffes of this Town for not repairing the Rails at Twistleton's Well² in the sum of 15s.

Great Court Leet held on April 15th, 1713, before Ralph Assheton (Mayor) and Nicholas Starkie (Recorder).

Presentments:—

Francis Bramwell for putting 3 Scab'd horses upon the Comon belonging to this Burrough, to the prjudice of the Inhabitants Cattle [amerced] in 20s.

John Seed for following and Exercising the Employmt of a Broker, not being a Freeman of this Burrough, amerce him in the sum of forty shillings.

Great Court Leet, held before Edmund Assheton (Mayor) and Nicholas Starkie (Recorder), on October 19th, 1713.

Presentments:—

The Bayliffes for not repairing the Steps leading up into Townes Hall do amerce them in twenty shillings.

Richard Green and Henry Tompson, house Lookers, for not bringing in their prsentmts, having notice given them, we amerce in 10s. each.

Robert Read and William Walmsley late of the Hole house, for forstalling the Market, we do amerce in five pounds a peice.

[Mem.] A fine of 10s. was set on William Place by Mr. Recordr for contemptuously departing the Cort without leave.

1. A marginal note says, "The butchers in the narrow shambles to pay 5s. each." The "narrow shambles" would be the Strait Shambles, which were on the east side of the Market Place, above and in direct line with the old Mitre entrance. They were done away with, at the time when other property on the same side of the Market Place was pulled down, to make room for the Free Library building.

2. See note p. 25.

Great Court Leet, held before Edmund Assheton (Mayor) and Nicholas Starkie (Recorder), on April 19th, 1714.

Presentments:—

Widdw Maudesley for keeping a disorderly House, Widdw Greenwood in the Fishergate the same, Widdw Greenwood in the fryergate the same, 2li. 10s.

Margaret Macclesfield for forstalling the Butter Market, 6s. 8d.

Great Court Leet, held before Lawrence Wall (Mayor) and Nicholas Starkie (Recorder), on October 12th, 1714.

Presentments:—

James Green for not puting a Fleak¹ in the Moor Brooke, to prevent people being drowned and Swine going up the Brooke into the fields above, ten shillings.

The severall psons following for not appearing and doing their suite and service in this Court Leet, having had due notice thereof, and not having obtained leave of Mr. Recorder, three shillings and fourpence.²

Great Court Leet held on October 25th, 1715, before William Lemon (Mayor) and Nicholas Starkie (Recorder).

No presentments; a minute following the list of those sworn is as Jurymen running thus:—"The Jury above say upon

1. A fleak is a wattled hurdle or open wickerwork shield.

2. Ninety-two are named. Jacobites, and persons by no means enamoured of the Hanoverian dynasty, if not actually avowed supporters of the Stuart line, were now becoming more active, and evincing, directly or indirectly, an aversion to the new King (George I.); and the increase in the number of persons "presented" at the Court Leet of Preston very strongly induces the supposition, indeed may be taken as proving, that a scheme had been formulated and that an attempt was actually being made to secure fealty or allegiance to the King by means of oath-taking necessitated through doing suit and service at this Court. At the Preston Court Leet held in April, 1714, not a single person was presented for being absent from it; but at that held ten weeks later—the first Court Leet held in Preston after George I. had begun to reign—92 persons were, as before stated, presented "for not appearing and doing suit and service in this Court;" and for some years the number thus presented at the Court was, comparatively, very large—as a rule, considerably above 100 at each Court; once it was 200, twice more than 200, and once nearly 300.

their Oathes That they have nothing to present within their view."¹

Inquisition taken on February 13th, 1716, before William Lemon (Mayor).

Presentment :—

Henry Bailey for making a Saw pit in the street before his house ; if not filled up in ten days time, xiijs. iiijd.

Great Court Leet, April 30th, 1716, before William Lemon (Mayor) and Nicholas Starkie (Recorder).

Presentments :—

For keeping disorderly houses, John ffell, Anne Greenough, widow, Widow Hall at the blew Ball,² forty shillings a peice.

Great Court Leet, October 25th, 1716, before Robert Chaddock (Mayor) and Nicholas Starkie (Recorder).

Only ordinary presentments made ; the last of them relating to 76 persons who were fined 6s. 8d. each for not appearing and doing suit and service at the Court Leet.

Great Court Leet, May 15th, 1717, before Robert Chaddock (Mayor) and Nicholas Starkie (Recorder).

Presentments :—

John Clayton husbnd for not seting a stile over agt the Marsh Lane well, comonly called Bugmire holes³ ; thirteen shillings and four pence if not done before the first of August next.

1. This would be due not to Preston people having all at once become immaculate, or having inaugurated a millennium of their own, but rather to distracting unrest and excitement through the development of the Jacobite cause locally, and the movement southward of a numerous body of "Rebels" (the main army of the Pretender—James, only son of James II.), who reached Preston in about a fortnight after the Court Leet meeting at which there was "nothing to present."

2. The "blew [blue] Ball" would be a tavern. In one of the Preston Court Leet presentments made in the latter part of the 18th century there is clear mention made of "the Blue Bell"; it is referred to as being in Church-street; it was evidently an inn; its name may have been changed from Blue Ball—the name which appears in the 1716 presentment—to Blue Bell; and probably it was the public-house called Blue Bell now in Church-street.

3. See note p. 25.

The Bayliffes for not removing the Rubbish lying in St. John Weend, near the pump¹; six shillings eight pence, if not removed before the first of August next.

John Threlfal for steeping Willows and leting his Ducks swim in the well over agt Singletons Smithy,² twenty shillings.

Inquisition taken on February 24th, 1718, before Joseph Curtis (Mayor).

Presentments:—

Ye Reverend Mr. Mercer³ and ye occupants of his grounds at ye water side, near broad Meadow,⁴ for diverting ye footway and setting a stile too near ye water side, to the danger and prejudice of his Majties Liege people; if not removed in a month's time vis. viijd.

Sr Edwd Stanley⁵ for damaging ye Moor by getting Gravel without leave from ye Corporacon, xs.

Mr. Stanley of ye House of Correcon⁶ for laying his brick in the Church gate; if not removed in a month's time, vis. viijd.

1. The pump was at the top of Lord-street.

2. This well was in Church-street, and presumably near the entrance to Water-street.

3. The "Reverend Mr. Mercer" would be the Rev. John Mercer, who became Rector of Eccleston, near Chorley, in 1706. He married, at Walton-le-Dale, in 1708, Mary, elder daughter of Thomas Hodgkinson, who was Mayor of Preston for six months, in 1673, in succession to a deceased relative (Richard Hodgkinson), and who was, some years afterwards, an Alderman of the borough for a short time. The Rev. John Mercer continued Rector of Eccleston from the time of his induction till his death in 1736.

4. Broad Meadow was on the south side of East Cliff, and close to the Ribble. A footpath, running from the west end of Ribblesdale Place to the river side, went through it diagonally. The Lancashire and Yorkshire Railway (E. L. section) crosses almost the centre of what was Broad Meadow; and the east end of Miller Park—a strip running from the top to the bottom, parallel with the railway, and about 40 yards wide—is made of land which formed a portion of it.

5. Sir Edward Stanley was the son of Sir Thomas Stanley, Bart., of Bickerstaffe, and was the elder of two sons forming the issue of Sir Thomas's marriage with Elizabeth, only daughter of Thomas Patten, of Patten House, Preston. Sir Edward was Mayor of Preston in 1731-2, and he became the 11th Earl of Derby on February 1st, 1735-6.

6. Mr. Stanley was, probably, the person who occasionally appears in the records as "Mr. Edward Stanley" or "Edward Stanley, gen." He

Richd. Myers, the Postmaster,¹ for not scouring his Ditches at ye side of ye square meadow and long close²; and if not done in a months time, vis. viijd.

Great Court Leet, 9th May, 1718, before Joseph Curtis (Mayor) and Nicholas Starkie (Recorder).

Presentments:—

The Bayliffes for not Repairing the two pumps in the ffryer-gate, 1li. 6s. 8d.

Thomas Pennington for washing potatoes and Carrots at ffishergate pump, xiijs. iiijd.

The persons following³ for not Appearing at this last Court Leet and doing suit and service thereat, vis. viijd. severally.

Great Court Leet, October 24th, 1718, before Richard Casson (Mayor) and Nicholas Starkie (Recorder).

Presentments:—

Wm. Gregson and Hugh Gurnall for laying Daub⁴ in the Street and suffering the same to continue there to the Annoyance of the Inhabitants, iijs. iiijd. each.

The persons following⁵ for not appearing at the last Court Leet to do Suit and service thereat, 6s. 8d. severally.

Inquisition taken on February 29th, 1719, before Richard Casson (Mayor).

Presentments:—

The Bayliffes of this Corporacon for not repairing the

may have been related, collaterally, to the Stanleys of Bickerstaffe or those of Cross Hall in Lathom; and he evidently had some connection with the old House of Correction—perhaps he was the Governor of it or a superior official of some kind.

1. The post office which Myers had charge of was at the south end of the Shambles in Lancaster-road, at or very near the part which now forms the east entrance of Miller Arcade.

2. There is pretty strong reason for believing that these fields were immediately west of the present Hermon-street, off Ribblesdale-lane.

3. One hundred and thirty-four are named.

4. Daub would be a rough sort of plaster—clay or mud with chaff or stubble mixed in it, and used with wattle or laths to make the walls of cottages, huts, and the like. Sometimes it was used, unmixed, for trimming or strengthening cop-sides and fence bottoms.

5. One hundred and forty-seven persons are mentioned. A side note says—"to pay seavally 2s. 6d."

Cawsway from the Parsons house¹ to the bottom of Stoneygate ; if not done betwixt [now] and Midsummer next, two pounds xiijs. iiijd.

Dan Muggalt for laying his Wood and Ship tymber on the Marsh² without the Mayors licence, to the great damage and prjudice of the Comon, xli. xiijs. iiijd.

Great Court Leet, 20th April, 1719, before Richard Casson (Mayor) and Nicholas Starkie (Recorder).

Presentments :—

The several psons following³ for not appearing at the last Court Leet to do Suit and Service thereat, vis. viijd. severally.

Ye Bayliffes of this Corporacon for not repairing the High Cross,⁴ the Town Hall Clock, and the Butts on Spittle Moss, vli.

1. The "Parsons house" may have been the residence of the Vicar (the Rev. S. Peploe) or merely an ordinary dwelling, forming part of the property attached to his benefice for stipend purposes. Its position may have been at the top of Stoneygate; but as a previous presentment indicates that the Vicar had a building of some kind on Syke-hill, which is only a short distance from the "bottom of Stonygate," it is more probable that the house was in this part than in the other.

2. Shipbuilding on a systematic basis was not commenced at Preston, on the Ribble side, till about the middle of the 19th century; one of the first builders, if not the first, being Samuel Speakman. He was followed, successively, in the building of ships—a very fluctuating trade here—by T. Smith, Ogle and Robinson, J. Hodgson, the Preston Shipbuilding Co., J. H. Mackern, W. Allsup and Sons, R. Smith, Allsup and Co., Ltd., and the present Caledonian Engineering and Shipbuilding Co.

3. One hundred and sixty-nine persons are mentioned. A marginal note says that they have severally to pay 2s. 6d.

4. This cross was in the Market Place. It was pulled down in or about 1729. On the site of it there was afterwards made, by permission of the Corporation, a large "cistern or conduit," from which a supply of water for public use (paid for by those who got it) was provided. This cistern or conduit was, by desire of the Corporation, done away with, about 1739, and subsequently an obelisk was erected on the ground which it had occupied. The obelisk had only a short career; it "fell or was taken down" some time prior to 1782; and afterwards there was put up, on or near its site, by the Corporation, another obelisk, which remained undisturbed until 1853, when the municipal authorities sold it to Mr. R. Threlfall, who pulled it down—this was one of the conditions of sale—and afterwards had the stones of which it was composed made into a gateway, &c., connected with his residence at Hollowforth, near Preston.

John Winder, Gen.; occupant of the Whitebull,¹ for suffering a Sign Post to stand into the Street before his house, being a Comon Nusance to all his Majties Liege people and an annoyance to the publick street, xxs.

Inquisition taken on February 20th, 1720, before William Gradwell (Mayor).

Presentments :—

The Bayliffes of this Burrough for not setting up a Cuck-stole in the usual place on the Moor, vis. viijd.

Ye Bayliffes of this Corporacon for not fixing Pointers² at the bottom of Fryergate to direct the road to Lancaster and Kirkham, xs.

Mr. Mayor for Annoying the back street by setting Tubbs and laying Wood therein, iijs. iiijd.

Great Court Leet, October 20th, 1720, before William Gradwell (Mayor) and Nicholas Starkie (Recorder).

Presentments :—

Wm. Gradwell, Esq., prsent Mayor of this Burrough, for laying a Midding in ye back Weend to ye annoyance of ye Street, xs.

Thomas Parr, who being duly appointed one of the Viewers of fflesh and ffish within the Burrough of Preston, at the prsent Leet, did in a very obstinate and contemptuous Manner refuse to take upon him the Execucon of the sd Office, and peremptorily denied the taking his Oath for that purpose, xiijs. iiijd.

Great Court Leet, 26th April 1721, before William Gradwell (Mayor) and Nicholas Starkie (Recorder).

Presentments :—

Thomas Molyneux, Esq., for suffering a Noisom Dunghill to lye in his Wood Yard, in the back Weend, in danger of rendring the Air infectious and a Comon Nusance to all his Majties Liege people, xli.

1. John Winder was a descendant of Thomas Winder, yeoman, of Nether Wyresdale. In addition to being "occupant of the Whitebull," he was an Attorney. Robert Winder, parish clerk at Preston from 1692 to 1725, was an uncle of the above-named John Winder, to whom the late John Winder, solicitor, Fox-street, Preston, was related.

2. Pointers mean the "arms" of a guide post.

The prsent Bayliffes of this Burrough for not repairing ye Pinfold and Cuckstool, xli.¹

Great Court Leet, October 23rd, 1721, before Edmund Assheton (Mayor) and Nicholas Starkie (Recorder).

Presentments:—

Ye Bailiffes for not setting up a Cuckstool in some convenient part of ye Burrough, ili. vis. viijd.²

Charles Holcroft for using and exercising the Trade of a Tallow Chandler, in a ground room adjoining to the street, which occasions an Intolerable Smell and Stench, and is a great Nuisance to the whole Town, but especially to the several persons Inhabiting or dwelling near him, forty shillings.

The Butchers [twenty-eight are mentioned] for slaughtering in the New Shambles,³ being in the body of the Town, and throwing their . . . Garbage in ye open street, to the great Annoyance of all people, and especially the Inhabitants of ye said Town and [causing] a Comon Nuisance, forty shillings [each].

Great Court Leet, October 22nd, 1722, before Lawrence Wall (Mayor).

Presentments:—

Richard Arkwright for pulling up a Stile in ye back Weend,⁴ Opposite to a house lately Called Watson house, and stopping ye usual foot Way there over ye Croft, and thro' ye sd Richd Arkwrights house into ffryergate, And do ordr him to fix a Style

1. A note at the end of this Court's proceedings says, "These presentments were pardon'd by ye Act of Grace."

2. This presentment was, according to a side note, "referred to ye Mayor and Council."

3. The New Shambles were at the south-west corner of a short road which branched from Church-street, and which, about 1828, after being extended northward a short distance, was called Lancaster-street. It was further extended northward about 1848, and joined a comparatively new street called Lancaster-road—a name which the whole length, from Church-street to the junction with North-road, then took and still retains. Thomas, son of Sir John Molyneux, built the New Shambles in 1715, and they were pulled down, as stated in a previous note, about 1883.

4. The Back Weind went south-west from a point at or near the Old Vicarago to the south end of Back-lane.

in the old usual place in three days time after this presentmt deliver'd, or do fine him in ten pounds.

Inquisition taken on February 8th, 1724, before John Clayton (Mayor).

Presentments:—

Tho. Leach for annoying ye footway by laying a Midding at Avenham house,¹ and if not removed on or before ye first of March next xs.

Abraham Roydes for neglecting to cut ye hedge in the foot-lane leading from Richd. Simpson's Dyehouse to ye house of Correction lane, and if not done on or before ye 25th of March next, vis. viiijd.

Great Court Leet, 30th April, 1724, before Nicholas Starkie (Recorder).

Presentments:—

Jno. Whalley for abusing and assaulting one of the Pindars of this Town, and forcibly takeing ye key of the pinfold from his wife, and by force and violence taking his goods out of the ffold impounded for trespass, and thereby comitting a pound breach, xiijs. iiiijd.

Two hundred and ninety-three persons severally fined 6s. 8d. (afterwards reduced to 4d. each) for neglecting to appear at the Court to "do suit and service."

1. For a long time Avenham House stood at the south end of some rough, uncultivated ground—formerly gardens, &c.—along which Bairstow-street was formed in or about 1860. The house tended to somewhat unpleasantly block or interfere with the alignment of the street at that end, and it was pulled down in the spring of 1901, in order to secure an improvement there. About half of the site—west side—has been added to the street; and on the remainder of the ground dwelling-houses have been built. Probably during the closing years of the 18th century, and certainly for a time at the beginning of the 19th, Avenham House was occupied by John Dalton, Esq., afterwards of Thurnham Hall, near Lancaster. For some years subsequently the father of the late Richard Newsham, Esq., of Preston, resided at Avenham House; and later, for a long while, it was the residence of headmasters of the Grammar School; the last of such masters who occupied it being the Rev. A. B. Beaven. From the autumn of 1897 to the spring of 1900 it was utilised for the lodgment of the main body of the Goosnargh Hospital people, whilst alterations and additions were being made at that establishment; and in 1901, as previously stated, it was pulled down.

Inquisition taken on February 21st, 1725, before Thomas Garlick (Mayor).

Presentments:—

Geo. Dicconson, Wm. Astley, John Allen, Will. Bailey, Stephen Elliot, and John Bailey, for fleecing the Comon,¹ xxs. each.

John Colly for not repairing the foot way adjoining to his Garden,² if not sufficiently done in a Months time, xxs.

Great Court Leet, April 5th, 1725, before Nicholas Starkie (Recorder).

According to the presentments made, five persons were fined 20s. each for laying timber on Spittle Moss; 16 were variously fined for laying middens in different "streets and highways" within the town; two were penalised—one 6s. 8d. and the other 10s. 6d.—for fixing dangerous street obstructions; several were named as being "Inmates and Inhabitants within this Town and having no Legal Setlements;" and 200 were severally fined 6s. 8d. (the sum being afterwards reduced to 4d. each) for neglecting to appear at the Court, to which, in the opinion of the Jury, they owed suit and service. From 1716 to and including the date of this Court Leet (1725) there were, amongst those presented for neglecting to do suit and service, various persons connected with the "Mock Corporation" of Walton-le-Dale, which was a body "ostensibly social and convivial in its aims, but actually a species of political organisation in favour of the development of the ill-starred Stuart cause." It was established in 1701, adhered with some earnestness to its dynastic object till 1800, and afterwards for about a score of years, during the remainder of its existence, social talk and "clay-moistening" were the main things which the members cared for. Amongst the "various persons" before alluded to were Sir Edward Stanley, who was Mayor of the "Mock Corporation" in 1713; Banistre Parker, of Extwistle, who gave one

1. "Fleeceing" would be cutting grass on the common and taking it away.

2. This footway would be on the north side, or at the north-west corner of the ground called "Colley's Garden," which afterwards became known as "The Orchard." See note p. 174.

of the "Corporate" official staves; and gentlemen bearing the following names, which are frequently met with in the records of the said "Corporation": Rawstorne, Osbaldeston, Townley, Winckley, Sherborne, Patten, Starkie, Chorley, Hesketh, and Atherton. In addition to these, there were in the lists of those presented, for not doing suit and service at the Court Leet, Sir H. Hoghton; Lawrence Wall, who was Mayor of Preston in 1714-15-22; Dr. Bushell; Thomas, son of Sir John Molyneux; Robert Chaddock, Mayor in 1716-17; John Addison, Mayor's Bailiff in 1715; William Wall, Mayor's Bailiff in 1716; John Ravald, Town's Bailiff in 1724; Geoffrey Hornby, &c.

Great Court Leet, October 25th, 1726, before Nicholas Starkie (Recorder).

Presentments:—

The Bayliffs of this Corporacon for not repairing the Gibbet¹ and Fryergate Barrs, the Sykes at Spittle Moss, the Post

1. In 1200 Theobald Walter, a great owner of land in Lancashire, and Sheriff of the county for some time in the reign of King John, issued a plaint against the free burgesses of Preston "concerning gibbet and gaol" in the town, and, in order "to have peace" respecting the plaint, a fine of ten marks and a palfrey was proffered by them. The reference to the gibbet in the presentment is the first of the kind I have met with in the records of Preston Court Leet. There is no allusion in any of the local histories to the position, or even the existence, of a gibbet in Preston. There are now some gibbet irons (chains) in the show room of John Whitehead's successors (Messrs. Newsholme Brothers), iron-mongers, &c., Fishergate, Preston. For many years, and up to quite recently, they were in the warehouse (Glover's-court) at the rear of the shop. In 1859 they were bought, simply as old iron, by John Whitehead; they came from the House of Correction at the bottom of Church-street—had, in all likelihood, been taken there amongst other "relics" when that place was opened as the successor of the old prison in 1789. The last time this gibbet was used was in the case of a man named William Whittle. He was tried at Lancaster Assizes on the charge of murdering his wife and two children at Farington, near Preston, was found guilty, hanged on Lancaster Moor on the 5th of April, 1766, and afterwards his remains were gibbeted at the four lane ends, near the present Farington Vicarage, and but a short distance from his house where he committed the threefold tragedy. In some quarters an idea prevails that this was the last time the gibbet was used in England; but this is quite erroneous. The last person gibbeted in this country was a man named George Cook, book-binder, of Leicester. He was executed for the murder of a commercial traveller, and was gibbeted in Saffron-lane, Aylestone, near Leicester, in

near Churchgate pump,¹ and the Turn Stile leading to Avenham Syke, which We find to be severally out of repair, and Order the same to be sufficiently done on or before Lady day next, or we Amerce the said Bayliffes in five pounds.

Thomas Molyneux, Esq., for not railing or Coverin the Draw Well in ye Square,² which lyes open to the great peril and danger of his Majties Liege people, and if not done on or before the first of January next do Amerce him in five pounds.

Great Court Leet, April 25th, 1727, before Nicholas Starkie (Recorder). Presentment :—

John Parr and John Derbyshire, the Serjeants of this Town, for neglecting their duty in not giveing due Notice and Warning to several Inhabitants of this Town of the time of holding this Leet, as the duty of their Office required, do Amerce them in xxs. each.

Great Court Leet, October 24th, 1727, before Nicholas Starkie (Recorder).

Presentment :—

John Parr and John Derbyshire, the present Serjeants of the Burrough, for neglect of duty in not Levying the Estreats of former Leets Court, tho' the sd Estreats were duly issued and deliver'd to them for that purpose, and Do Amerce 'em in one pound one shilling Each.

Inquisition taken on February 9th, 1729, before Edmund Assheton (Mayor).

Presentment :—

The Bayliffes of this Corporacon to repaire the Yate and Rails at ye End of Avenham Walk³ within the time aforesaid, or we Amerce 'em in xxs.

1832. In the room previously referred to (Messrs. Newsholme's) there are an iron pillory top, a flogging frame, some leg irons and wrist shackles, which were formerly at the House of Correction, and were bought, at the same time as the gibbet irons, by the late John Whitehead.

1. This post was probably connected with either the sign of an inn or the bar which was in Church-street.

2. Molyneux-square.

3. In 1697 the Corporation purchased Avenham Walk from Alderman Lemon, and soon afterwards much improved it. Later the Walk was widened and further improved. The "South Prospect of Preston," pub-

Great Court Leet, May 24th, 1731, before Nicholas Starkie (Recorder).

Presentment :—

William Hardman for not setting a stile out of the house of Correction lane into a field joining to Vicars Greave,¹ now in possession of Thos. Aldred, whereby the footway or passage there is annoyed and obstructed, and if its not done in 20 days we amerce him in 30s.

Great Court Leet, May 4th, 1732, before Nicholas Starkie (Recorder).

Presentments :—

John Colly for not drawing or keeping open a Ditch or Sluice thro' his Garden² to draw the water from the higher End of the back Weend, whereby the Ancient Course of the Water there is stopp'd and obstructed, and the highway thereby very much overflowed, annoyed, and prejudiced, and if not done in xx days We Amerce him in xxs.

lished in 1728, by S. and N. Buck, shows the Walk as an oblong piece of ground, tree-flanked, with a fence of some kind on each side and at the south end. The steps and terraces at the south end were made by the Corporation in 1846.

1. Vicars Greave was an enclosure or field between the old House of Correction and Fishergate; the higher end of the present Pitt-street being, presumably, very near if it does not actually cross the land which formed it.

2. This garden was north of the upper or eastern end of Back Weind. A map of Preston relating to the Royal and Rebel positions at Preston, in 1715, and apparently published at the end of that year or soon afterwards, shows the space covered by the garden; but only a portion of it—on the north or more cultivated side—seems to have been at that time definitely enclosed. Lang's map (1774) describes it as Colley's Garden, and gives some representations of trees or bushes in it. About 1815 a moat or ditch surrounded the ground, and cows grazed amongst the trees—probably fruit trees—which it then contained. Afterwards a person named Chadwick owned or was tenant of the ground, utilising it for orchard purposes, and it became known as "Chadwick's Orchard." Later it was occupied for some time by Bart. Duckworth. In 1821 it ceased to be an orchard, and its sides (north and south) were subsequently opened out for building purposes. The main portion of the ground is now occupied by the Covered Market, the erection of which was commenced in 1870 and—after delays due to the collapse of a considerable portion of the iron work and to misunderstandings, &c., with certain contractors—completed in 1875.

Robert Abbatt for neglecting to repair the Breaches in the Streets occasioned by the laying or taking up of pipes, and if not done in five days We amerce him in xxs.¹

Great Court Leet, October 23rd, 1732, before Nicholas Starkie (Recorder).

Presentments:—

George Singleton, Thomas Walmsley, Anne Haslingden, Easter Townend, Benjamin Colley, Edmd. Parker, James Etherington, Anne Fairclough, James Jameson, Margaret Bostock, widw, Richd. Livesay, Thomas Bailey, and Robert Sherrington, for severally using and Exercising the Comon Selling of Ale and Beer in their respective houses in Preston without being there-

1. Robert Abbatt and Thomas Kellet—the former being a chapman and the latter a joiner—were the original promoters of an improved and systematic supply of water for Preston. In 1729 they entered into an agreement with the Corporation to “set waterworks on foot” in the town for the accommodation of the inhabitants. The Corporation leased to them some land containing watercourses, &c., adjoining Avenham Garden, which was connected with Avenham House, and was situated between the present Starkie-street and Chaddock-street; also gave them liberty to erect a cistern or conduit in the Market Place, to be supplied with water, by means of pipes and engines, from various springs and watercourses on Syke-hill; and furthermore permitted them to lay pipes through any of the streets, weinds, or back lanes in the town; but it was stipulated that in making and maintaining their waterworks they had not to interfere with nor injure any of the existing wells and pumps. Of course, the water which Abbatt and Kellet agreed to supply had to be paid for by those who required it “in accordance with such terms as they might make.” The works, which were commenced in May, 1730, had to be completed within three years; but in less than a year Kellet “surrendered his title and interest” to Abbatt, who thereupon became solely responsible for the undertaking; and hence the presentment of the Court Leet Jury subsequently made against him alone respecting “Breaches in the Streets.” About the time when this presentment was made—in the same month—Abbatt was joined by several persons in his enterprise. Certain rearrangements as to Corporation privileges and the work to be done by Abbatt and his associates were then entered into; the undertaking was in due time completed; and by it water was supplied to many Preston people for a long time. This way of supplying water, as well as by means of certain small auxiliary or competing plans separately set on foot, was eventually superseded by a better and much more comprehensive scheme undertaken by the Preston Waterworks Company—a body organised in 1832 by Act of Parliament. In 1853 the works of this Company were purchased by the Preston Corporation.

unto Lawfully admitted or Licensed, and Amerce them in twenty shillings Each.¹

The Watercourse near the Almshouse in this Town,² Adjoining to the Stile leading out of the Street and highway into a Close of Ground called the Whittakers,³ is stopt and obstructed, And it appears to us that the said Watercourse ought to run down the ditch at the End of the several Gardens Leading to a place called the Clark Yard, and by such Stoppage and Obstrucon the street and highway near the said Almshouse is Annoyed, Overflowed, and prejudiced, And we do Order the several occupiers of the said Gardens to Open and Scour such parts of the said ditch as adjoins to their respective Gardens within the space of thirty days after notice hereof, Or we Amerce them in twenty shillings Each making default.

"Court Leet with View of ffree pledges" held in the Town Hall, on April 23rd, "in the sixth year of the Reign of his present majesty King George the Second, and in the year of our Lord, 1733, before Nicholas Starkie, Esquire, Recorder."⁴

1. An Act of Parliament, passed in 1729, after reciting, among other things, that certain inconveniences had arisen through the granting of alehouse licenses by Justices residing at a distance, enacted that "no license shall in future be granted but at a general meeting of the magistrates acting in the division in which the applicant dwells." In the Act there was likewise a clause which placed the keepers of liquor or brandy shops under the same regulations, respecting licenses, as alehouse-keepers. For some time from 1733 "alehouses became the shops for spirits as well as for ale and beer," owing to the flagrant way in which spirits had been exposed for sale and hawked about, and in consequence of this the proper regulation of alehouses became much more difficult than previously.

2. This almshouse stood at the north end of St. John-street, on or near the site of the present pig market. In or about 1833 it was pulled down.

3. A "Whittaker Row" is shown on Shakeshaft's map on the east side of Tithebarn-street "Whittakers" was the name of a small field or enclosed piece of land at the rear of the almshouse and on the north side of Lord's-walk, near which, and also on the north side, were the gardens mentioned.

4. English, which was supplanted by Latin directly after the close of the Commonwealth, in the wording of the head lines, is now resumed. After the statement as to the place where and the time when the Court was held, the names of the jurymen, 21 in number, are given, and then comes this line in respect to the said jurymen—"Who say and present upon their oaths as followeth:" But not a single presentment is recorded!

The next Court Leet was held on October 23rd, 1733, before Nicholas Starkie (Recorder). The Jury consisted of 13, and they made only one presentment, viz.:—We present the Bailiffes of this Corporation for not repairing the East end of Saint John's Lane, and for not supplying the Market Street [? Place] Well with Utensils to take the Water.

Inquest of Office, or Court Baron, held on [blank] February, 1734, before John Myers (Mayor).—The Jury was, numerically, very large, 48 being sworn on it. The presentments made were of a very ordinary kind.

Court Leet, May 10th, 1734, before Nicholas Starkie (Recorder).—The Jury consisted of 13, and directly after the record of the names, there is the following—"Nôte this Jury never made or brought in any presentmts. Q[uey]—whether they have acted according to the Obligation of their Oaths."

Court Leet, October 24th, 1735, before Thomas Whitehead (Recorder).¹

Presentments:—

Madam Mary Molyneux, of Preston,² for permitting and suffering a Deep draw Well, in Molyneux Square, within this Burrough, to lye Open and Uncovered, to the great peril and danger of the lives of his Majesties Liege Subjects passing and repassing thro' the said Square, and a Comon Nusance, And order her to rail or Cover the same in a fortnight after notice hereof, or We amerce her in ten pounds.³

Henry Robinson for burning Cow claws [hoofs] in or near the public Streets, Lanes, or highways within this town, and

1. Thomas Whitehead was a barrister-at-law, of Preston, and Mats-head, near Garstang. In 1718 he married Sarah, daughter of Thomas Winckley, gentleman, of Preston. The Corporation of Preston appointed him Recorder of the borough on the 19th of August, 1735, in place of Nicholas Starkie, who died five days before that date. He very seldom—not more than two or three times—presided at the Court Leet, and in 1742 he died.

2. Madam Mary Molyneux was the widow of Thomas Molyneux (third son of Sir John Molyneux, Bart., of Teversal), who was several times elected a member of Parliament for Preston between the summer of 1695 and the autumn of 1702.

3. This conditional fine was afterwards reduced to 10s.

thereby raising and Occasioning a fulsome and offensive Smell, to the great danger of the healths of his Majesties Liege people.
 . . . And Amerce him in xxs.

The Proprietors of the Waterworks for not covering the pluggs in the Streets, and if not done in a Weeks time after Notice we Amerce them in xxs.

Ralph Kellet, of Preston, for regrating and getting into his hands and possession in the publick Market within this Burrough one Load of Potatoes brought to the said Market to be sold and afterwards selling the same Again in the Same Market, And Amerce him for the said Offence the sume of five shillings.

Inquest, February 21st, 1736, before Henry Farington (Mayor).—Amongst the jury men—34 in number—are some who previously figured as defaulters, through not attending the Court Leet.

Presentment :—

John Colly for not opening and scouring the watercourse in his Garden in the back weend, for want thereof the Water falling from the feeble street¹ is stopped at the head of the sd Garden, which is a great Nuisance and annoyance to the way there and to all his Majesties Leige People passing and repassing that way, and if not sufficiently Done in a week after notice We amerce him in forty shillings.

Inquest (Court Baron), February 13th, 1737, before Edmund Assheton (Mayor).—Fifty-five persons sworn on the jury.

Presentments :—

Robert Abbatt for not repairing the Breaches in the Causway in several parts of the Town, occasioned by the bursting of the pipes. If the same be not well and sufficiently repaired in three weeks after notice we amerce him in forty shillings.

The Bayliffs of the said Burrough for neglecting their duty . . . in not repairing the Streets in several parts of the Town, particularly near the Talbot,² before the house late in

1. "The feeble street" would be the short, narrow way called Feeble-street which runs between the Old Vicarage and Crooked-lane.

2. The Talbot would be an inn; and it is not at all improbable that its license was transferred to the present public-house called the Talbot.

possession of the Earl of Derby,¹ in the back weend,² and near ye Fryergate Bars. If the same be not repaired in a month after notice we amerce them in five pounds.

Court Leet, October 24th, 1737, before Thomas Whitehead (Recorder).

Presentment :—

David Brown for not repairing the Platts in the Common Foot way leading from the Chapel yard³ thro' his Fields to the house of Correction [and] thro' his field to the Fishergate Lane, which are so much out of repair That his Majestys Leige People cannot safely and conveniently pass That way, and if not done in a month after notice We amerce him in five pounds.

Court Leet, May 17th, 1739, before William Atherton (Mayor).

Presentments :—

The Bailiffs for neglecting their duty in their offices in not repairing the Pump and well in the back weend, which have been useless for several years for want of repair, and also in not

in Chapel-yard, off Friargate. Strange to say, the house is not mentioned at all in the earliest lot of local directories, viz., the Commercial (published in 1818), Whittle's (1821), and Baines's (1825). For a long time the Talbot inn was more or less a "Catholic house." It has been said that there was formerly—"about 200 years ago"—a Catholic chapel in Chapel-yard, on or near the ground which the Talbot inn occupies. But this is quite a mistake. The only Catholic chapel in existence at Preston 200 years ago was that already referred to, in Old Chapel Yard. A deed and a release dated January 29th and 30th, 1739, in the possession of Mr. J. H. Longworth, Chapel-street, Preston, describes Chapel-yard, in which the Talbot is situated, as Apple-street. The Rebellion map (1715) shows some gardens or orchards on or near the ground now occupied by St. George's, at the south end of Chapel-yard, and their proximity may have originated the name of Apple-street.

1. This would be only a small building owned, not occupied, by Lord Derby.

2. This would be what is now and has for long been called Back-lane. Its east entrance would, originally, be at or near the present Lancaster-road end of the Old Vicarage.

3. Old Chapel Yard, in Friargate, between Bridge-street and Edward-street. The footway would run from the rear of this yard diagonally, south-west, into House of Correction lane, and thence passage would be resumed, by footway, to a point in Fishergate-lane at or near the top of the present Bow-lane.

repairing the well commonly called Kendall well¹ which is so far out of repair that the same is of no use or service, And if they do not sufficiently repair both the said Wells and the said Pump within six days after notice of this Presentment We amerce them in five pounds.

John Colley for not repairing the Way in a certain lane or alley, commonly called the Dirty Alley,² which he has suffered to be out of repair for several years, And if the said way be not cleaned and repaired in a week after notice We amerce him in fifty shillings.

Court Leet, October 20th, 1740, before Lawrence Rawstorne (Mayor).³

1. See note p. 25.

2. It is very probable that this "lane or alley" was either on the west side of "the Orchard," at or near the upper end of the present Orchard-street, or at the north-west corner close to where the old Starch-houses are situated.

3. With an old and important family was Lawrence Rawstorne connected. Laurence Rosthorne, of Windsor—a descendant of John Rosthorne, who was living at Lumm, in Aydenfield, in the time of Edward IV.—purchased the manor of Hutton, in Penwortham, from the Crown, in 1545. His great grandson, Edward Rosthorne, of New Hall, in Tottington, and Gray's Inn (son of Edward Rosthorne, High Sheriff of Lancashire in 1629), was one of the six captains who assisted the Countess of Derby in the defence of Lathom House, in 1644. Afterwards he was, at the request of the Countess, made colonel of a foot regiment, and he was likewise appointed governor of Lathom House, which, when the siege was resumed, in 1645, he vigorously defended, till surrender became inevitable near the end of that year. He died in 1646, and was buried at Haslingden. The family property which he inherited descended, on his death, to his brother, Laurence Rawstorne, who was High Sheriff of Lancashire in 1681. Laurence was succeeded by his son William, of New Hall, who was High Sheriff in 1712, and who had two sons, Edward and Laurence. By arrangement, Edward (the elder), who was never married, surrendered the family estates to his brother Laurence's son, who was also named Laurence. This brother Laurence was the one who presided at the Preston Court Leet, in October, 1740. He married, in 1735, Jane Langton (daughter of Richard Langton), who in 1732 inherited Broughton Tower property, near Preston. She was 70 years of age when married, and lived only about two months after the event. Subsequently Laurence Rawstorne married again; his second wife being Agnes, daughter of Robert Dent, of Preston. In 1736-7 he was the Mayor's Bailiff at Preston. He was elected an Alderman of the borough in 1739. In 1740-1, 1750-1, and 1760-1 he was Mayor here. He retained his Aldermanship till his death, in 1763. The son Laurence, who inherited the family property by

Presentment:—

The Bailiffs for not repairing the pump in back Weend, which for want of such repair is become of no use, and also in not amending the pavements in the street in Churchgate, near the house lately in the possession of the Earl of Derby,¹ and also in the street near the Bulls head,² which are broken and much out of Order, and if they do not Amend the same in a Fortnight after Notice we Amerce them in 20s.

Court Leet, April 23rd, 1741, before Lawrence Rawstorne (Mayor).

Presentments:—

The Bayliffes of this Burrough for not Calling and Securing the Marsh, by the Neglect whereof the said Marsh grounds belonging to the Mayor, Bayliffes, and Burgesses of this Burrough are Wasted and Washed away, and if not done in twenty one days after notice We amerce them in One Hundred pounds.³

the arrangement referred to, was the issue of the second marriage. He was High Sheriff of Lancashire in 1776, and he purchased Hutton Hall and the manor of Penwortham in 1783. When he died the property was inherited by his eldest son (Laurence Rawstorne, of New Hall and Hutton), who was High Sheriff in 1814, and lieutenant-colonel of the 1st Lancashire Militia. He died in 1850; his heir being his only son, the present Lawrence Rawstorne, who was born in 1842, and who now resides at Hutton Hall.

1. Patten House.

2. The "Bulls head" was an inn or ale-house. Up to about nine years ago there were two beerhouses in Preston respectively called the Bull's Head—one in Savoy-street, a little to the west of Lower Pitt-street, and the other in Bowran-street, on the west side of Corporation-street. But as Savoy-street was not formed until some time between 1824 and 1836 the house therein referred to could not, of course, be that mentioned in the presentment. The Bull's Head in Savoy-street was done away with—closed as a drink-selling place—about 1896. It is within the range of probability that the Bull's Head alehouse, in Bowran-street, still in existence, is either the original house having that sign or its successor. Much of Bowran-street has now disappeared, owing to the formation of Corporation-street; and through the same cause the higher part of Mount Pleasant—a street which used to cross here, and was originally a portion of the branching way from the top of Friars-lane to the Friary—has been done away with. The Bull's Head is at the north-west corner of the Mount Pleasant intersection.

3. A marginal note relative to this says—"An Improper Presentment."

Lancelot Butler, Mr. Thomas Woodcock, Mrs. Elizabeth Casson, Cuthbert Wade, Esquire, Mr. Nicholas Walmsley, Mr. Charles Gibson, Rigby Molyneux, Esq., John Winckley, Esqr., Thomas Jolley, Mr. James Chorley, Roger Hesketh, Esqr., Mr. William Prichard, Robert Abbatt, and John Cheetham for severally neglecting to Open and Scour the Ditch and Water-course adjoining to the South End of the Orchards and Gardens in their respective possions [possessions],¹ by the neglect Whereof the Comon foot [way] leading from the Waterworks through the Closes called the Sykes is Annoyed and Obstructed, And if not done in twenty-one days after Notice We Amerce them in two Shillings Sixpence Each.

Court Leet, October 25th, 1742, before John Walshman (Mayor).²

Presentments :—

John Walshman, present Mayor of Preston, for Laying a Dunghill in St. John's Lane, in Preston, to the annoyance of the street and Highway There, and if not Removed in a Week We amerce him in five shillings.

Rigby Molyneux, Esq., for Laying Rubbish and wood near the Horsemill³ in the back weend, to the annoyance of the street and Highway There, and if not Removed in a Week We amerce him in five shillings.

1. These orchards and gardens extended, east and west, from Main-sprit Weind to Winckley-square, and occupied in width more than half of the ground between Syke and Cross-streets and Fishergate. The water-works were at the bottom of Glover's-court—occupying what afterwards formed the north-west corner of the Gas Company's Glover-street works—and were for a long while derisively called "the Folly."

2. Walshman, with sundry variants, figures frequently as a Burgess name in the records of Preston. John Walshman, who presided at the Court Leet mentioned, was Town's Bailiff at Preston in 1729-30. He was one of the wardens of Preston Parish Church in 1734-5-6-7-9. In 1734 he was elected a member of the Town Council; in 1741 he was made an Alderman; and directly after the Guild in 1742 he was chosen Mayor for the ensuing municipal year. He retained his aldermanship till his death in 1745.

3. A horse-mill was a mechanical contrivance used for different purposes, driven or kept in motion by a horse—usually by one walking in a circle.

Benjamin Whitehead for Laying a piece of Timber over against Joseph Bray's Garden,¹ below the ffryergate Barrs in Preston, to the annoyance of the Highway there, and if not Removed in a week we amerce him in five shillings.

Court Leet, October 24th, 1743, before William Prichard (Mayor).

Presentments :—

The Bailiffs for not repairing the Pump at the Upper end of the Back Weend, wch has been out of Repair sevl years. If not repaired in six weeks We amerce them in £5.

Mr. James Holcroft for not repairing the Pump opposite the Rose and Crown, next ffriergate Barrs,² And also the Pump beyond ffriergate Barrs, both wch are very much out of Repair, and if not Done in 10 days we amerce him in 20s.

1. Bray's Garden was at the bottom of Friargate, adjoining the west corner. About the end of the 18th century a considerable quantity of it was laid out for building purposes. The last portion of the garden—an oblong piece on the north side, near Fylde-street—was effaced between 1821 and 1824. "Jo. Bray," the owner or occupier of this garden, was enrolled as an in-burgess of Preston in 1702. He was a son of Richard Bray, gardener, who became an in-burgess of the borough in 1682, and was, probably, a descendant of the first Bray whose name appears in the Preston burgess records—Peter Bray, of Layton, in the Fylde, who was enrolled as an out-burgess, at the Guild of 1642. Joseph Bray, solicitor for a long time in Preston, who died in 1862 at Tulketh Hall, Ashton-on-Ribble, which he purchased about 1848, and who was uncle and for some time partner of the late Alderman W. Gilbertson, in the legal profession, was, no doubt, a descendant of the Bray mentioned in the presentment.

2. The Rose and Crown was a tavern. When the presentment was made it was the property of a local gentleman (Alderman William Harrison). Its position seems to have been a little south of Friargate bars. There is now in Friargate a very old licensed house (the Crown and Thistle) about 40 yards south of where the bars were originally placed, and where they would be at the time the presentment was made. Perhaps this used to be called the Rose and Crown. In 1745, when the "Scotch Rebels" passed through Preston, the name of this house may have been changed to that which it now bears; else the tenant, if an Englishman in sympathy with the Jacobite cause, or a Scotchman with kindred feelings and at any rate with an ardent regard for what has been Scotland's emblem ever since 1540—the thistle—may, a short time after the disappearance of those malcontents, have made the alteration. The thistle as part of the sign name is certainly suggestive of strong Stuart or northern proclivities. About 70 yards from the Crown and Thistle,

Court Leet, October 22nd, 1745, before James Derbyshire (Mayor).

Presentment :—

The Bayliffs of this Town for not providing and Keeping due and proper statutable Standard Weights as the Law directs, And if not provided in three months We amerce them in twenty shillings.

Court Baron (commonly called the Inquest of Office, or Inquisition), February 10th, 1746, before James Derbyshire (Mayor).—Fifty-two persons were sworn on the Jury. Nine presentments were made. They contained nothing of interest.

Court Leet, April 25th, 1746, before James Derbyshire (Mayor).—The Jurymen, 18 in number, were duly sworn, but there is no record of what they did, for this simple and sufficient reason, as stated in a note after their names, viz., "This Jury never deliver'd in any Presentments." A blank space, in the record book, equal to three and a half pages, succeeds the note.

Court Baron, February 22nd, 1748, before Richard Shepherd (Mayor).¹

and on the same side of the street, towards the bottom end, there is an alehouse whose name is likewise suggestive of tendencies in the same direction: this is the Old Sir Simon—a name which, of course, at once reminds one of Simon Fraser, Lord Lovat, the cute old Jacobite chief who helped on the Rebellion of 1745, and who, in 1747, was tried in London for treason, found guilty, and beheaded. It is fairly presumable that the two Friargate houses mentioned have been well patronised by persons with old northern sympathies or by descendants of theirs. Contiguous to these houses, intermediately, there used to be a Catholic place of worship; Catholics mainly favoured the Stuart cause; hence this particular part of Friargate would, for a while, and so far as sympathy went, be a somewhat considerable Jacobite stronghold. The Crown and Thistle was one of the last buildings in Preston with a thatched roof. It was unthatched and slated about 1886.

1. The Mayor here mentioned was Dr. Shepherd. He was born at Sizergh, near Kendal, in 1694. When of due age, he studied medicine, &c. Subsequently he settled at Preston as a practising physician. He was enrolled a freeman of Preston in 1724, was the town's Bailiff in 1740-1, became an Alderman in 1746, was Mayor in 1747-8 and 1755-6, and continued an Alderman to the time of his death, in 1761. Dr. Shepherd bequeathed to the Corporation of Preston, in trust for the use and benefit of the inhabitants, his extensive and excellent library, which is now in the reference department

Presentments—the Jury consisting of 42 persons, all duly sworn :—

Lancelot Butler for not fixing a Rail to the foot Bridge at the further end of the Corner Gap¹; and if he don't do the same on or before the 25th of March next We Amerce him in 13s. 4d.

Mrs. Chorley for the like offence in the next ffield,² leading toward the Boat³; and if she don't do the same in the like time We Amerce her in the like sum of 13s. 4d.

John Winckley, Esquire,⁴ for enclosing part of the Comon fields,⁵ and if he don't pull the same down on or before the first of May next We amerce him in £100.

John Westby and his servants for Washing his silks in the Sike Well⁶ we amerce in 20s.

Court Leet, April 27th, 1749, before Richard Pedder (Mayor).⁷

of the Harris Free Library. He was buried in the graveyard of St. George's Church, Preston; but the exact part of the ground in which his remains were interred is not positively known. On the 3rd of July, 1888, the matter was specially investigated by a few local gentlemen; and, taking all the best available evidence into consideration, it was decided that the most probable burial spot was that which is now covered by a memorial stone—a slab of polished gray granite (on the east side of the principal walk to the church), which bears an inscription relative to Dr. Shepherd's generosity, professional status, municipal career, &c., and which was provided and put down at the sole expense of Dr. R. C. Brown, of Winckley-square, Preston.

1. Corner Gap was a field forming the south-west corner of what is now Avenham Park, and close to the Ribble.

2. The "next ffield" was on the west side of Corner Gap, and was called Chorley Meadow.

3. The Boat would be the wharf (done away with many years since) on the Preston or north side of the Ribble ferry, opposite what is now called the "Old Boat House."

4. John Winckley was a barrister-at-law, of Preston. His son Nicholas was the Mayor's Bailiff in 1767-8. and Mayor of the Mock Corporation of Walton-le-Dale in 1774.

5. The "Comon fields" were about 250 yards north-east of the ferry.

6. The Sike well was at or near the bottom of Syke-hill.

7. Pedder is a name which first appears in the local burgess list in the latter part of the 17th century. The town's Bailiff in 1728-9 was named Richard Pedder. In 1731 Richard Pedder was elected a member of the Common Council. He was raised to the Aldermanic bench on

Presentments :—

The Bailiffs of this Borough for not repairing the Pump near Mr. Hardman's house, in the fryergate,¹ and if they do not repair the same in two Months after notice We amerce them in six shillings and eight pence.

The Representatives of Lady Petre² for not raising and repairing the Causeway about fifty yards or thereabouts from Clappypates³ to Swillbrooke, and if the same is not raised and repaired in two Months after notice We amerce them in Twenty shillings.

Court Baron (Inquest of Office), February 26th, 1750, before Thomas Astley (Mayor).⁴

June 30th, 1748; later, in the same year, he was chosen Mayor; in 1756 he was also made the chief magistrate of the borough; and on December 20th, 1762—being an Alderman at the time—he died. Numerous Pedders—Edward being a very prominent name—were subsequently, for many years, municipally connected with Preston; and the last associated with the Council was the late Richard Pedder. He was elected a member of the Council in 1842; in 1848-9 he was Mayor; in 1852 he was made an alderman: and he retained his aldermanic connection with the Corporation till 1877, about which time he left Preston and went to reside in Finsthwaite, near the lower end of Windermere, where he died some years ago.

1. This would be the pump which used to stand on the south side of Friargate, opposite the entrance of Hardman's-yard.

2. Lady Petre was, before her marriage, Catherine Walmesley—a daughter of Bartholomew Walmesley, of Dunkenhalth, &c., who was a descendant of Sir Thomas Walmesley, a notable lawyer and judge, and owner of much landed property, &c., in Lancashire and Yorkshire (1537—1612). Bartholomew Walmesley died in January, 1701-2, and in 1711 the above-mentioned Catherine was his sole surviving child and heiress of the family estates. On the 1st of March, 1712-13, when but 15 years old, she married Robert, 7th Baron Petre, of Writtle, in Essex, who died of small-pox about a year afterwards. A posthumous son, named Robert James, was the issue of the marriage, and this son, when of age, succeeded to the title as 8th Baron Petre. In 1733 Lady Petre, his widowed mother, married Charles, Lord Stourton. Her ladyship owned a considerable quantity of property on the south-east side of Preston, and one of the streets in that region—Stourton-street—bears her second marriage surname. She died in 1785, at the age of 88.

3. Clappypates would be a field between Frenchwood and London-road.

4. Thomas Astley was a descendant of the Astleys of Stakes, in the parish of Blackburn. He resided at Fishwick Hall, was a merchant or wholesale grocer, and was understood to be a man possessed of a good

Jury of 50 sworn. Presentments:—

Lord Derby for breaking up the Comon ffootway Leading over the Churchgate Moor¹ to Sherburne's.²

The Bailiffs for not repairing the two Horse platts betwixt fishergate Lane and the Marsh, as also for not repairing the Bridge and Platt beyond it at fishergate Lane end.

Court Leet, May 7th, 1750, before Thomas Astley (Mayor).

Presentment:—

The Supervisors of the Highways within this Borough for not laying a sufficient stone platt or sough overcross the Lane in the usual place where one is or has been, between the poor-house and ffree school,³ and if they do not do the same on or before the [blank] day of [blank] next We amerce them in [blank].—[A note in the margin says—"An Improper Presentment."]

deal of wealth. He was one of the wardens of Preston Pariah Church in 1725, was made Mayor of the borough in 1749, and died at Fishwick Hall in or about 1758.

1. Churchgate Moor was on the east side and formed part of Preston Moor.

2. On the east side of Deepdale-road, and nearly opposite the east end of Serpentine-road, there is a farmhouse called Sherburn, and probably this place got its name through some connection, proprietary or otherwise, with the Sherburnes of Ribbleton.

3. The poorhouse was, originally, a work house—a building in which work was provided for poor persons, and for which they were regularly paid. In 1674, owing to the great necessity which existed of setting the poor of Preston to work, "and to keepe them from wandring and begging," the Corporation purchased some old buildings on the north side of Avenham-lane, at the corner of Bolton's-court, and made them into a workhouse; working in wool—making it into yarn or worsted—being mainly, if not entirely, the employment provided. The Mayor and Town Council fixed the rate of wages. Some time after the workhouse had been opened, helpless poor people incapable of working were lodged and provided with food in a portion of it. The records of the Corporation also show that on the 4th of August, 1679, various "rules and orders" for the "well and good governing" of the establishment were adopted. These rules, &c., directed that henceforth the workhouse must be "governed, guided, and managed" by a master or governor, a deputy, a storehouse keeper and treasurer, a clerk, a master workman, and a foreman or second workman. The master and the deputy had to be free burgesses residing within the borough, of the "best ranke and qualitie," and amongst other things they had to see that as many of the poor persons including children within the town as were able to work and had no work whereby to main-

tain themselves should, as the workhouse stock would permit, be "sett to work and kept close thereunto, and not suffred to beg or wander abroad"; whilst such as would not work had to be taken before the Mayor with the view of being sent to the House of Correction, "there to be whypt and sett to hard labour and receive due correction for their Idleness." The storehouse keeper and treasurer had to be a free burgess, and an inhabitant of the town. The clerk had to be able to read and keep accounts, and to be present when stores, &c., were received or delivered. The master workman had to instruct one or more free burgesses in the "art, science, craft, or mystery," of the woollen trade and manufacture, "to the end that thear may not want sufficient persons to manage and carry on the sade trade and manufacture in case the sade master workman shall die or be removed"; and he had to "cause all young children and other persons who are not mothers of families to go and work at the said workhouse in a room or place prepared for that purpose, and while there to see the sade children and other poore persons be kept strictly to work, and to teach and instruct them in greasing, carding, spinning and workeing the sade wooll into yarn." The foreman or second workman had to take care that all young children and other persons were kept to their work, and "the sade children and other persons who shall be imployed and sett to work at the sade workhouse shall every year between the first of March and the first of October dayly go and repaire unto the workhouse by 6 of the clock in the morning, and their continue working until twelve of the clock at noon, and shall in the afternoons return again at one o'clock and there continue working until seven at night; and between the first of October and the first of March shall dayly go to worke at seven in the morning and continue till twelve at noone, and then return at one, and there continue until six in the evening, and shall respectively receive such wages and rates for greasing, carding, and spinning the sade wool, twisting and winding the sade yarn, or dooinge any other their work as the sade master workman shall think fitt, and shall be allowed and approved of by the sade governour or his deputy, or the maior and Common Council or the major part of them." The first master appointed under these regulations was Edward Rigby, "serjant at lawe." In 1788 a workhouse was built at the south end of what was then Preston Moor, not far from and opposite where the Infirmary now stands—about 100 yards at the rear of it. The first workhouse was, at or about this time, abandoned as a place providing employment and relief for the poor; in 1799 the Corporation let it for some purpose, to a person named William Boothman, for 16 years; on the expiry of the lease the building was variously utilised; and in 1850 it was pulled down, the ground on which it stood being excavated for a water lodge in connection with Horrocks and Jacson's cotton mills. The building erected at the south end of Preston Moor was, along with all the district workhouses in the Union, except that in the township of Ribchester, superseded by the present workhouse in Fulwood, which was opened on December 29th, 1868.—The "free school" was the Grammar School.

Court Leet, October 21st, 1751, before James Bolton (Mayor).¹

Presentments :—

Rigby Molyneux, Esqr., for suffering his Cellar steps at the House near the Green Man² to lye open to the street, and if he do not Cover the same in Five Days after Notice We amerce him in 3s. 4d.

Court Leet, April 27th, 1752, before James Bolton (Mayor).
Presentment :—

The Supervisors of the Highways for not sufficiently amending the Footpath³ and Ramparts, draw the Watercourses, amend the Bridges and Steping Stones over the Leaches⁴ and leading from a Stile, near the Brick Kills, over the Moor towards Hinley House,⁵ and if the same are not done and amended on or before the first of August next We amerce 'em in 10s.

Court Leet, October 25th, 1752, before Robert Parker (Mayor).⁶

1. James Bolton was a member of the Guild Council in 1742; having some time previously been elected a member of the Corporate body. In January, 1750-1, he became an Alderman; in 1751-2 and 1758-9 he was Mayor of the borough; and he retained his Aldermanic position till his death in 1766.

2. The Green Man was a public-house in the Back Weind. Subsequently the license and the name were transferred to a house on the south side of Lord-street, between Lancaster-road and Cheetham-street. This was closed, as a public-house, on October 10th, 1894.

3. The footpath branched off Deepdale-road, about 200 yards from the south end, running principally on or close to the line of the present East View, Stanleyfield-road, and St. Paul's-road, then crossing, northward, Preston Moor, afterwards passing over Eaves Brook, where the present footway goes, and so onward into Watling-street, Fulwood. Its course from Stanleyfield-road to the north end of St. Paul's road was through fields; the preceding portion of it—the length from Deepdale-road to the top of Stanleyfield-road—going on one side of a piece of Preston Moor, where there were several water pits.

4. "The Leaches" would be small depressions in the ground of a moist and muddy character.

5. Hinley House would be not far from the Watling-street end of the footpath. No existing building bears the name.

6. Robert Parker, who resided at Cuerden Hall, near Preston—eldest son of Banastre Parker, "first of Cuerden"—was born in 1727; married Ann, daughter and heiress of Thomas Townley, of Royle, near Burnley; was the father of two sons and four daughters, one of the former being

Presentments :—

Bartle Duckworth for not opening the Watercourse in his Orchard,¹ and do order the same to be made a yard Wide and a yard Deep, and if not done in Thirty days after Notice We amerce him in five shillings.

Lord Strange for laying Rubbish in the Street opposite his House in Churchgate,² and if he don't remove the same in a Week after Notice We amerce him in five shillings.

Court Baron, or Inquest of Office, March 5th, 1753, before Robert Parker (Mayor).—Thirty sworn on the Jury.

Presentments :—

The Bailiffs of this Borough for not putting up a Horse-stone³ in the Comon fields over against the Boat House, also for not keeping in repair a platt at the bottom of fishergate Lane, and if not repaired in a Month after notice, We amerce them in 6s. 8d.

Court Leet, May 11th, 1753, before Robert Parker (Mayor); Court Leet, October 25th, 1753, before William Prichard (Mayor).⁴—After the record of Jury names, at the

Thomas Townley Parker, father of the late Robert Townley Parker, of Cuerden Hall; was elected a member of the Preston Corporation on June 20th, 1752, and on the 4th of the following October became an Alderman; was Mayor of the borough in 1752-3 and 1761-2 (Guild year); and continued his connection, as an Alderman, with the Corporation till his death in 1779. His grandson, the late Robert Townley Parker, was one of the Parliamentary representatives of Preston from 1837 to 1841, also from 1852 to 1857, was Guild Mayor in 1862, died in 1879, aged 86, and was succeeded at Cuerden Hall by his son, Thomas Townley Townley-Parker, who still resides there.

1. Duckworth's orchard afterwards became known as Chadwick's orchard. The principal portion of it is now occupied by the Covered Market. See note p. 174.

2. This was Patten House.

3. A horse-stone was a large, flat-topped block of stone, with steps cut in it, which persons got upon to assist them in mounting or getting off horses, and was particularly useful for females when they rode singly or in pillion style.

4. William Prichard was born at Chorley, removed, in comparatively early life, to Preston, where he carried on business as an apothecary, and became a very important man in municipal affairs. In 1726-7 he was the Mayor's Bailiff at Preston; on January 4th, 1730-1, he was elected a member of the Preston Town Council; in 1740 he was made an Alderman; he was chosen Mayor of the borough in 1743-53-59-65; till his death, in

former Court, there is this note: "The Jury above say upon their Oaths that they have nothing to present within their view"; and following the like record, at the latter Court, a note, expressing the opinion of the Jury, says that "any Thing Presentable within their view has been reformed by the Offenders."

Court Baron, or Inquest of Office, February 25th, 1754, before William Prichard (Mayor).

Presentments:—

The Company of Grocers,¹ for laying several Loggs of Wood in the Fishergate Lane, whereby the King's Highway there is

1773, he continued an Alderman; and he was succeeded in business by his son William, who was elected a member of the Council about a fortnight after the death of his father, became an Alderman subsequently, and was Mayor in 1792 and 1800. He died in 1803, aged 67.

1. The Company of Grocers was, along with other Companies, constituted by an order of the Town Council dated October 14th, 1628. The prefatory part of the order states that, notwithstanding the regulations and restrictions contained in two Acts of Parliament, divers handicraftsmen and servants at husbandry had left their occupations, sought "not only to live easily but rather idly," and taken upon them, within the town of Preston, to set up and live by trade—buying and selling divers wares and merchandise contrary to the law, &c.; for the remedy of which the Mayor, Bailiffs, and Burgesses, on the petition of most of the tradesmen of the town, order that "from henceforth for ever" there shall be "a Companie or ffraternitie called Wardens and Companie of Drapers, Mercers, Grocers, Salters, Ironmongers, and Haberdashers," to have power, with the consent of the Mayor and Common Council, to make laws for the better ordering of the said trades, &c. It is furthermore ordered that no member of a Company or fraternity shall take an apprenticeship for a term less than seven years; that no person being the child of any free burgess shall, not having served an apprenticeship of seven years, use any trade without first obtaining the consent of the Mayor and Council for the time being; that every person before being admitted a master of any trade shall have his name enrolled amongst the names of the masters of such trade before the Wardens, &c., and shall pay 3s. 4d. at the time of enrolment; that no person, not inhabiting the town, shall exercise any of the afore-mentioned trades on pain of forfeiture of 10s. for every week so offending (the money to go to the use of the town and the Company concerned); and that no stranger coming within the town shall set on sale or sell, wholesale or retail, any wares or merchandise belonging to—i.e., made, or dealt in, or sold by—any of the aforesaid trades, except at fair times, on pain of forfeiting the wares so sold or offered for sale—one half to go to the use of the town and the other half to the benefit of the Company affected, unless such wares be of its own making

very much straitned and obstructed, and if they do not remove the same immediately on Notice We amerce them in Ten shillings.

The Supervisors of the Highways, for not repairing the Cart road from a certain Platt near Jo. Bray's Garden to the bottom of Spittle's Moss, and if they do not repair the same on or before the 1st June next We amerce them in 39s.

Court Leet, May 9th, 1754, before William Prichard (Mayor).

Presentments :—

Mr. Henry Cowburn, for want of Cellar Rails at the Printing Office, and if not fixed up in 3 Days after Notice We amerce him in 6s. 8d.

Court Leet, October 20th, 1755, before Richard Shepherd (Mayor).—Nearly all the presentments, 33 in number, relate to inconveniences and nuisances caused by persons placing and leaving rubbish, middens, wood, iron, sand, &c., in various streets. The last presentment refers to the Bailiffs, who are accused of having let "all the Pumps in the Town" get out of order.

Court Leet, May 11th, 1759, before James Bolton (Mayor).
Presentment :—

The Revd. Mr. Andrews¹ and the occupants (James Parker, Edward Preston, and John Jackson) for want of Opening or Scouring the Sough near the Upper End of Back Weend; if not done in one month after notice we amerce them in 1l. 10s. Od.

Court Leet, October 22nd, 1760, before Lawrence Rawstorne (Mayor).

1. The Revd. Mr. Andrews, *i.e.*, the Rev. Randal Andrews, was curate of St. George's, Preston, from 1733 to 1743; and on April 30th, 1743, he was instituted Vicar of Preston Parish Church. Andrews was a keen supporter of the Whigs, and the interest he took in their cause, at Preston, very much offended the Tory and Corporation party here. At the "great election," in 1768—a most hotly-contested, uproarious, and in some respects very destructive affair—the antipathy to the political utterances or attitude of Andrews was so strong that his claim to vote was rejected by the Mayor, who held that he was not a freeman of the borough. Andrews continued to be the Vicar of Preston till his death in 1782.

Presentments :—

John Blackledge, James Tootell, and Wm. Wood (the Bridge Undertakers), for not Carting and carrying away but suffering large Quantities of Stone to lye in the King's Highroad betwixt the Bridge at the bottom of the ffishergate Lane and the new bridge over Ribble, by means whereof the Highway there is much Damaged, Straitned, and obstructed, and in many places become deep and foundeours; and if they do not remove the said Stone in fourteen days after Notice We amerce them in Thirty nine shillings and elevenpence.¹

Roger Fishwick, for not Dubbing the Hedge² at Titmouse Orchard, which hangs over and encroaches upon the Road leading towards the Workhouse, And if not done in fourteen days after Notice We amerce him in five shillings.

The Serjeants of this Borough for suffering Strollers to beg through the Town without produceing legal passes.

Court Leet, April 20th, 1761, before Lawrence Rawstorne (Mayor).

Presentments :—

The Bailiffes or the Revd. Mr. Oliver³ for not repairing the Causey by ye Free School, and order them or him (to whom it of right belongs) to repair the same in 20 days after notice or pay the sum of 10s.

1. The road between the two bridges was Broadgate. The first-mentioned bridge was a small one, and was nearly opposite the entrance of what is now Taylor-street. The second—"the new bridge"—was the present one which crosses the Ribble at the south end of Broadgate. It was built in 1759, as the successor, on the same site, of a bridge which was erected by subscriptions (Preston Corporation contributing 500 guineas towards it), and opened in 1755, but which fell, through some defect in its foundations, about a year afterwards. Ever since 1768 tolls have been enacted at different times for repairs and alterations at the bridge.

2. "Dubbing" means cutting or trimming.

3. The Revd. Mr. Oliver was the Rev. Robert Oliver, M.A. He was instituted Vicar of Warton, near Lancaster, in 1734, was appointed by the Corporation Headmaster of Preston Grammar School in 1737, and in 1743 he accepted the curacy of St. George's, Preston. These three positions he held simultaneously. His relations with the municipal authority of Preston were, however, as time went on of a strained character. This state of affairs was owing to either neglect of his school duties or the character of his political views, the latter being antagonistic to those of

Ralph Smith for not repairing the Road from Cuckstool house to the first Moor Slacks, and Order him to do the same within 40 Days after notice or pay 40s.¹

Henry Brewer the elder for not cleaning the streets, and hereby Order him to do them before the Races or pay 40s.²

Court Leet, October 27th, 1762, before Thomas Jackson (Mayor).

Presentment:—

The Bailiffes for a bad Road at the bottom of New-street and Angel Weind; also a bad Road in the Back Lane.³

the Corporation—the Corporation at this time being strongly Tory, and having an idea that they had the exclusive right of electing members of Parliament for Preston! Oliver alleged that the feeling against him was due to political causes; the Corporation said otherwise, and on February 3rd, 1747-8, at a meeting of the Town Council, it was decided that he “be removed from his place as schoolmaster” on account of his remissness and negligence in the performance of his duties. But Oliver continued to be the Headmaster of the Grammar School for several years after this—till 1764 or 1765, probably the latter year, though present available evidence is not really definite on the point. His successor at the school was Mr. Henry Ellis, B.A., of Brazenose College, Oxford, who was appointed on May 19th, 1766. Oliver retained the curacy of St. George’s till 1768, and he kept on being Vicar of Warton till 1775, when he resigned.

1. A slack is a hollow or depressed piece of ground. There used to be a building at the outer edge of Cuckstool Meadow on the west side of that portion of Preston Moor which was principally between the lower part of Deepdale-road and the present East View and Stanleyfield-road, and this may have been Cuckstool house.

2. The races would be those for horses, held yearly on Preston Moor. It is not exactly known when they originated. The common impression has been that they were commenced in 1786; but the Order Book of the Preston Corporation shows that on May 27th, 1695, a resolution was passed directing the Bailiffs to “sett posts on Preston Moor to garde the intended race course.” The races were continued on this Moor till 1791. From 1786 to the close they were specially supported by the Corporation, owing to opposition races got up, through political differences, by Lord Derby and his party, and run during that time (1786-91) on Fulwood Moor. From 1791 to 1833 horse races, but not of an antagonistic kind, were run on the same moor. There were horse races on Penwortham Holme in 1842 (Guild week), 1845-6-7-8.

3. In the latter half of the 17th century—circ. 1684—Lord-street, about the same length as it is at present, was called St. John’s-street; in 1715 the name of it had been changed to New-street; and some time between 1715 and 1774 there was an extension of the street, westward, to where the north end of Anchor Weind joined Back-lane. This extension was

Court Leet, October 26th, 1768, before Thomas Grimshaw (Mayor).¹

Presentments :—

Mr. Henry Brewer the elder and Mr. Henry Brewer the younger for not opening a watercourse and lying a platt in that lane leading from the House of Correction to the plantation² and which Runs along the side of a Close of Land.

The occupiers of the fields adjoining to the Road for not Repairing the Road leading from the Oak tree to the new bridge,³ being a Dangerous Road, and if not Repaired in one month to pay £20.

Court Leet, October 25th, 1769, before Richard Assheton (Mayor).

Presentment :—

The Landowners or Occupiers of Land for not repairing the road leading from the new Chappel⁴ to Lady Well . . . and if not repaired in a fortnight's time we amerce them in 13s. 4d. each.

done away with a few years ago to make room for some street and building improvements, &c., and the change reduced the thoroughfare to about its original length.—As to Angel Weind, there used to be a small passage between the north end of Molyneux-square and Lord-street; until about 1828 this passage was in existence; and as its position would be close to "the bottom of New-street," it is not improbable that such passage was that Weind.

1. In 1754-5 Thomas Grimshaw was the Mayor's Bailiff at Preston. He was elected a Town Councillor in 1756; on August 1st, 1768, he was made an Alderman, his son John taking his place, on the same day, as a Councillor; in 1768-9 and 1775-6 he was Mayor; he was a Guild Alderman in 1782; in 1787 he died. The notable Nicholas Grimshaw, who was Mayor of Preston seven times, including two Guilds, was his son.

2. The plantation was near the two Davil meadows which adjoined Marsh-lane, north side, and it belonged to John Grimshaw.

3. The new bridge was that at the south end of Broadgate—the present Penwortham bridge over the Ribble.

4. The new chapel (Roman Catholic) supplanted the old one in Old Chapel-yard, and stood upon the site of the present St. Mary's, Friargate-brow. It was opened in 1761. During the great election riot, in 1768, it was demolished by an infuriated mob. The existing St. Mary's Chapel is the second Roman Catholic place of worship built on the same site since that act of vandalism.

Court Leet, October 12th, 1771, before James Cowburn (Mayor).¹

Presentments:—

The Reverend Randall Andrews for not opening a sough in the Tyth Barn street, whereby the Inhabitants in that neighbourhood are greatly annoyed, and if not repaired within fourteen days after notice we do amerce him in the sum of 13s. 4d.

Mr. Thos. Addison for having fixed a water pipe in that part of his House which stands in the Mitre yard, whereby his Majesty's subjects passing and repassing through the Mitre yard are greatly annoyed by the water in Windy Weather being blown in their faces, and if not removed or altered within 14 days after notice we do amerce him in the sum of 13s. 4d.

Court Leet, October 28th, 1774, before Bartholomew Devis (Mayor).²

Presentments:—

John Dalton, Esquire,³ for not amending the rails before his house, and if not amended within 21 days after notice we amerce him in £1 19s. 11d.

John Hoggatt for making a midden stead in Wood-street,⁴

1. Cowburn is a name which appears early in the local records. In 1754-5 James Cowburn was the town's Bailiff; in 1756 he was elected a Councilman; early in 1771 he became an Alderman; later in the same year he was made Mayor; and in 1777 the like honour was again conferred on him. His son Thomas, who was a Preston cotton manufacturer, was the Mayor's Bailiff in 1766; afterwards he became an Alderman; and in 1787 he was made Mayor. He had a brother James, who was also a local cotton manufacturer.

2. Bartholomew Devis was the town's Bailiff in 1758; in 1763 he was elected a Councilman; in 1773 he became an Alderman; and he was chosen Mayor three times—in 1774-80-85.

3. John Dalton, Esq., was a Roman Catholic, belonged to the Dalton family of Thurnham Hall, near Lancaster, and was a very well-known, highly-respected gentleman. His house—referred to in the presentment—was, I believe, in Friargate. Later he occupied Avenham House. Afterwards, about 1804, he built a residence in Winckley-square—the present No. 8—east side, and for a time periodically occupied it; but then, and afterwards till his death, in 1837, his main abode was Thurnham Hall.

4. Wood-street was on the north side of Lord-street, and gave a passage from that thoroughfare to Crooked-lane. It is not in existence now.

and if not removed within 14 days after notice we amerce him in 13s. 4d.

Nicholas Winckley, Esquire, and John Oram for not repairing a Street or Lane called the Turks head yard, and if not repaired within 42 days after notice we amerce them in £1 19s. 11 $\frac{3}{4}$ d. each.

Court Leet, October 26th, 1775, before Thomas Grimshaw (Mayor).

Presentment:—

John ffairhurst for keeping a Billiard Table in his House, which tends much to the Encouragement of Gaming and other vices, and if the same is not taken away and such Practices discontinued within one Week after notice we amerce him in the sum of ten pounds.

Court Leet, October 30th, 1776, before Edward Pedder (Mayor).¹

Presentments:—

The Chapel Wardens for not repairing the Platt and Rails in or near the South Side of the Yard belonging to Saint Georges Chapel within Preston,² and unless the same are respectively repaired within one month after notice we amerce them in the sum of thirty-nine shillings.

The Bailiffs for not repairing the Pump in the Market-place³ and also that near Charles Townshends in the ffriergate, and if the same are not sufficiently repaired and amended within one Month after Notice We amerce them in the sum of thirty-nine shillings.

1. In 1748 Edward Pedder was elected a member of the Council; in 1762 he was made an Alderman; and in 1776-7 and 1790-1 he was the Mayor of Preston.

2. St. George's was for many years a chapel-of-ease to the Parish Church. In 1843 a definite district was assigned to this place of worship, and in 1868 it became, under Lord Blandford's Act, an independent church; but fees for marriages, &c., were paid to the Vicar of the Parish Church till 1877.

3. The old draw-well at the bottom of the Market Place had evidently at this time been covered by a pump. At a later date nearly all the public wells in the borough were pump-covered.

Henry Lutwidge, of Walton, Esquire, and John Cooper, of Gregson Lane, within Walton aforesaid, for not sufficiently amending and repairing the Street or Road near the Mill in Molyneux's Square, and in the said Square, and if not repaired within one month after notice we amerce them in the sum of thirty-nine shillings each.

Court Leet, October 29th, 1777, before James Cowburn (Mayor).

Presentment:—

John Watson the elder, Linnen Draper, for laying a large quantity of Dung near the High Road which is near the Gallows hill, upon Preston Moor,¹ and if the same is not removed in one month after notice we do amerce him in the sum of five pounds.

1. Gallows hill was a sandy, irregular-surfaced eminence just north of Moor Brook. The old highway passed on the west side of it. When the present Garstang-road was made or improved, in the early part of last century, Gallows hill was cut through—the line of the new portion of the road going lengthwise near the middle of it. Northward this hill extended about 180 yards from where St. George's-road and Aqueduct-street junction with Garstang-road, and it was something like 100 yards wide. The Church of the English Martyrs and numerous houses, &c., in its vicinage stand upon ground which was surmounted by portions of this hill. Sixteen persons who took part in the Rebellion of 1715 forfeited their lives—four being shot and twelve hanged—on it; and it is supposed that "many more were executed at this place for complicity of a kindred character." In 1817, when Garstang-road was being formed or improved, there were found, during the excavations in Gallows hill, two coffins containing two headless human bodies supposed to be those of Rebels. Up to 1865 a considerable portion of the hill—the bulk of it on the east side of Garstang-road was visible; but since that time it has entirely disappeared, new streets and buildings necessitating its removal down to a proper utilisable level. The names applied to several parts of this locality are strong reminders of the Rebellion days, or rather of various persons who were executed for taking part in the revolt of 1715: Derwentwater-place, Kenmure-place, and Lovat-road remind one of the Earls of Derwentwater and Kenmure and Lord Lovat who were beheaded in London; Muncaster, Arkwright, and Shuttleworth roads are directly suggestive of Roger Muncaster, of Garstang, William Arkwright, and Richard Shuttleworth, of Preston, who were hanged on Gallows hill; whilst Lockhart-road, immediately east of the roads named, brings to remembrance Captain Lockhart, a Rebel officer, who was shot at Preston.

Court Leet, October 23rd, 1782, before John Grimshaw (Mayor).¹

Presentments:—

Mr. Vernon and Mr. Cross² for laying Rubbish from their Gardens into the Watercourse leading from folly to the Brew-house lane,³ and if not removed in two days we amerce them each in 6s. 8d.

Thomas Worden, Landlord at Boarshead,⁴ for suffering peoples Carts to stand in public street at night without any Light at his Door, and for every offence after notice we amerce him in the sum of 6s. 8d.

Court Leet, October 26th, 1786, before Richard Atherton (Mayor).⁵

1. John Grimshaw, son of Alderman Thomas Grimshaw previously referred to, was the town's Bailiff in 1761-2; he was elected a member of the Council in 1768; in 1782 he was made an Alderman, and towards the end of that year he was chosen Mayor—an honour also conferred upon him in 1788, 1799, and 1806.

2. Mr. Cross would be John Cross, of Preston and Cottam, who married Dorothea, daughter of Richard Assheton, of Preston. He was a Deputy-Prothonotary of the county. In 1799 he died, leaving an only son, William Cross. This son was for some time a Deputy-Prothonotary. Along with Thomas Winckley he laid out Winckley-square and certain adjoining streets, including Cross-street, which takes his surname. He built, about 1800, the first house in Winckley-square, at the north-east corner, where the Girls' High School is now situated; here he resided, having his office at the corner of Winckley-street, next to his house. Afterwards he purchased Red Scar and Cottam Hall, and he lived at the former. He died in 1827. The present octogenarian Viscount Cross is a son of his.

3. Brewhouse-lane—also called Brewery-lane—was the present Mount-street.

4. The "Boarshead" was an inn, and presumably it was, or stood on the site of, the present Boar's Head Hotel, near the top of Friargate.

5. The father of Richard Atherton was William Atherton, who was an Alderman of Preston, and Mayor of the borough in 1732-3 and 1738-9. Richard was Mayor's Bailiff here in 1760-1, was elected a member of the Council in 1766, made an Alderman in 1771, served the office of Mayor in 1773-4, 1781-2 (Guild year), and 1786-7, and was one of the firm (Messrs. Atherton, Greaves, and Co.) that opened Preston Old Bank in 1776. He was living in 1802, but had apparently at that time severed his connection with the Corporation.

Presentments :—

John Watson, the Elder, Cotton Manufacturer,¹ Thomas Glover, Gardener, Jonathan Tinsley, Wheelwright, and William Briggs, Merchant, for not removing their several and respective carts out of the fishergate, and if they are not severally removed within fourteen days after notice we amerce each of them in the sum of twenty shillings.

Court Leet, October 5th, 1788, before Thomas Cowburn (Mayor).

1. John Watson, the elder, cotton manufacturer, was for a long time an important person in the municipal and commercial life of Preston. He was elected a member of the Town Council on April 12th, 1764, and for about 40 years was connected with that body. He walked arm in arm with the notable John Horrocks, at the head of a number of cotton manufacturers who formed part of a great procession on one of the Guild festival days in 1802. Watson, along with one Collinson, built in 1777 the first cotton mill in Preston "on the factory basis." It was erected on the east side of Moor-lane brow—on the ground which now forms the north corner of the Walker-street works of the Preston Gas Company. This mill was, it is said, fitted up with Arkwright's spinning machinery. Watson also worked Penwortham factory, and he had a warehouse near the top of Avenham-street, Preston. He was for a time the main customer or buyer of the yarns of John Horrocks, then of Bolton, and afterwards of Preston—"the first great extender of the cotton trade of Preston." The yarns which Horrocks used to sell to Watson were spun by himself (Horrocks) and brought by him, on horseback, to Preston. The partnership with Collinson was, after some time had elapsed, dissolved. For a while Watson worked Penwortham factory. Amongst his operatives at that factory were a number of children from London hospitals or charitable institutions. They worked very long hours at the factory, and a considerable number of them became lame or deformed. On Sundays they were taken, on foot, to Walton-le-Dale Church, and their aspect was curiously conspicuous, chiefly through their wearing green collars and yellow cuffs. At this time or not long afterwards Watson was joined by certain members of his own family; the firm being designated John Watson and Sons. Early in 1808, apparently through some trade mishap or pecuniary difficulty, the "cambrics, muslins, and yarn" of the firm were sold by auction "at their late warehouse." In 1809 Watson was in Lancaster Castle for debt, and a notice, locally published on the 8th of July in that year, intimated that he intended taking advantage of the Insolvent Debtors' Act. After this the Watsonian light gradually flickered out. The mill erected at the side of Moor-lane, in 1777, was pulled down in January, 1860.

Presentments :—

John Rogerson for not placing or affixing a Sufficient Light at Night on his Waggon or Cart suffered to remain opposite his House ; If he neglects to place or Affix a Sufficient Light when as aforesaid We amerce him in the sum of 40s. for every offence.

William Tomlinson for not having a sufficient cover or Board adjoining the skinhouse in the Minsprit Wient, and if not repaired within 6 days after notice we amerce him in the sum of 10s. 10d.

Court Leet, October 29th, 1790, before Edward Pedder (Mayor).

Presentments :—

The Inhabitants of the Borough for not repairing a certain part of the Road leading to Ribbleton, beginning at the Church Gate and ending at the Turn of the Hill on the or [other] side of Messrs. Swainson and Chippendale's Factory,¹ And if the same is not well and sufficiently repaired within one Month after Notice we amerce them in the sum of one Pound one shilling.

Nicholas Starkie, of Frenchwood, Esq.,² for not cleansing and scouring a Watercourse opposite James Thompson's Dye-

1. Swainson and Chippendale's factory was on the north side of Ribbleton-lane, between the present Ribbleton-street and St. Mary's-street North.

2. Nicholas Starkie was the son of Thomas Starkie, of Frenchwood House, Preston, whose father was Wm. Starkie, one of the five sons of Nicholas Starkie, Recorder of Preston from 1706 to the time of his death in 1735, and a descendant of the Starkies of Huntroyde. For a considerable time this family owned Frenchwood House, beautifully situated on the south side of Preston, as well as certain adjoining property. On the death of Thomas Starkie, his son Nicholas (mentioned in the presentment) succeeded him at Frenchwood. Nicholas was a member of the Preston Town Council from 1756 to 1774, when he resigned his seat. He died on May 10th, 1797. Afterwards others belonging to the Starkie family successively inherited the Frenchwood estate; and then, owing to there being no male heir, the property passed to female representatives, primarily or principally to Elizabeth, daughter of the last-mentioned Nicholas. She married Henry Bence Bence, of Thorington Hall, in Suffolk, and to a son of this union (Colonel Bence) the property subsequently descended. Within the past 20 years portions of it, east and west, have been sold for building purposes, &c. Frenchwood House, as well as certain adjoining land, is now held by the trustees of Colonel Bence, deceased.

house, in Cockerhole, And if the same is not done within 14 Days after Notice we amerce him in the sum of £1 1s. 0d.

Thos. Winckley, of Preston, Esqr.,¹ and the Representatives of the late Miss Stanley² for not repairing a certain Wall in a place within Preston called the Coffee Garden,³ and wch separates and divides that place from the Road down the Min-spit Weend, and if the same is not well and sufficiently repaired within 14 Days after Notice We amerce them severally in the sum of £1 1s. 0d.

Robert Abbatt and the other proprietors of the Quakers' meeting house⁴ for laying a quantity of Rubbish in the Back lane adjoining such Meeting House, and if the same is not removed within 3 days after notice we amerce them in the sum of 10s.

1. Thomas Winckley was an attorney-at-law in Preston.

2. Miss Stanley's relationship is not definitely known: she may have been related to the Stanleys of Cross Hall or those of Great Eccleston Hall. She apparently owned a considerable quantity of property in Preston. An assessment made on November 28th, 1777, "upon all and every the inhabitants and occupiers of land and housing within the borough of Preston and the liberties thereof by the Churchwardens and Overseers," shows that her property ranked the tenth, for its value, within the ratable area. Her representatives were Alderman Ralph Watson and Edmund Parkinson.

3. The Coffee Garden was on the east side of Main Sprit Weind. There is now, on the east edge of this Weind, a space which goes by the name of Coffee Gardens. It is about half-way down the Weind; but its name does not, in any way whatever, tally with its appearance. The place called Coffee Gardens is just a common, slightly-raised bit of ground—a sort of rough, rubbish-accommodating indention in the Weind, about 12 yards square, with a low wall, partially surmounted by a thin iron rail, in front. It seems, however, to have been a portion of what was towards the end of the eighteenth century—about the time when the presentment was made—an open piece of ground, about 100 yards long and 25 yards wide, with some buildings at the north-east and south-west corners; and this ground may have been utilised for coffee-drinking or recreational purposes.

4. This Meeting House was built in 1784; about 1797 it was reconstructed; and in 1847 the present Meeting House was erected on its site. The first regular meeting place of the Friends, in Preston, was a building, or a room, between Spring Gardens and Everton Gardens, on the north side of Lord's Walk.

Court Leet, October 26th, 1791, before Thomas Greaves (Mayor).

Presentments :—

John Nabb, gent.,¹ and Robt. Abbatt for not well and suffly [sufficiently] opening their respective Ditches and Watercourses in a certain walk near Saint George's Chapel, called Roper's Walk,² and if ye same are not well and sufficly opened and scowered and cleansed on or before ye 1st day of Dec. next we amerce them in ye sum of 13s. 4d. each.

John Addison, Esq.,³ for laying and placing a large quantity of Earth near a certain place within the Borough called the Starch-house,⁴ and if not removed within 14 days after notice we amerce him in ye sum of £5.

1. John Nabb was elected a member of the Town Council on December 23rd, 1761, and he continued a Councilman till January 17th, 1767, when he was appointed Town Clerk and Clerk of the Recognizances—offices which he held until his death on July 29th, 1793.

2. Roper's Walk was a narrow way, now known as Chapel Walks, between Fishergate and St. George's, and ropes used to be made in it.

3. John Addison, Esq., lived at a house at the top of Chapel Walks, east corner, the front portion of which, facing Fishergate, has for many years been a chemist's shop. He took but little interest in local municipal matters, was a barrister-at-law, Recorder of Clitheroe, and died in 1837. He was the father of the very well-known and greatly respected Thomas Batty Addison and John Addison—both barristers-at-law. The former, who was the elder, was appointed chairman of the Preston Quarter Sessions in 1821, and Recorder of Preston in 1832, and he held both positions till his death in 1874; the latter was County Court Judge of the North Lancashire Circuit from 1847 to his death in 1859.

4. In 1774, two very small enclosed spaces, at the bottom or south end of a field called Platford Dale, near where Back-lane and the present High-street and Lawson-street converge, formed what afterwards became the site of the Starch-house. This house was surrounded by a number of small, primitive-looking buildings in which a number of people lived and did handloom weaving as well as they were able. The first representation of the place appears in Shakeshaft's original plan of Preston (1809); it is by this defined in general outline—is triangular, with an open centre, the entrance being at the north-west corner, and it is designated Starch House. Shakeshaft's revised plan (1822) shows a similarly formed place, bearing the same name; but the previously depicted open centre is occupied with a square building. Alderman J. J. Myres's map (1836) gives the same general outline, with an addition to the central structure; and the name of the general block is pluralised—called Starch houses, the name which it still goes by. Originally, the Starch-house may have been

Edwd. Clayton, he being the scavenger for Church-street, beginning at the Cockerhole and ending at the Church-street Bars, and which is not properly cleansed, and if the same is not well and suffly cleansed immediately after notice we amerce him in the sum of 40s.

John Danson¹ for not erecting or placing a sufft [sufficient] wall to inclose his middingstead in a certain yard called ye old Coffee house yard,² and if the same is not done on or before ye 2d day of Feby next we amerce him in the sum of £20.³

The Bailiffs for not havg a secure and wholesome Prison as a place of temporary security, and also anor Prison in different rooms for ye Confinement of Debtors of both sexes,⁴ and if ye same is not well and suffly provided on or before the 29th day of September next we amerce them in ye sum of £60.

Thomas Hubberstey, John Hoggett, and John Baxter, for not having sufft stiles or platts in their respective Fields adjoining ye Brewery Lane, and if there are not sufft stiles or platts and the Roads suffly repaired on or before ye 2d day of Feby. next We amerce them in ye sum of 39s. each.

used for sizing or size-making purposes. Early in last century there were sizers in a closely adjoining part (High-street), and they may have had some connection with the Starch-house, or have been employed at a competing if not prior-going concern.

1. John Danson was a Quaker, eccentric in character, and not overburdened with money. He lived at a house in Stoneygate which belonged to Lord Derby, who was popularly known, in Preston, as "Owd Ned," and was the great-grandfather of the present Earl.

2. The old Coffee-house yard would, probably, be not far from the Coffee Gardens.

3. This fine was reduced to £5.

4. These prisons would be for very temporary purposes. Small local debtors were liable to imprisonment in the ordinary gaol or House of Correction; debtors of the heavier or more serious order, in Preston and the county generally, went to Lancaster Castle for a certain time. In Preston, at or about the time when the presentment was made, the preliminary prison for miscellaneous offenders was in the Town Hall; afterwards—as a police station—it was in Turk's Head-yard, off Church-street; next in Avenham-street (opened in 1832); and then at the corner of Earl-street, Lancaster-road (the present Police Station, opened in 1858).

The following orders were made at the Court Leet on the 26th of October, 1791 :—

That all persons residing within the Borough shall sweep the footpaths before their Houses, Warehouses, Shops, and other Buildings for three yards from ye front of such respective Buildings, where there are no such Foot causeways ascertained by side stones or posts, on every Saturday and Wednesday, upon pain of forfeiting five shillings for every offence or neglect.—That no person or persons shall throw into or lay any ashes, dirt, or other offensive matter in the Public Streets, Lanes, Highways, or other Passages within this Borough, on pain of forfeiting the like sum of Five Shillings for every offence of this nature.—That no person or persons whomsoever shall ride on or lead or drive any Horse or other Cattle on any of ye Causeways or Foot Paths in the Streets or Highways within this Borough on pain of ye like forfeiture.—That no person or persons whomsoever shall leave or place any Timber, stone, or other matter in the Public Streets or Highways within this Borough on pain of forfeiting ye sum of ten shillings.—And that all Inhabitants of Courts, Lanes, and Passages where ye Scavengers cannot go with Carts are to carry their Ashes or other dirt [with one exception] unto him as soon as he shall make his first appearance in the Public Streets near their respective Houses or other Premises, on pain of forfeiting the sum of five shillings.

The Court Leet juries did not make any presentments during the years 1792—1802. No reason for this long-continued cessation or silence is given; but periodically the usual official appointments were made; and at a Court Leet held on October 28th, 1802, nine “constables” were chosen either as auxiliaries, when required, of the two or three policemen who at the most constituted the “borough force,” or as supplementary to the arrangements entered into about this time, by a number of the inhabitants, with Hugh Dewhurst, gentleman, of Preston, “in order to secure greater protection for their property, the more certain punishment of delinquents, &c.” These first locally elected or recorded “constables” were—James Townsend, John Clowes, William Halstead, James Thompson, John

Hurd, Thomas Dickinson, Thomas Hoghton, Edward Williamson, and John Dent.

Court Leet, October 28th, 1803, before Daniel Lyon (Mayor).

Presentments:—

John Sill, Innkeeper, for laying spent hops and ashes opposite his Brewhouse in the Shambles,¹ in the public street there, and permitting the same to remain there an unreasonable length of time, to the annoyance of the public, and we amerce him in the sum of six shillings and eightpence.

Mrs. Ann Sumner, proprietor of the Swan, in the Strait Shambles,² for not having sufficiently covered a well near the entrance into the said Shambles, so that the same is dangerous to the public passing over the said well, and amerce her in the sum of forty shillings if not sufficiently repaired within one week after notice.

We recommend that Richard Walmsley, Linen Draper,³ have liberty to rail or fence off his cellar in the Cheapside, so that the same may be rendered less dangerous to the public.

1. The Shambles would be the new Shambles, at the south end, west side, of what afterwards became Lancaster-road.

2. The Swan would be the Swan with Two Necks inn, on the north side and in the lower part of the Strait Shambles, which with other property was demolished about the end of 1881, to make room for the Free Library site. There used to be, in the now done-away-with New-street, on the north side of the Market Place, an inn called the Swan. For a time the two inns referred to existed simultaneously. The full name of the latter was the Swan, whilst that of the former included two Necks.

3. Richard Walmsley was a linen and woollen draper, and had a shop at the top of Friargate, south side—the present No. 4, which was occupied for many years by the late Hugh Lamb, hosier, &c. Walmsley was one of the old Police Commissioners of Preston. In 1808 he bought, for £2,200, one of the old houses in the Market Place, at the rear of the Town Hall. It was at that time the only piece of property connected with the Town Hall buildings which did not belong to the Corporation. In 1822, when the Corporation contemplated the erection of a new Town Hall, they purchased the house for £2,350; but a new Town Hall was not then built. The late Alderman Thomas Walmsley, barrister-at-law, and Mayor of Preston in 1853-54 and 1859-60, was the only son of the above Richard Walmsley.

Court Leet, October 17th, 1808, before Nicholas Grimshaw (Mayor).

The record of this Court is a very long one. Eighty-three persons—shopkeepers, bread bakers, butchers, and confectioners—were presented for having in their possession defective weights, one of them having also a pair of uneven scales. All the weights were ordered to be forfeited, and in three instances the offenders were respectively fined 6s. 8d. as an additional penalty.—The only subsequent presentments made at this Court, worth noting, were the following:—

That the post on the Foot Path before the House occupied by Mr. Septimus Gorst, in Fishergate,¹ is a very great annoyance, and ought to be removed (the same being totally useless), and unless the same is removed within one month from the sixth Day of December we do fine the Corporation of Preston in the sum of 20s.

That the post (to which the pipe for the Conveyance of Water from the Water Works is affixed) near the Shuffle and Broom, in Fishergate,² ought either to be removed to the wall of the House adjoining or the post ought to be made considerably higher and painted with white paint and a lamp affixed at the top of the same, and unless one or other of the said alterations be made within one month from the sixth day of December instant the Jurors do fine the Tenant of the said Waterworks in the sum of 20s.

1. Mr. Septimus Gorst resided on the north side of Fishergate, part of the present Gas Office occupying the site of his house. He was a cotton manufacturer, his mill being between his residence and Friargate.

2. The Shovel and Broom inn was on the south side of Fishergate, and it occupied what subsequently, between 1821 and 1825, became the site of the present Shelley Arms hotel. At the time the presentment was made pumps had begun to compete very considerably with the motive power, pipes, posts, &c., of the water company, whose chief reservoir was "the Folly." There were at the time named 15 street pumps in Preston, viz., in Fishergate, one; Church-street, two; Friargate, three; New Preston (north side of Newhall-lane), two; and one, respectively, in Lord-street (top end), Molyneux-square, Turk's Head-yard, Spring Gardens, Crown-street, Queen-street, and Duke-street. In 1822 the street pumps numbered just the same and occupied exactly the same positions. Later, and mainly through private enterprise, some additional pumps were fixed in

That the Public Foot way leading to Saint George's Chapel from Fishergate, called Roper's Croft, ought to be sufficiently and effectually repaired, and unless the same is done within three months from the sixth Day of December Instant We do amerce Mr. Joseph Seaton Aspden,¹ the Occupier of the adjoining field (on one of whom [? on whom] the Burthen of repairing the same lies), in the sum of 40s.

Court Leet, December 15th, 1809, before Daniel Lyon (Mayor).

Presentments:—

Mrs. Catharine Mayor, widow, for not repairing the Foot

different parts of the town. The only visible relic of the old pump times is in Pump-street. On the north side of this street, at the entrance from Park-road, there rises through the front of the roof of No. 1 house a square and somewhat tall brick chimney, which was originally connected with a boiler fire below; the steam of the boiler being used for a small engine which worked a pump at the side of the street. This concern was private property, and the water here obtained was sold at so much per pail or canful. The pump gave the name to the street in which it was situated; it was put up (over a well) about 1827; and it was generally called "the Park pump." A little north-west of Pump-street there is the Craven Heifer public-house, in the yard of which there used to be a pump, and the water raised by it was principally sold to neighbouring people.—There is a remnant of the system of the old Waterworks Company—the company formed in 1832—at the rear of the shops of Mr. E. Ambler and Mr. J. Marsden in Lancaster-road (Nos. 186 and 187, Stanley-buildings). Here, under the flags of a short passage—a passage which forms part of what used to be the south end of Wood-street, off Lord-street—there runs a section of the old company's water main, and the iron cap covering the valve or plug hole in connection with it is now quite visible. The modern main does not go in front of the shops named, as it does in the case of contiguous property, and their water supply is obtained solely through the old portion referred to which proximately joins the later general system. On the east side of the passage there is a door connected with what was formerly a house (No. 2) in Wood-street. The number is still on the door.

1. Mr. Joseph Seaton Aspden was Seal Keeper for the County and a Clerk in Court for the Chancery of Lancashire. He was a Captain in the Royal Preston Volunteers raised in 1797. He built a house in Winckley-square (the present No. 1), adjoining the north-west corner, and after living in it some time sold it to Mr. Henry Fielding, calico printer, Catterall, near Garstang. Mr. Seaton Aspden died on October 23rd, 1827, aged 71 years, and his remains were interred in front of the chancel of St. George's, Preston.

Way in the Back Lane, in front of Henry Simpson's School,¹ her property, and unless on or before the first day of February next, after notice thereof, she effectually repair such foot way we amerce her in the sum of 20s.

Mr. John Fallowfield, Druggist,² for placing a middingstead in Lord-street, in front of his premises there situate, and unless on or before the first day of January next after notice he remove such middingstead and desist from placing any there in future we amerce him in the sum of 20s.

Court Leet, November 28th, 1810, before George Blelock (Mayor).³

Presentments:—

Mr. John Greenwood,⁴ Executor of the late Mr. James Haworth, for placing a post about the middle of Mount-street, and unless within ten days after notice he remove the same we amerce him in the sum of 10s.

Lady Gerrard⁵ for not making a proper Foot Causeway in front of the Dwelling house occupied by her in Fishergate, and

1. This school was on the south side of Back-lane, at the top or north-west corner of Lill's-court. The building, which was closed as a school about 1873, is still standing, and at present is occupied as a wood-turner's shop.

2. In 1777-8 Mr. John Fallowfield was the town's Bailiff; in 1797-8 he was the Mayor; and in 1814 he was one of the wardens of the Parish Church. He opened the first properly equipped chemist and druggist's shop in Preston: it was at the lower part of the north side of the Market Place, close to Anchor Weind (the property here was demolished some years ago for improvement purposes), and stood opposite Anchor-court. Fallowfield had for some years in his shop, either as assistant or apprentice, James Mounsey, who subsequently kept a shop at the top of Friar-gate, nearly opposite Fallowfield's, and claimed to be the original maker of the noted "Preston Smelling Salts." But Fallowfield's son John, who was also a chemist and druggist, and had a shop in Church-street (the present No. 148), was apparently the first to give vogue to these salts or get them into high favour.

3. In 1787-8 George Blelock was the town's Bailiff; he was a member of the Guild Council in 1802; and he was Mayor of Preston twice—in 1804-5 and 1810-11.

4. Greenwood was an attorney at 93, Fishergate.

5. It is very probable that Lady Gerrard was Catharine, daughter of William Anderton, of Euxton. She was twice married—first to Thomas Clifton, of Lytham, and afterwards, on his decease, to Sir Robert Cansfield Gerard, of Garswood and New Hall, near Warrington, who died in 1784. Lady Gerard died at Richmond, co. York, in 1821.

unless within two months after notice she cause such Foot Causeway to be made we amerce her in ten pounds.

The proprietors of the Waterworks or Mrs. Tipping, for not cleansing the Reservoir of Water at Preston, by reason whereof the water therein contained is become very foul and nauseous and injurious to the Health of his Majesty's subjects, and unless within four months after notice they or she cause the said Reservoir to be effectually cleansed we amerce them or her in ten pounds.

Messrs. Wren, Corry, and Woodcock,¹ Timber Merchants, for placing a large stone opposite to the House of Mr. Naylor, in Mount-street, and unless within ten Days after notice they remove the said stone we amerce them in ten shillings.

The Surveyors of the Highways for not making a foot Causeway below the Green Bank from the Termination of the present Foot Causeway and to extend beyond the steam mill in Watery Lane² . . . and unless within one month after notice they make such Foot Causeway we amerce them in four pounds.

Court Leet, January 19th, 1813, before Nicholas Grimshaw (Mayor).

Presentments:—

Joseph Goodier for placing a large stone at the end of

1. Messrs. Wren, Corry, and Woodcock's timber yard was at the south end of the present Woodcock's-court, off Fishergate. The "first theatre in Preston of which we have any reliable account" was at the end of this court. The building was abandoned as a "Play-house"—this was its old name—about 1800, on account of its inconvenience or dilapidated condition. It was the immediate predecessor of the theatre built in Fishergate in 1802, on the site of which the present Theatre Royal stands.

2. When this presentment was made Watery-lane extended west from the canal bridge, near Green Bank, to its present terminus at the north-west corner of the Marsh. It ran on the south side of and close to the canal—only about ten yards off—for a considerable distance, the foot causeway referred to taking an intermediate course, and it (the lane) was the principal way to the town from the west or Fylde country. Some years later—presumably about 1830—the present Fylde-road was made, and owing to its straightness, width, and evenness of surface, it supplanted the higher portion of the old lane entirely. The steam mill was on the north side of the lane, and about 100 yards east of the canal aqueduct. Only the length from the north-west end of Strand-road to the corner above mentioned is now called Watery-lane; whilst the higher part from Strand-road to the canal aqueduct is named Water-lane.

Singleton Row,¹ and a Midding, which are public nuisances and dangerous to His Majesty's Subjects, and unless within fourteen days after notice he remove the same we amerce him in ten shillings.

William Alexander, Surgeon,² for not repairing the Chapel Yard opposite to his premises there, which want of repair is attended with great danger to his Majesty's Subjects, and unless within one month after notice he repair the same we amerce him in twenty shillings.

David Ainsworth, for permitting Bengal Square³ to be in a very dirty state . . . and unless within fourteen days after notice he cause the same to be cleansed we amerce him in forty shillings.

Richard Newsham, Esquire,⁴ for permitting Holding Square and the passages leading thereto to be in a very dirty state . . . and unless within fourteen days after notice he cause the same to be cleansed we amerce him in forty shillings.

1. With the exception of a portion of Moor-lane, between Cragg's-row and Corry-street, Singleton-row was at this time the most northerly occupied street in the borough.

2. This gentleman resided in Chapel-yard (north side of St. George's), off Friargate. Many years ago the house he occupied, which stood at the north-east corner, being then No. 1, with the front door facing Chapel-yard, was made into a shop—the lower part of it, at any rate—with the entrance in Friargate (it is the present No. 28, Friargate), and afterwards the Talbot inn, which was next door in the same yard, became No. 1.

3. Bengal-square was off Church-street, near Cotton-court, and adjoining or on one side of it was a cotton mill worked by David Ainsworth, and later by him and others under the firm-name of Messrs. Ainsworth, Catterall, and Co., cotton spinners. David Ainsworth died in 1819, and was interred in the graveyard attached to the Unitarian Chapel, Preston—a small piece of ground (between Church-street and Percy-street) in the centre of which is the Ainsworth family vault.

4. Richard Newsham had an interest in some property in Holding or Holden's-square—a square which was on the north side of and close to Dale-street, and the area of which is now principally covered by a weaving shed, connected with the "Yard Works," which was built in 1891. He was the father of the late Richard Newsham who resided for so many years at No. 1, Winckley-square, and he took a conspicuous part, locally, in municipal, financial, and commercial matters. In 1786-7 he was the town's Bailiff at Preston; in 1802 he was a member of the Guild Council; later he became an Alderman: and he was Mayor in 1807-8, 1813-14, 1818-19, and 1824-25. During his second Mayoralty he gave one of the

Samuel Horrocks, Esquire,¹ for permitting the Road at the bottom of Canal Street² to be out of repair and dangerous to His Majesty's subjects, and unless within two months after notice hereof he repair the same we amerce him in the sum of forty shillings for the offence.

bells forming the present peal at Preston Parish Church. It is the sixth bell, and bears this inscription:—"Rich. Newsham, Esq., Mayor, 1814." (The bells constituting this peal were rung for the first time on Christmas Day, 1815). He was associated with the Preston "Old Bank" when it commenced business, in 1776, and from 1806 to 1825 he was a member of its proprietary firm (Messrs. Pedder, Newsham, Lomax, and Denison). Along with Thomas Greaves he, in 1792, joined John Horrocks, the great pioneer of the Preston cotton trade, in working a mill commonly called Bolton's Factory, on the north side of the upper part of Syke-street. Horrocks had, a year before this, built the "Yellow Factory"—the nucleus of the present immense "Yard Works" of Messrs. Horrockses, Crewdson, and Co., Ltd., on the south-east side of the town. The partnership referred to continued for only a short time. Messrs. Isaac and George Horrocks subsequently became the proprietors of the concern, and it was the root or predecessor of Messrs. Horrockses, Jacson, and Co.'s cotton works in Avenham-street. Spinning was principally done at these works. In 1883 operations in the cotton trade were entirely discontinued here, and since then the buildings have been miscellaneously occupied for trade purposes. Mr. Newsham, senr., died in 1843, in the 90th year of his age, at Avenham House, where he had resided for nearly 40 years.

1. Samuel Horrocks was one of the M.P.'s for Preston for 22 years. On the death of his brother, John, in 1804, he was elected as his successor, and he held the seat till 1826, when he retired. For upwards of 30 years he was a borough Magistrate and a member of the Corporation. In 1833—having for some time been an Alderman—he voluntarily withdrew from the corporate body. He built and resided at Lark Hill House, Preston, and he died there on the 24th of March, 1842, in his 76th year; his son Samuel being at that time Guild Mayor of Preston.

2. This road would lead to the adjoining "Canal Factory," which was built by John Horrocks in 1799. He died in 1804, leaving two who had been trade partners with him—his brother Samuel and Thomas Miller, father of Alderman T. Miller, of Preston; and the former being the principal member of the firm, on the death of John, was apparently deemed by the Court Leet the likelier to tackle or the more responsible for a defect in a road connected with one of their mills. When the presentment was made, Canal-street was about twice as long as it is at present. The remaining portion of it is now called Kendal-street.

After the minutes of the last-mentioned Court Leet there is an entry as to a meeting of the Court Baron, "commonly called

the Inquest of Office," held on March 1st, 1813, before Nicholas Grimshaw (Mayor). The names of 14 jurymen are given, and then follows a line running thus: "The Jurors returned no presentments." This is the final entry in the last Court Leet record book. After the entry there are in the book upwards of 500 blank pages. The Court Leet was not abolished, or, perhaps, it would be more appropriate to say, did not die out, until May 5th, 1835, and entries of presentments may have been made in some other book up to the close of the Court's career; but there is no evidence confirmatory of this conjecture in the existing archives of the Corporation; and the blank pages in the book alluded to strongly indicate that after March 1st, 1813, no actual written record of the proceedings was made, or, at any rate, preserved.



MAPS OF PRESTON.

	Date.
P.M.'s Rebellion map	1715
Geo. Lang's	1774
Wm. Shakeshaft's	1809
Tithe map, about	1812
Wm. Miller's (a revision of Lang's)	1822
Ed. Baines's (History of Lancashire, 1836) ; survey in	1824
J. J. Myres's	1836
Ordnance map (survey in 1844-46) ; published in	1848
John Newton's	1858
Wm. Brown's, about	1875

ERRATA.

Page 3 (first note).—In 1662-3 the Mayor of Preston was named William Banestre.

Page 15 (first note).—Twelve, not eleven, of the old Mayors were named Blundell, and Henry Blundell was Mayor, not Bailiff, in 1669.

Page 25 (note).—The drinking fountain in Fishergate, between Cannon-street and Guildhall-street, was removed in 1904.

Page 53 (first note).—Pp. 33-34 should be pp. 35-36.

Page 160 (second note).—The nature of the offence is specified in the last presentment on p. 158.

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