

Henry VII. (1499-1500), Sir Thomas Talbot, whose father had married the daughter of Sir John Tempest of Bracewell, enfeoffed Thomas Tempest, apparently his maternal uncle, with the tenth part of a knight's fee, and the rent of 9d. in his lordship of Risshdene.¹ The Talbots had the privilege of free warren in this and the rent of 9d. in his lordship of Risshdene.¹ The Talbots had the privilege of free warren in this township. Henry, the grandson of Henry de Blackburn, took the name of Rishton or Rushton, both orthographies being found in ancient authentic documents. The Walmesleys purchased the moiety held by this family, and it is now enjoyed by their representative, Henry Petre of Dunkenhalth, esq. *Rishton Hall* is a plain edifice. In this township are the villages of Tottleworth, Cunliffe, and Cowhill Fold. Several cotton-factories have been erected in this township, and the population has rapidly increased since 1861. The Episcopalian school of St. Peter's Church, in this township, was opened in 1866. It was erected through the efforts of the Rev. W. M. Haslewood, M.A., incumbent of Great Harwood, and cost £1150. There is a Mechanics' Institution in the village of Rishton. A Wesleyan chapel and school, costing £1500, were opened in 1863.

GREAT HARWOOD.—Henry de Lacy granted the whole manor of Great Harewood to Richard de Fitton, justice of Chester, in 1233, which grant was confirmed by his son Robert de Lacy, who died in 1193. Richard, son of John Fitton, brother of the original grantee, had the manor conveyed to him by his kinsman Edmund Fitton, and was living in 1237.² He left three daughters and co-heiresses, of whom Matilda married Sir William Hesketh, living 23 Henry III. (1238-9), seized of two carucates of land in Magna Harwode, which Hugh Fitton formerly held of the earl of Lincoln; Amabel, the second daughter and co-heiress, married Edmund Leigh of Croston; and Elizabeth, the third, married Roger, son of Adam de Nowell of Great Mearley; and the manor became divided into three portions. Of these, the Heskeths purchased that of the Leighs; and the Netherton portion of the Nowells continued in the family until it was alienated by Alexander Nowell, esq., who died in 1772. The present lord of the manor of Great Harwood is James Lomax of Clayton Hall, esq., who succeeded to it in 1849 on the death of his elder brother John Lomax, esq.³ In 13 Richard II. (1389), John Nowell did homage for this estate to Thomas Hesketh in the chapel of Harwood. This is probably the same John Nowell who preferred claim to have a weekly market every Thursday in his manor of Netherton in Great Harwood, and a fair every year on the day of St. Laurence, with all liberties to such fair appurtenant.⁴ The present lord of the manor, James Lomax, esq., holds a court-leet in the township in the month of May. Harwood is four and a half miles north-east of Blackburn, and is a large township, divided into the Over and Nether town: it is a parochial chapelry including part of Rishton. The parochial chapel of St. Bartholomew, with its antique tower and cross, appears to have been rebuilt about the reign of Henry VII. The minister ejected from it in 1662 was Mr. Sandford. There are places of worship also in connection with the Independents, Wesleyan Methodists, United Free Methodists, and Primitive Methodists. An elegant Gothic church, dedicated to Our Lady and St. Hubert, was erected for the Roman Catholics in 1860, at the sole expense of James Lomax, esq. of Clayton Hall.

The village of Great Harwood has quickly extended of late years, and now contains upwards of 5000 inhabitants. Its staple industry is the cotton manufacture, and there are 11 mills in the town, at which about 2500 work-people are employed. It is supplied with gas and water from Accrington, three miles distant. The town is governed by a local board of health. The fairs are held on the 2d of March and the 21st of August.

BILLINGTON, five miles north-north-east of Blackburn, is an extensive manor and township on the south bank of the Ribble, and the west side of the Calder. The manor was granted by the first Henry de Lacy to Hugh, the son of Leofwine, a Saxon, in the reign of King Stephen, whose descendant William, lord of Alvetham, granted it to Ralph, the son of Geoffrey de Billington. Adam de Billington, probably the son of Ralph, was one of the jurors on the grand inquest in 13 John (1211-12), and held the moiety of a knight's fee in Billington, which he conveyed to Adam de Huddleston in 1288.⁵ In 4 Edward II. (1311) Sir Adam de Huddleston held Billington of Henry de Lacy, earl of Lincoln, by the service of 10s. yearly at St. Giles (September 1), and 3d. at Midsummer, and suit to the court of Clitheroe.⁶ Sir Adam's nephew, Sir Richard de Huddleston, in 1322, conveyed the reversion of his fee, after the death of Thomas, son of Sir Geoffrey le Scrop, to Sir Geoffrey, who, in 1332, granted it in fee to the Abbey of Whalley. After the dissolution it was obtained by Sir Thomas Holcroft, along with the other moiety, which being granted for life to Adam de Huddleston by Henry de Lacy, the reversion was conveyed to the abbey by Thomas, earl of Lancaster in 12 Edward II. (1318-19).⁷ The manor soon passed from the Holcrofts to Ralph Asheton of Great Lever, esq., and was given by him in marriage with Ann his daughter, in 1554 to Edward Braddyll of Portfield, esq.⁸

Of the moiety of the manor granted by Henry de Lacy to Adam de Hodleston (of a family who at different periods distinguished themselves by their benefactions to the abbey of Furness⁹), Dr. Kuerden has preserved a copy of the Norman-French charter:—

¹ *Duc. Lanc.* vol. iii. n. 69.

² *Whalley Coucher Book*, pp. 845-6.

³ *Notitia Cestriensis*.—Note by Rev. Canon Raines, ii. 284.

⁴ Dr. Kuerden's *MSS.*, 4to, fol. 54, in the Chetham Library.

⁵ *Whalley Coucher Book*.

⁶ *De Lacy Inquisition of 1311*. Chet. Soc. Series, lxxiv.

⁷ *Whalley Coucher Book*, p. 937.

⁸ *Notitia Cestriensis*.—Note by the Rev. Canon Raines, ii. 286.

⁹ Their arms, *Gu. a fret ar.*, are richly emblazoned in the Coucher Book of the abbey of Furness.

"To all who shall see or hear this, Henry de Lasey, earl of Lincoln, constable of Chester, greeting in God. Know that we have given and granted, and by this our own handwriting confirm to our dear batchelor, Master Adam de Hodleston, for his good service that he has done, and that he is still held to us for, all our lands and our tenements in the *vil* of Billington, to have and to hold, to the said Master Adam, from us and our heirs, for all his life, as well in demesne as in the service of rent and in the service of the freemen or the villains of these villenages, with all other appurtenances to the beforesaid lands and tenements belonging, re- of the freemen or the villains of these villenages, with all other appurtenances to the beforesaid lands and tenements belonging, re- serving to us and our heirs our franchise, and rendering to us and our heirs one rose at the feast of St. John the Baptist for all service for the said lands, etc. And we and our heirs will guarantee and defend all the lands and tenements undermentioned, save our chase aforesaid, to the said Master Adam for all his life against all persons. In witness of which matters we have set our seal to the part of this writing remaining with the said Master Adam, and the said Master Adam has set his seal to the other part remaining with us. Witnesses to these, Master Giles de Trumpinton, Master Johan Spring, and others.¹

The quantity of land conveyed by this instrument is ascertained from the Lansdowne Feodary, 23 Edward III. (1349), to have been three carucates, which were then held by military service, and "which tenement," adds the Feodary, "the abbot of Whalley purchased for himself and successors for ever."²

In the time of Adam de Hodleston, who died 15 Edward II. (1321-2), the boundaries between the moiety of Billington and Great Harwood were taken with the assent of Henry de Lacy, by William de Hesketh and his son John, Roger Noel and his son Adam, in Great Harwood, and Adam de Hodleston, and others, in Bylington. By a deed without date, but anterior to 2 Edward III. (1328), the mill of Billington was granted by Henry de Laseye to William de Hacking; "that the same William and his heirs may have and hold of us and our heirs, freely and for ever, the mill of Billington with all its belongings, which mill the same William erected on the water of Ribble."³ The impression of the seal represents the earl in armour upon horseback, with the circumscribed legend S. HENRICI DE LACYE. COMIT. LINCOLN. CONST. CESTR. On the reverse are the arms of Lacy:—Quarterly, or and gules, a bendlet sable; over all a label of three points of the second. The estates of Hacking descended through the Shuttleworths, who obtained them by marriage, 43 Edward III. (1369), to the Walmesleys, and from them to the baronial family of Petre.

Near Langho, anciently called Billangho, a hamlet in this township, two miles west from Whalley, is a large tumulus, which is supposed to cover the remains of Alric, the son of Heardberht, who fell in a great battle fought in the year 798. The engagement is briefly recorded by the Saxon annalist, as occurring during Lent, on 4 Non. Aprilis [April 2] in the Northumbrian district at Hweallege, where was slain Alric, the son of Heardberht, and many others with him. Simon of Durham particularises the circumstances, and defines the spot. From his account, it appears that in 798 a conspiracy had been formed by the murderers of king Ethelred, and Wada the duke, being engaged with them in the plot, attacked Eardwlf, the king, at a place which the English, says he, call Billangahoth, near Wallalege, and many having been slain on both sides, Wada the duke and his forces were put to flight.⁴ At Langho is an Episcopal chapel, an ancient stone building said to have been built of materials brought from Whalley Abbey. It was in existence shortly after the Reformation. On king James's declaration of liberty of conscience it was seized by the Walmesleys of Dunkenhalth, a neighbouring Catholic family, and used as a Catholic chapel for a short time in 1687-8, but afterwards restored to the Protestants by the king's command. The present incumbent is Rev. M. Hedley, B.A. (1868). There is also a Roman Catholic Chapel at Langho. Henry Petre, esq., is the present lord of the manor, for which there is a court-leet held in May. Besides *Hacking Hall*, here is the old house of *Braddyl with Brockhall*. There was also at one time a private lunatic asylum, long under the management of Dr. Chew, who died forty years ago. In 1831 a coin of Hadrian was discovered here, bearing the legend "HADRIANVS AVG. COS. III. P.P.," and on the reverse a figure standing before an altar, and these words—"PIETAS AVG."

In 28 George III. (1787-8) an act of parliament was passed "For dividing and inclosing the several commons and waste grounds within the several lordships and manors of Billington and Wilpshire, in the parish of Blackburn and Honor of Clitheroe, in the hundred of Blackburn, and county palatine of Lancaster."

DINKLEY, 5½ miles north of Blackburn, is a very small township, containing no object of interest besides the old hall. In 1311 (4 Edward II.) Roger de Clyderhou held of the Lacies, earls of Lincoln, 1½ oxgang of land in Dynkeley in thanage.⁵ In 20 Edward IV. (1480), Robert Morley held "Dynkeley in Billington" by knight service; and in 24 Henry VIII. (1532) his descendant Thomas Morley died seised of this estate,⁶ which, in 9 Elizabeth (1567), was held by Roger Nowell of Read, esq., and afterwards passed to the Talbots. Dorothy, daughter and heiress of Jno. Talbot of Salesbury, married in the 17th century Edward Warren of

¹ MSS., vol. iv. fol. B. 10. In the Heralds' College, London.

² Cod. DLIX. fol. 29.

³ Dr. Kuerden has an abridgment of this deed in vol. iv. fol. B. 10 b.

⁴ *Sim. Dunhelm. apud Decem Scriptores Anglic. Hist. col. 114.*—The passage, with some verbal differences, is also given by Leland, *Collect.*, tom. i. p. 350. In 1836, as Thomas Hubbersty, the farmer at Brockhall, was removing a large mound of earth in Brockhall Eases, about 500 yards from the bank of the Ribble, on the left of the road leading from the house, he discovered a kist-vaen, formed of rude stones, containing some large human bones, and the rusty

remains of some spear-heads of iron. The whole crumbled to dust on exposure to the air. This tumulus was within 200 yards of Bullasey ford, one of the very few points for miles by which the river could be crossed. The late Dr. Whitaker sought in vain for remains of this battle, which he erroneously concluded was higher up the river, near Hacking Hall, at the junction of the Calder and the Ribble. But this kist-vaen is on the site which tradition assigns to the battle, about Langho, Elker, and Buckfoot, near the Ribble.—*Notitia Cestriensis*, note by Rev. Canon Raines ii. 286.

⁵ *The Great De Lacy Inquisition of 1311.*

⁶ *Duc. Lanc.* vol. iii. n. 60

Poynton, esq., and conveyed the estate to him. Sir George Warren, K.B., his son and heir, died in 1801, and his daughter and heiress having married Thomas James, Viscount Bulkeley, this estate is now in possession of her ladyship's representative, George Warren, Baron de Tabley.¹ Dr. Whitaker says that "Dinkley belonged to the Talbots." John Talbot, the last male heir, had Dorothy, born in 1650, who married Edward Warren of Poynton. This gentleman resided here, and is praised by Dr. Stukeley for his care of the Roman altar in Dinkley,² which has since been removed to Stonyhurst. Sir George Warren, K.B., died August 31, 1801, leaving an only child, Harriott, married, April 26, 1777, to Thomas James Bulkeley, Viscount Bulkeley. From the Warren Bulkeleys it passed into the family of Fleming-Leycester; and Lord de Tabley, the second son of Sir John F. Leycester who was created Lord de Tabley, was the proprietor until about two years ago, when he sold it to Mr. Henry Ward of Blackburn.

SALESBURY is a township in the valley of the Ribble. A manor in the Lacy fee gave its name to a race of local proprietors, from whom, at a very early period, the estate passed into the hands of the Cliderhows. In the great De Lacy Inquisition of 1311, Henry de Lacy, earl of Lincoln, was found to have had a separate fishery in Ribble Water, in Samewell (Samlesbury) and Salewell (Salesbury). Richard de Tyndeheved then held 11 acres in Salesbury of the Earl; and Richard le Sorris held freely a water-mill, at a yearly rent of 6s. 8d. In 5 Edward II. (1311-12) a charter for free warren in the manor of Salesbury was granted to Sir Robert de Cliderhou. Sibella, daughter and heiress of Robert de Cliderhou, was thrice married. We find no trace of issue by her second husband Sir Richard Mauleverer,³ or by her third, Sir Roger de Fulthorpe.⁴ By her first husband Richard, son of John de Radcliffe of Ordeshall, she had a son, who died *s.p.*, and a daughter, Joanna, who became at her mother's death, in 1414, lady of Salesbury. She was wife to Sir Henry de Hoghton, who left no legitimate issue. Her estate of Pendleton became ultimately vested in his natural son, but Salesbury was not diverted from his wife's family. After her decease the inheritance passed to Isabella, daughter and co-heiress with her sister Joanna, of Richard de Cliderhow and of Agnes his wife. Isabella had married, prior to 1423,⁵ John, son of William Talbot, a cadet of the house of Talbot of Bashall. John Talbot, their son (who was six years of age at the death of his mother in 1432), was instrumental to the betrayal of Henry VI., whose apprehension is said to have occurred at Salesbury; Leland, however, fixes the scene in Cletherwoode. However this may be, letters-patent were granted to him by Edward IV. for a pension of twenty marks to be paid to him out of the duchy revenues; and in the 2 Richard III. (1484) the pension was confirmed. In this profitable but odious service Sir James Haryngton was the principal actor, and the Talbots his subordinate agents, since it appears that in 5 Edward IV. (1465) Sir James had a grant of Thurland Castle from that monarch, "not only for his good and gratifying service often performed, but especially for his great and laborious diligence about the taking and keeping of the great traitor, our rebel and enemy Henry, lately called King Henry VI." Dr. Kuerden preserves a dateless claim to free warren in all the demesnes of Salesbury, which was probably preferred by Sir John Talbot, the son of the patentee, who died 3 Henry VIII. (1511).⁶ The later descent of Salesbury to the Warrens, and its purchase by Mr. Ward, is a repetition of that of Dinkley as above recited. *Salesbury Hall* was a quadrangular house of wood and stone, and passed from the Salesbury to the Clitheroe family before the fourteenth century. It contained a domestic chapel; and in 1371 a license was granted by Robert bishop of Lichfield, to Sir Robert de Cliderhow, knt., and Sibella his wife, to have an oratory at Salesbury for two years. In 1376 a licence was granted to Dame Sibella, relict of Sir Robert de Cliderhow, for an oratory for two years. The old hall of Salesbury is now a ruin; it is chiefly remarkable for a corner-stone which was dug up at Ribchester, and built into the wall, and which, on one side, represents Apollo with his quiver on his shoulder, leaning on his *plectrum* or harp, with a loose mantle or *velamen*; and, on the other side, two of his priests in the same habit, with an ox's head in their hands, sacrificing to him, the heads of various animals lying prostrate at his feet.⁷ It is supposed to be a votive altar, erected in the time of Diocletian. Near Salesbury Hall is *Lovely Hall*, a jointure-house of the Talbots, but now vested in L. G. N. Starkie of Huntroyd, esq., high-sheriff of the county in 1868-9, and occupied by his under-sheriff, Arthur J. Robinson, esq. The interior is ornamented by antique furniture and stained glass. Salesbury Green is a small village, which was the station of the rebels of the last century. It contains Salesbury chapel, a small fabric, erected by subscription about 1808, in the patronage of the vicar of Blackburn; incumbent, Rev. J. Nicklin (1868).

OSBALDESTON is a small township, sloping down to the banks of the Ribble. It gave name to one of the first families in the county, who were seated here from an early period after the Conquest until the beginning of the eighteenth century. Robert de Lacy, who died in 1193, granted to William de Archis the right of hunting in his fee of Waswalle, Hapdon, and Osbaldeston, with quittance of tonnage in fairs and

¹ *Notitia Cestriensis*—Note by Rev. Canon Raines, ii. 288.

² *Itiner. Curios.* vol. ii. p. 158.

³ In Whitaker's *History of Whalley*, it is stated that Salesbury was brought in marriage to the Talbots by a daughter of Sibella and Sir Richard Mauleverer. This statement, repeated in the first edition of this work, and in the notes to Gastrell's *Notitia Cestriensis*, is disproved by the evidence on which the narrative in the text, kindly supplied to me by Mr. William Langton, is founded.—B. H.

⁴ Foss, in his *Lives of the Judges*, makes Sir Roger's heir to be the son of this lady, but if so he would have inherited Salesbury.

⁵ In that year they had a dispensation, in consequence of having married within the fourth degree of consanguinity without being aware.

⁶ MS. 4to, fol. 57. In the Chetham Library.

⁷ Dr. Leigh's *Natural History of Lancashire*, B. iii. p. 9.

markets, for which grant William paid 100s. The witnesses were—William Vavasor, burriller, Rob. and Geoffrey Hanselin, Adam of Poitou, Alan de Kipays, William de Alvetham, Geoffrey de Lacy, Helias de Bilintun, Alan Busshel, Richard, Peter, and Adam de Kighelay, and many others.¹

Osbaldeston was the property of Eilfi of Osbaldeston, a Saxon, whose son Hugh was living in 30 Henry III. (1245-6), and from whom descended the family of Osbaldeston; while from his brother William, who assumed the surname of Balderston, descended a family, which terminated in two co-heiresses, in the reign of Henry VI.² *Osbaldeston Hall* was the property and residence of one of the first and oldest families in Lancashire, seated here immediately after the Conquest; and continued in the direct male line until the death of Edward Osbaldeston, esq., in 1689,—his son Thomas dying a minor in 1701; after whose decease “the remains of the estate” passed to a collateral branch of the family, and being sold in the middle of the eighteenth century to the Warrens of Poynton, have been again sold by their representative, Lord de Tabley, to Mr. Ward of Blackburn. The park is destroyed, but in Dr. Whitaker’s time the shell of the old house, a large though irregular pile, remained nearly entire. In 1560, Dame Elena, widow of Sir Alexander Osbaldeston, gave by will to her son, John Osbaldeston, esq., certain things belonging to the altar in the chapel at Osbaldeston, “to remain as heirlooms.”³

Hugh, the son of Eilfi, granted to Geoffrey, the son of Swane, a part of his lands in Osbaldeston, with all the liberties, customs, and easements of the town of Osbaldeston, saving to the grantor the sparrowhawks, honey, mills, and fisheries, to be held of him and his heirs for an annual rent of two shillings at the feast of the Assumption of the Virgin Mary (August 5) for all service, etc.⁴

Edward Osbaldeston, who was 24 in 1676, married a daughter of Thomas Braddyll of Portfield, esq., and had issue Thomas, the last heir-male in the direct line. After his decease in 1701, the remains of the estates, which had suffered great dilapidations, descended to a collateral relation, supposed to have been the son of Michael, the only surviving brother of Edward. He was living in the middle of the eighteenth century, and by him, or since his death, the demesne of Osbaldeston was sold to the Warren family, and resold lately by Lord de Tabley, their representative, to Henry Ward, esq., the present proprietor.

BALDERSTONE is a manor and township on the banks of the Ribble. It contains an Episcopal chapel, St. Leonards, dating from 1504, which was rebuilt in 1852. William Balderston, descended from the brother of Hugh de Osbaldeston, who assumed the surname of Balderston, left two co-heiresses, of whom Isabella married Sir Robert Harrington, and Jane, the other, married Sir Thomas Pilkington. Dame Jane Pilkington bequeathed her moiety of the manor with other estates to Sir Thomas Talbot, son of Edmund Talbot, and his wife Jane, her niece.⁵

Sir James Harrington, a doctor of divinity, was son of Sir Robert and Isabella, and having forfeited his estate in 1 Henry VII. (1485-6), petitioned the king and council for restoration to his rights in 19 Henry VII. (1503-4), representing himself as “Jamys Haryngton Prest, sonne & heyre of bloode to Dame Isabel, late the Wyff of Syr Robt. Haryngton, knyght, Fader to your said Suppliant.” He being “sorrofull and repentant as any creature may be of all that the same your Beseecher have done to the displeasure of your Highnesse, contrarie to his duty of Allegiance,” prays that he may have all the lands which he ought to inherit from his mother, “saving that this his acte be not prejudiciall to Thomas Erle of Derby, or Syr Edward Stanley, and their respective heirs.”⁶ By the answer, “Let it be done as desired,” the petition became an Act of Parliament. The other moiety of the manor passed to the Dudley family; and after the

¹ *Records of the Duchy of Lancashire*, Bundle R, 13, No. 5.

² A Thomas de Osbaldeston in 1311 held lands in Osbaldeston and Balderston, part of the dower of the Lady Alice de Lacy, Countess of Lincoln, and did suit for his tenements at the Court of Clitheroe.—*De Lacy Inquisition of 1311*.

³ *Notitia Costriensis*—Note by Rev. Canon Raines, ii. 282.

⁴ The boundaries are thus set forth:—Beginning at the oak marked with the sign of the cross, which stands at the garden which was Alexander’s, thence going up towards the east as far as Wayngate, and following Wayngate on the west side to the ditch which falls into Prates-clogh, and ascending thence to the higher head, and across towards the west by the ditch to the Turgegaved Ake, and thence by the ditch into Goldborne, and following Goldborne into the sike or channel at the higher head of the land which was Ralph’s, and ascending the sike to the orchard, and thence following the bounds between the land which was Ralph’s, and the land of the said Geoffrey towards the east as far as to the land which was Alexander’s, etc. Witnesses—Roger de Alston, Adam de Hecton, W. de Balderston, W. de Molynex, Suane de Hundresshall, Thomas his son, William Bacon, Ralph son of Thomas, Alexander the chaplain.—*Dr. Kuerden’s MSS. in Herald’s College*, fo. B. 3 b.

⁵ “In the name of God, Amen. The seconde day of January, in the Yere of our Lorde God MCCCCXCVII. 12^o Hen. VII. I, Dame Jane Pilkington, widowe, make and ordayne this my last Wyll & Testamente in manere and forme followinge. Firste, I bequethe my bodye to be buryed in the Nunnes Quier of Monckton,

in my Habit, holdynge my Hand on my Breste with my Ringe upon my Finger, having taken in my resoluish the Mantle and the Ringe. And whereas Syr Henry Huntington, Preste, and Roger Radcliffe, Gent., stunde seised and be Feoffees for & in all my Moyety of the manor of Balderston and of all othir Messuages, Landes, Tenementes, Hereditamentes, and theyr Appurtenances, which were William Balderston’s my Father, in the Townes and Hamlettes of Balderston, Mellor, Thornton, Holme, Singleton, Little Estake, Singleton, Hamilton, and the rest in the Countye of Lancaster, and Rogerthorp in the Countye of York, to me descended by Inheritance. My Wyll and Mynde is that my said Feoffees shall suffre me the said Jane to haue and receue the Rentes and Profitts of the said Landes duryng my Lyfe and aftir my decease they then shall stand seised to the use of Syr James Harrington, Knyghte, my sister’s son, for the terme of his lyfe, and aftir his decease my said Feoffees shall stand seised thereof to the use of Thomas Talbot of Bashall, Son & Heyre of Edmund Talbot, esq., and Jane his wife, Daughter and one of the Coheyses to Sir Robt. Harrington of Hornby Castle, Knyghte, and the Lady Isabell his Wyfe my Sister, and the Haieres of the Bodie of the said Thomas Talbot for ever, & of Richard Radcliffe & Ellen his Wyfe, which Ellen was Aunt to me the said Jane, and sister to William Balderston my Father, & to the use of Richard Osbaldiston Son & Heyre of John Osbaldiston and Elizabeth his Wyfe, another Sister of William Balderston my Father, and their Heyres for Ever. And I make my Executors,” etc.

⁶ *Rot. Parl.* vol. vi. p. 555.

execution of the celebrated Sir Edmund Dudley, along with Empson, for high treason, an inquisition was taken, 1 Henry VIII. (1509), when it was found that the manor of Balderstone was an escheat to the crown.¹ This manor was afterwards in possession of Mr. Cross, by whom it was sold about 1821 to Josh. Feilden of Witton, esq. Episcopal worship is also held at Mellor Brook in this township, in a room purchased from the Independents, which was opened March 27, 1836. There is also a Wesleyan chapel at Mellor Brook.

CUERDALE is a small richly-cultivated township, on the banks of the Ribble, in the chapelry of Walton-le-dale, three miles E. of Preston, and eight miles W.N.W. of Blackburn. It belonged to a family of the same name from the earliest times; in 1311, Alexander de Keurdale held one carucate there of the Lacies, earls of Lincoln;² and Robert, the son of Geoffrey de Keurdale, in 23 Edward III. (1349), held in demesne and service three carucates of land in Keurdale of the earl of Lancaster.³ By the marriage of Jane, the granddaughter of Geoffrey de Keurdale, with Thomas le Molyneux, it passed into his possession, together with the moiety of Overderwent and the lordship of Eccleshill. Thomas le Molyneux was slain at Redcote Bridge in 11 Richard II. (1387-8) Cuerdale has been the property of the Asshetons of Downham since the birth of Radclyffe Assheton in 1582. The family formerly resided at *Cuerdale Hall*, a fine building of red brick and stone dressings, erected, in 1700, upon the site of the old building, by William Assheton, esq., in a beautiful situation. It is now occupied as a farm-house. This township was the scene, in 1840, of a remarkable "find" of a leaden chest of ancient coins and treasure, to the extent of about 975 oz. of silver in ingots, rings, armlets, chains, and, besides, about 7000 coins dating from 814 to 900. They were claimed by the Queen as treasure-trove of the duchy of Lancaster.⁴

WALTON-LE-DALE, two miles south-east of Preston, is an old parochial chapelry, including Cuerdale, now a vicarage, and extending from the south bank of the Ribble where it is increased by the Darwen, far beyond the latter. It adjoins the borough of Preston, of which it may be considered as one of the suburbs. *Waletone*, in Saxon times, was held by the king; the manor of Walton was granted by the first Henry de Lacy, about 1130, to Robert Banastre, together with its appurtenances, Mever, Heccleshall, Haravuda, and the two Derewents, for the fee of one knight. In 1311, Sir John de Langeton held two carucates of land in Walton of Henry de Lacy, earl of Lincoln, and did suit to the court of Cletheroe.⁵ Robert,⁶ the son of Thurstan Banastre, had a great-granddaughter Alice, who was given with Walton in marriage to John Langton, by Edmund Crouchback. Their son, Sir Robert Langton, was a knight in 12 Edward III. (1338). The manor remained in this family until the reign of Elizabeth, when an unfortunate circumstance occurred which caused it to change owners. Mr. Hoghton of Lea having impounded some cattle of widow Singleton, Mr. Langton of Walton, the baron of Newton, assembled his retainers to the number of eighty, and sallied against the former gentleman, who met him with about thirty men, when a regular engagement ensued, in which Mr. Hoghton and another person were slain. A number of the rioters were seized, and, while they lay in prison, the earl of Derby addressed Cecil, Lord Burghley, deprecating the severity of the law:—

Endorsement.—CCLXV.⁷ The Erle of Derby to the L. Treasurer recommendinge to him the petition of 47 persons endited for Mr. Houghton's death, for hir Ma^{ties} Perdone out of his feare of an endless quarrel between ye gentlemen of that cuntry.

"To the right hoñble my very good Lo. the Lo. Burghley, Lo. highe Thrör of England.

"My verie hoñble good Lo. I ame moved in pitie throughe the earneste desires of A number of poore men, and in dutie her Ma^{tie}, by forseeing the danger that to this Countie may ensue, to acquaynt yo^r L. with A troublesome cause, dependinge betwixte Mr. *Baron* of *Walton*, and Mr. *Houghton*, that hathe not yet taken' ende, as by the Peticon' herein closte maye appeere. The lawe havinge hadd his full course, the better sorte (whoe remayne onelie in p'ill [peril] of burninge in the hande) leavinge the poorer and more gytles people the more endangered. Nowe for that not onelie their pryvate harme but the vndoinge of their wyves and children' consistethe in what must be their hoppe herein, I shall beseeche your L. to deale wth her Ma^{tie} for them', that they maye haue their *Perdons* before the Assyzes synce verie manye of them' cannot reade, and are therefore lyke to loost their lyves, yf they fayle of suche her gracious favr'. And for that the better sorte are so great in kinredd and affynitie, and soe stoared wth frendes, as yf they shoulde be burnte in the hande, I feare it will fall oute to be A ceasles and the moste dangerous quarrell betwixt the gentlemen that any Countrie of her Ma^{ties} hathe theis manye Yeares conteyned, I haue thoughte it my pte to make knowne the same, and to wishe, that some contented courst by bannishment for A tyme mighte, to the satisfaccōn of both sydes, be taken' synce it is the safeste waye, and the beste to satisfie, as I am enformed by my sonne *Strange*, w^{ch} whom' I have dealte touchinge this cause; and whoe assures me her Ma^{tie} is mynded therevnto: drawne thereto by A Peticon' of the wydowe, Mr. *Houghtons* late wiefte, by whoes deathe theis troubles are befallen', neith^r doe they stande on' oth^r teames, then' on' the tyme of yeares in wh^{ch} they muste be absent theis selves, wherein I beseeche youre L. oute of youre respectyve care of the Countries quyet to please youre selfe to moue her Ma^{tie} to commande some speedie ende, and this I doe desire, oute of a dutifull feare for that I foresee the danger that will fall oute; and therefore haue commaunded my sonne *Strange* to attende yō at his cominge vppe to whom' I praye y^r L. geue some hearinge. And soe leavinge the consideration hereof to y^r wiselome doe ende, and wish to yo^r good L. as to my selfe. Knowseley, my house, this 18th of Julie 1592.—Your L. assured Lovinge frende allwayes faythefullye to vse. H. DERBY.

¹ *Duc. Lanc.*, vol. iv. n. 68.

² *De Lacy Inquisition of 1311*.

³ *Lansdowne MSS.*, cod. DLIX. fol. 23.

⁴ A full and interesting account of this find is given in the *Natism. Chron.*, vol. v. p. 104; and *Hardwick's Preston*, p. 74.

⁵ *De Lacy Inquisition of 1311*.

⁶ In his time Parliament granted a pontage for five years for the repair of the bridges over the Ribble and Derwent, on a petition from the people of Waleton-en-la-Dale, which town, they say, is

seated near the aforesaid bridges. *Rot. Parl.*, 30 Edw. I. vol. i. p. 154.—Dr. Kuerden preserves a charter, without date, by which Robert Banastre, lord of Walton, grants to Alexander, the son of Henry del Clif, for his homage, lands in the town of Walton, to be held of himself, and heirs in fee, with housebote and haybote, for a yearly rent of 10s. 6d.—*MSS.* in the *Heralds' College*, London, vol. iv. fo. w. 1 b. But for anything that appears to the contrary, this donation may have been made by Robert Banastre the original grantee of the manor.—B.

⁷ *Harl. MSS.* Cod. 6995, *Art.* 73.

The consequence to the principal person of the survivors was the loss of the manor of Walton, which he is supposed to have surrendered about 1592, to the family of Thomas Hoghton of Hoghton, esq., in order to make his peace with the family. Walton was the scene in 1648 of the great battle fought towards the close of the 17th of August, between Oliver Cromwell and the Duke of Hamilton. Here, too, in 1715, Parson or General Woods, the Presbyterian minister of Chowbent, at the head of his congregation, defended the pass of the Ribble, and kept the Scots rebels at bay, till Generals Carpenter and Willis effected their overthrow. The chapel of St. Leonards at Walton is beautifully situated upon an eminence, and the chancel contains a number of monuments chiefly to the memory of members of the Hoghton family: one of which briefly records the death of a gallant soldier—"Major General Daniel Hoghton, died in the battle at Albuera, in Spain, May 16th 1811, aged 41." Under the arms of Hoghton, cut in stone, is the inscription with the date obliterated, "The south part of this chancel belongs to Sir Gilbert Hoghton, knt. and bart., builded —." Sir Gilbert died in 1647. The north part of the chancel belongs to the Asshetons of Downham and Cuerdale, whose arms are here, with several quarterings, and the motto, "*Nec arrego, nec dubito.*" The chapel is sometimes called Law or Low Church, and is an old parochial chapelry, now a vicarage, containing Walton le-Dale and Cuerdale, in the patronage of the vicar of Blackburn. The registers begin in 1653. This chapel is the only one on the old foundation, that is of the 12th century, under Blackburn, and was endowed like most of the rest, with two oxgangs of land, being about 30 Lancashire or about 48½ statute acres.¹ Adam de Blackburne at the request of John de Lacy, his lord, granted to the abbot and convent of Stanlawe, in 1229, the chapel of Walton, with the lands, tithes, and obventions belonging to it, subject to a payment of twenty marks (£13:6:8) per annum, to Richard, son of the dean of Whalley, until he should be promoted to a similar or better benefice by the said John de Lacy.² In 1238 the Abbey obtained the advowson of the chapel, without any condition, from the same bountiful patron. Ralph Langton, Baron of Newton, who died 18 Hen. VII. (1502-3), left by his will twenty marks to make and repair the Lawe Church if the parishioners would build the same while his son was under age.³ It was in this churchyard that the alchemist Kelly pretended to consult the devil through the medium of the dead. Walton has, however, acquired its chief historical importance through the discovery, in 1855, of remains which prove it to have been a considerable Roman station, in all probability the ancient *Coccium*.

Dr. Robson had pointed out, in 1850,⁴ that the Itinerary of Antoninus implied the existence of a station not then accounted for, probably in the neighbourhood of Preston. He conjectured that this would be found at Fulwood; it was reserved for Mr. Charles Hardwick to discover its true site at Walton. Here, on the neck of land at the confluence of the Ribble and the Darwen, which anciently formed a natural moat round three sides of a parallelogram, he found,⁵ at a little depth below the surface, Roman coins, innumerable fragments of pottery, and hard compact remains of a road, amid visible traces of ancient earthworks; and deeper still the rude foundation of a wall, without mortar, believed to belong to a still earlier British occupancy. Exactly at this point was the ancient ford of the Ribble, at a place called in Dr. Kuerden's time *Cocker-hole*, in which may perhaps remain a trace of the ancient name *Coccium*, approached by a path then called *Stoneygate*, a word constantly indicating, in the north, the track of an old Roman road.

Banister Hall, now only a farm-house, was the ancient inheritance of the family whose name it bears, and afterwards that of the Walmesleys; Edward Walmesley of Banister Hall, occurs in 1646, as compounding for his estate at the sum of £114. BAMBER BRIDGE, a pleasant village three miles S.S.E. of Preston, on the East Lancashire Railway, is the spot where the Claytons established print-works as early as 1760; and here is an old hall of that family, now the residence of Capt. R. T. Parker junior. St. Saviour's church, here, built in 1837, is a neat Romanesque building—incumbent, Rev. J. Taylor (1868). There are large cotton-spinning mills in the neighbourhood. *Darwen Bank* is a handsome mansion of Miles Rodget, esq. *Lostock Hall* is the seat of John Bashall, esq. *Walton Lodge*, sometimes called Cuerdale Lodge, a noble brick mansion of a polygonal form, was built by the Asshetons of Cuerdale, and purchased above forty years ago by the Calrows of Bury. *Cooper Hill*, a handsome house near the church, said to have been originally planned by Lord Burgoyne, and to have had a lightning conductor affixed to it by Dr. Franklin, is the residence of Charles Swainson, esq. Walton also contains a Methodist chapel in the village of Walton, a beautiful Catholic chapel, erected in 1826 at Brownedge (replacing a smaller one of the date of 1782), and several others; several large factories and print-works; and has a handsome bridge, built over the Ribble in 1782. Sir Henry de Hoghton, bart., is the lord of the manor, and proprietor of *Walton Hall*, an elegant oblong brick pile, encircled by pleasure-grounds, and washed by the Darwen.

SAMLESBURY, from two to five miles east-north-east of Preston, and four and a half miles west-north-west of Blackburn, is an extensive township, between the Ribble on the north, and the Darwen on the south, and near the line of the new road from Blackburn to Preston. Its name probably indicates that the Romans had an outwork here on the road from Walton to Ribchester. Gospatrick de Samsbury, the first known lord of this manor, was living at the latter end of the reign of Henry II. His grandson Sir William left three daughters and co-heiresses, by whose marriages the estate was conveyed into three families. Margery married

¹ William Beamont, esq., in his introduction to the Extension and Translation of *Domesday Book* relating to Lancashire and Cheshire, says, p. xxx., that while the statute acre contains 4840 square yards, there are 7840 square yards in a Lancashire acre.

² *Whalley Coucher Book*, p. 83.

³ *Notitia Cestriensis*—Note by Rev. Canon Raines, ii. 290.

⁴ *Hist. Soc. Lanc. and Ches.* vol. iii. p. 76.

⁵ Hardwick's *History of Preston*, pp. 32-44.

to Roger de Haunton, and appears to have had no issue. Cecily married Sir John D'Ewyas, before 43 Henry III. (1258), and had half the manor of Samlesbury; whilst the other moiety passed with Elizabeth,¹ the youngest daughter to Sir Robert de Holland of Upholland and Hale, knighted 10 Edward I. (1282). Sir Robert, their son, the first baron, was founder of the priory of Holland, and was for a time involved in the ruin of his patron, Thomas, earl of Lancaster. The estates of all the partizans of that nobleman were confiscated, and, among the rest, the manors of Samlesbury, Holland, and others.² In 1 Edward III., Feb. 17 (1327), the sheriffs were directed to seize into the king's hands all the confiscated estates, in order that they might be restored to their owners.³ In the same year Robert de Holland, and Matilda his wife, complain, by petition, that the king's writ of 2d December has not been obeyed by the sheriffs, and they pray for an exchequer certification of their property now in the king's hands.⁴ The certificate was granted, on which Sir Robert was opposed in council by Henry earl of Lancaster, who alleged that the writs, directed to the sheriffs for livery of lands in his possession, were contrary to form and law, and he prayed that they might be revoked.⁵ The proceedings in this case are at great length, but Sir Robert was finally reinstated; and the inquisition on the death of his son Sir Robert, grandson of Sir Robert and Elizabeth, enumerates half the manor of Samlesbury, one-sixth of the manor of Harewood, and one-fourth of the manor of Over Derwent.⁶ John de Holland, his second son, succeeded to the estates held by tail-male, which finally passed to the duke of Exeter, but the barony and other property devolved upon his grand-daughter, Matilda, his eldest son having died in his father's lifetime. This Matilda married Sir John Lovel, fifth Baron Lovel, K.G., of Tichmersh, to whom livery of her lands was made 47 Edward III. (1373). On the death of their son, Baron Holland, in right of his mother, and Lord Lovel of Tichmersh, in 1414, William, Lord Lovel and Holland, his son and heir, succeeded to the lands, and had livery in 1 Henry VI. (1422-3). This baron occurs in a MS. feodary of the time of Henry VI., as holding, with his kinsman Richard Southworth, the manor of Samlesbury of the duke of Lancaster, by socage and the service of 38s. 8d. yearly, at the feast of St. Egidius or Gyles (Sept. 1). The estates appear to have been forfeited by the attainder of Francis, Lord Lovel, an adherent of the house of York, after the battle of Bosworth-field, 1485, when they were granted by Henry VII. to Thomas, first earl of Derby.⁷ Nicholas, the son of Sir John D'Ewyas and Cecily de Samlesbury, died without male issue, leaving a daughter, married to Sir Gilbert de Southworth, descended from the knightly family of the Southworths, who had held the manor of that name under the barons of Newton from a period anterior to 10 Edward II. (1336); and her portion of the manor, thus conveyed, continued in the family till 1677, when John Southworth, esq., sold it and the Old Hall to Thomas Braddyll, esq., for little more than £2000, and it descended to his representative, T. R. G. Braddyll, esq., late of Conishead Priory.⁸

There are two halls in Samlesbury, the Higher or Old Hall, and the Lower Hall.

The *Higher Hall* was originally surrounded by a moat, the course of which may still be traced, and appears to have been erected at two distinct periods. The older portion, which includes the great hall, a spacious apartment occupying the entire width and height of the structure, is a noble specimen of most rude and massy wood-work, and of very high antiquity, probably not later than Edward III. The roof is acutely pointed and open to the ridge, the framework being divided into bays, with the timbers so disposed as to form a series of Gothic arches, and the spaces between enriched with pierced tracery. At the lower end of the great hall is the ancient oaken screen, over which is the music-gallery, apparently of somewhat later date; the front of this is most elaborately carved, and the posts that connect it with the roof are adorned with a variety of grotesque figures executed in bold relief. Along the front of this gallery are three panels bearing the following inscriptions in raised letters:—"ANN. DOM. MCCCCXXXII." "S. P. BON STATU I.N.R.I." "THOMAS SOTHWORTH KNIGHT;" preceded by the crest of the family—a bull's head erased sable, attired argent. That portion of the structure of more recent date projects at right angles from the great hall, and is built also of timber, with the exception of the outer wall next the road, which is faced with brick of the small thin kind—the earliest example of this mode of building that the district possesses. It is, with the exception of the outer bay, of two storeys, and in appearance differs in many respects from the original erection; the oaken framework is less substantial, and both the interior and exterior are more ornamental in character; the timbers are somewhat differently arranged, the spaces between being filled in with pierced quatrefoils in lieu of the bracing ribs noticeable in the earlier structure, and the wooden corbels supporting the projecting windows of the upper storey being elaborately carved with representations of grotesque heads in high relief, foliage, fan-tracery, and other devices, the one nearest the chapel exhibiting a foliated quatrefoil within which is the sacred monogram I.H.S. The principal apartment in this part of the building is the dining-room, which is lighted by square-headed windows

¹ *Rot. Chart.* 43 Henry III., m. 4. Afterwards Robert de Haunton had a like charter in his own name. *Ibid.* 51 Henry III., m. 4, and nothing farther occurs of his coparcener.

² In 1311, Lady Cecily de Ewyhus and Lady Elizabeth de Holland, held one carucate in Samlesbury, in thannage, of Henry de Lacy, earl of Lincoln.—*De Lacy Inquisition*, 1311.

³ *Rot. Parl.* vol. ii. p. 1, *et seq.* See *Act of Restitution*, vol. i. p. 134.

⁴ *Ibid.* p. 29.

⁵ *Ibid.* p. 18.

⁶ *Escaet*, 47 Edward III., n. 19.

⁷ *Not. Cest.*—Note by Canon Raines, ii. 258. This was the Lovel referred to in the famous *jeu d'esprit* of Collingwood, which cost the author his life:—

"The Rat, the Cat, and Lovel the dog,
Rule all England under a Hog."

⁸ *Ibid.* ii. 292.

with foliated lights and stone mullions and sills, and still retains the original arched fireplace of stone, richly ornamented with carved panel-work and shields of arms of the Southworths and their alliances, surmounted by the inscription in relief—Thomas Southworth *KNT. A. D. M^o CCCCCLV*. At the extreme end of the building is the chapel, which evidently originally occupied the whole height of the house; it is lighted by a large Gothic window of three lights, which is said to have been removed, in the time of the Southworths, from the conventual church of Whalley, on the dissolution of that house, after the execution of its last abbot Paslew; and against one of the walls is still to be seen the original piscina, which may have belonged to a building of even earlier date than this part of the structure, for it is recorded that in 1400 a license was granted by the bishop of Lichfield to Thomas Southworth, esq., and Joan his wife, to have service celebrated in their mansions of Sothelworth and Samlesbury, where there must have been a domestic chapel or oratory attached. On the south side of the hall are three projecting chimneys of brick, terminating in clustered shafts, on one of which is a shield bearing the arms of Southworth quartered with those of Samlesbury. The old hall of Samlesbury was sold in 1850 to John Cooper, esq. of the Oaks, Penwortham, in Preston. It is now the residence of William Harrison, esq., F.S.A., having in 1862 passed by purchase into the possession of his father Joseph Harrison, esq. of Galligreaves Hall, near Blackburn, a magistrate and deputy-lieutenant of the county—a gentleman to whom, as well as to the present occupant, the grateful acknowledgments of all antiquaries are due for the zeal manifested in protecting from further injury this interesting relic of the past, as well as for the taste and judgment they have shown in preserving the ancient character of the building while effecting such restorations as time and the neglect of former possessors had rendered necessary. *Lower Hall* was sold in the reign of James I. by Thomas Southworth, esq., to Sir Thomas Walmsley of Dunkenhalth, and is now the property of Edward Petre, esq., one of the descendants of the Walmsleys.

Here is an ancient Episcopal chapel, founded by Gospatric de Samlesbury about 1190, originally as a chapel of ease to Walton. It was falling into decay as early as 1 Elizabeth, when Edward earl of Derby issued the following circular letter:—

“13 May 1558. Edw. E. of Derby to al his louing frends. As I am credibly enformed the church at Sambery is in ruine & indangering people that resort to heare God's worde, I haue thought good to moue my louing frends to help with there charity towards the re-edifying thereof.”¹

This church, St. Leonards, is a perpetual curacy in the gift of the vicar of Blackburn. A marble slab covers the tomb of one of the knightly family of Anderton of the time of Henry VI. The present incumbent is Rev. F. Law, B.A. (1832). The present Catholic chapel was erected here about 1824-5.

While the Southworths occupied Samlesbury Hall, a very extraordinary scene of superstition and fraud was exhibited amongst their neighbours, in which they were themselves partly the dupes and partly the actors. No fewer than eight persons—namely, Jannet Bierley, E. Bierley, Jane Southworth, John Ramsden, Eliz. Astley, Alice Gray, Isabella Sidegraves, and Lawrence Hay, the witches of Samlesbury, as they were called—were apprehended and committed to Lancaster Castle; and on Wednesday the 19th of August 1612, Jannet Bierley, Ellen Bierley, and Jane Southworth were brought to trial before Sir Edward Bromley, knight, being indicted, “for that they and every of them feloniously had practised, exorcised, and used devillish and wicked arts, called witchcrafts, enchantments, charms, and sorceries, in and upon one Grace Sowerbutts, so that by means whereof her body wasted and consumed, *contra formam statuti, &c.*” In support of this charge, Grace Sowerbutts, a girl about the age of fourteen years, was produced as the principal witness. The nature of her testimony has already been exhibited; but it may be proper to add here, that Sir John Southworth, the head of one of the five knightly families then resident on the left bank of the Ribble, was himself a believer in this vulgar superstition, as it appears from the evidence of John Singleton and others upon the trial, that the worthy knight was wont to say of his relation, Jane Southworth, that she was “a cruel woman and a witch, and he, Sir John, in going between his own house and Preston, did for the most part forbear to pass the house where Jane, the said witch, did dwell, doubting that she would bewitch him.”²

PLEASINGTON, or PLESSINGTON, was the ancient seat of a family who bore az. a cross potence between 4 martlets ar. By a deed without date, Henry de Plessyngton gave to John de Stodleigh, and Margery his wife, daughter of Henry de Plessyngton, a piece of land in Plessyngton called Tinctfeld, together with another place called Adam's Assart, to be held to the end of Margery's life at an annual rent of 3s. This deed is attested by Sir Adam de Hoghton, P. de Burnhil, Hen. de Euxton, W. de Livesay, Henry de Wedacres, etc., and is therefore of the reign of Henry III. or Edward I. Roger de Winkely is said to have married the heiress of Plessington;³ and in 6 Edward III., on the feast of SS. Simon and Jude (October 28, 1332), we find John de Wynkerdelegh granting to John, his eldest son, his manor and the whole of his demesne in Plessington, to be held “by the yearly service of one rose, and fealty to the chief lord.”—Witnesses: Adam,

¹ Dr. Kuerden's fol. MSS. p. 497. In the Chetham Library.

² Potts on *Witchcraft*.

³ A Robert de Plessington was chief baron of the Exchequer in 4 Richard II.; and a branch of the Plessingtons, or Plyssingtons,

was settled at Burley, in Rutlandshire. John Plessington, one of the younger branches of the Lancashire family, lost his estate by his participation in the rebellion of 1715. The property was valued at £40 per annum, and sold by the commissioners March 21, 1718, for £770, to Mr. Wickers.

son of John de Blackburne; John and Robert, brothers of Adam; Robert de Radclif; Adam, son of H. de Blackburne; Wm. de Schorrock.¹ Plessington is said to have passed into the family of Ainsworth by the marriage of the heiress of Winckley; however that may be, the manor was previously in possession of the Cunliffes; for in 20 Richard II. (1396-7), Robert, the son of Adam de Cundeclif, quit-claims to John de Aynsworth of Plessington and his heirs all his right and title in the whole manor of Plessington.— Witnesses: Rd. de Hoghton, knight; Ralph de Radclif, knight; John Banastre, and others. Dated Feast of the Conception of the Virgin Mary, 20 Richard II. (December 8, 1396).² Michael Jones, of Duke Street, Manchester Square, London, esq., barrister, in a letter to John Francis Butler, of Plessington Hall, esq., in January 1814, says—

“In 32 Henry VI., A.D. 1453, Laurence Ainsworth was in possession, whose descendant, Edward Ainsworth, by vulgar debauchery, wasted the patrimony of a long line of respectable ancestors, and conveyed it to your worthy father, in March 1777, whose son, I pray, may long, long enjoy it.”³

John Francis Butler, esq., who, in 1816-1819, erected Plessington Priory, a beautiful Roman Catholic church, at an expense of £20,000, died in 1822, leaving his estates to his sisters. The present proprietor and occupant is J. Butler Bowdon, esq. Thomas Aynsworth, esq., who died in 1806,⁴ sold *Feniscowles* in Plessington to W. Feilden, esq., M.P. for Blackburn. This gentleman received the honour of a baronetcy; and his son, Sir W. H. Feilden, bart., now resides at Feniscowles Hall.

HENRY AINSWORTH, an eminent Hebrew scholar and biblical commentator of the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries, was the second son of Laurence Ainsworth, of Plessington, gentleman, by Dorothy, daughter of Thomas Grimshaw, of Clayton, and born about 1560. It is not known where he began his education, but he completed it in the University of Cambridge. He attached himself early to the followers of Brown, a puritan sectary, who had imbibed the opinions of Cartwright, and condemned the discipline and ceremonies of the church of England; and, after sharing their inquietudes, and suffering much persecution, left his native country in the reign of Elizabeth, with others of that persuasion, and retired to Holland, where he erected a church in conjunction with one Johnson, a fellow-minister, and collected a large congregation of hearers. In 1602, they wrote and published a “Confession of the Faith of the People called Brownists,” but, being men of warm feelings, they split into differences on certain points of discipline, which eventually caused a separation of the leading parties, and a final dissolution of the whole congregation. Johnson, after refusing the mediation of the Presbytery of Amsterdam, excommunicated his own father and brother; in consequence of which Ainsworth and some others excommunicated Johnson, who shortly after returned the compliment to Ainsworth. These disturbances continued until Johnson and his party quitted Amsterdam, and removed to Emden, where in a short time he died; yet Ainsworth and his followers did not long continue in peace, for he soon after left them, and went over to Ireland, where he remained for a time, until their dissensions were healed, and then returned to Holland. He died in 1629, not without some suspicion of violence, concerning which circumstance the following improbable story was, according to Neale, at the time current in Amsterdam. It was reported that having found a diamond of great value, he advertised it, and discovered the owner to be a wealthy resident Jew, who, when he came to claim the stone, offered the finder any acknowledgment he might think proper to require. Ainsworth, though in low circumstances, would accept of nothing but the Jew’s promise to procure him a conference with some of the learned rabbis on the prophecies of the Old Testament relating to the Messiah: this the Jew readily granted, but was never able to perform, whereupon, it was thought that, through feelings of vexation and shame, or from some other motive that has never been known, he caused Ainsworth to be poisoned. Probably as groundless was the story recorded by Dr. Heylin, who was no friend to sectaries, that Ainsworth maintained a violent dispute with Broughton, one of his brethren, on the silly question, “Whether the colour of Aaron’s linen ephod was blue or green.” Mr. Ainsworth was a man of talent and unwearied diligence, deeply read in the works of the Jewish writers. His works, however, are now more known and valued abroad than in England. He wrote, in addition to many merely controversial works, “Annotations on the Psalms;” London, 1612, 4to. “A Treatise of the Fellowship that the Faithful have with God, his Angels, and one another, in this Present Life;” London, 1615, 4to. “Annotations on the Book of Deuteronomy;” London, 1619, 4to. “Annotations upon the Five Books of Moses, the Book of Psalms, and the Song of Songs or Canticles; wherein the Hebrew Words and Sentences are Compared with and Explained by the Ancient Greek and Chaldee Versions, and other Records and Monuments of the Hebrews;” London, 1621 and 1627, 2 vols. 4to, and 1639, folio. The folio edition, which is an improved republication of those of 1621 and 1627, is exceedingly rare. The volume contains a prefatory discourse on the life and writings of Moses; a literal translation of the Pentateuch, with annotations chiefly from the rabbinical writers; an Advertisement touching some objections made against the sincerity of the Hebrew text, with other short dissertations; a Life of David, and notes on the Book of Psalms; and the Song of Solomon, with a literal translation from the Hebrew in prose, and another in verse, with copious notes. Dr. Doddridge calls it “a good book, and full of very valuable Jewish learning.” Part of this learned work has been translated into Dutch by Sibrand Vomelius, and the commentary on Solomon’s Song into German verse by Schrey, of Frankfort, in 1692. “Annotations upon Genesis, Exodus, and Leviticus;” London, 1612, folio. “Annotations on the Bible;” London, 1627, 2 vols. folio. “Translation of the Psalms into Verse and Prose, with Annotations;” London, 1644, 8vo. In addition to these, many valuable labours of Mr. Ainsworth appear never to have been printed, especially some MSS. of his—viz. his “Comment upon Hosea,” “Notes upon St. Matthew,” and “Notes upon the Epistle to the Hebrews,” which seem to have been lost.

WITTON is a township adjoining Blackburn on the west, stretching on the north bank of the Darwen and across the Blackburn, including Billinge Hill and Billinge End, a lofty ridge 900 feet above the level of the sea. In 1311 Richard, son of Geoffrey de Chaterton, held one carucate of land in Witton from Henry de Lacy, earl of Lincoln, as an eighth of a knight’s fee.⁵ *Witton Hall*, now in ruins, was a spacious old-fashioned building. *Witton House*, surrounded by a park of the same name, is an elegant stone edifice, the property and seat of Joseph Feilden, esq., who purchased the hall from Samuel Bower, esq., about 1816. The principal part of the estate in Witton has been in Mr. Feilden’s family since 1690. The village is called

¹ Dr. Kuerden’s MSS. in the Heralds’ College, London.

² Dr. Kuerden’s MSS. ³ Butler Family MSS. fol. 102.

⁴ In the edition of 1836, this Thomas Aynsworth was erroneously stated to be “the last of his family.” He left

(besides three daughters) a son, John, who died in 1814, leaving (besides two daughters) a son, Thomas Croke Ainsworth, who, and his son, Thomas Somner Ainsworth, are solicitors in Blackburn (1867).

⁵ *De Lacy Inquisition of 1311.*

Witton Stocks.¹ St. Mark's church was built in 1837, a neat Norman building in the gift of the vicar of Blackburn; incumbent, Rev. G. A. H. Ashe, B.A. (1839). Part of this township, by the Boundary Act of 1868, now belongs to the borough of Blackburn.

MELLOR, on the line of the Preston and Blackburn new road, is a well-cultivated township. The manor formerly belonged to the Southworths.² In the last century it was the property of a Mr. Ramsbottom of Chorley, who resided at Stanley House, the manorial hall, and who sold the manor and estates to Mr. Bolton, from whom they were purchased by Henry Sudell of Blackburn and Woodfold, esq. In 1831-2, John Fowden Hindle, esq., bought Mr. Sudell's property in Mellor, and for some years resided at *Woodfold Park*, the chief ornament of Mellor. The hall has since been occupied by various tenants. A court-baron was held here so late as 1826. On Mellor Moor are the remains of a Roman encampment, supposed to have been a speculative fort of Ribchester. A square mound and fosse are still visible. St. Mary's, an Episcopal chapel at Mellor, is a plain stone building, surmounted by a small spire and buttresses, and placed on a considerable elevation. It was founded in 1827, and opened in 1829, at a cost of £5275 : 6 : 9, on land given by Mr. Sudell. The charge of erection was defrayed by Parliamentary grant. On the highest elevation, a little above the church, are the picturesque ruins of a windmill. Mellor also contains a Methodist chapel. There was formerly a wake, and occasionally a fair is held here. The township contains excellent quarries of stone and a mineral spring.

RAMSGREAVE is three miles north of Blackburn, on the Whalley new road. In 35 Edward III., Henry duke of Lancaster, by a deed bearing date January 2, in the tenth year of his dukedom (1361), gave to the monks of Whalley, and to their successors, two cottages, 7 acres of land, 183 acres of pasture, and 200 acres of wood called Rommesgreve, all lying in the chase of Blackburn.³ Ramsgræve now belongs to various persons; the land is chiefly freehold, and the hall is a common farm-house.

CLAYTON-LE-DALE is 3 miles N.N.E. of Blackburn. In 7 Henry VIII. John Talbot of Salesbury was the proprietor of this estate.⁴ In 1311 it was held by Sir Adam de Hudleston, under the Lacies, earls of Lincoln.⁵ It is now held by Mr. Ward. *Showley Hall* was once the seat of the Walmesley family. The estate is now the property of Thomas Crooke Ainsworth, esq. of Blackburn.

WILPSHIRE was anciently a possession of the Lacies. Bernard de Hackyng, in 1311, held half an oxgang of land in Whelpshire in thanage of Henry de Lacy, earl of Lincoln. Henry de Bradhill held half an oxgang and a third there, in thanage, and John, son of Walter de Bradhill, held two oxgangs there in thanage. Henry de Boulton, also, then held one oxgang in thanage. All these paid yearly rents, and made suit of court at Clitheroe.⁶ An inquisition of 3 Edward III. (1329), ascribes to John, son of Walter de Bradhall, the possession of 20 acres of land here; and in 36 Edward III. (1362) John de Gristewayt held in trust, for the abbey of Whalley, 20 acres of land in Cliderhou, Blackburn, and Willipshire. In aftertimes the township became the property of the Walmesleys, and Sir Thomas died in 13 Car. I. (1637), seized of the estate, which was then called "Libshire alias Wilpshire."⁷ The people of the district give it the name of "Lipshaw." Henry Ward, esq., by purchase from Lord de Tabley, is now the chief proprietor.

¹ The edition of 1835 adds, "and in 1825 was the residence of Benjamin Feilden, esq." This was misleading; a Mr. Benjamin Fielding occupied a house there, but was no relation of the Feildens of Witton.—B. H.

² In 1311 Nicholas de Evyas held half a carucate of land in

Melore, of the Lacies, earls of Lincoln, as the sixteenth of a knight's fee, and paid yearly 8d.—*De Lacy Inquisition* of 1311.

³ *Monast. Anglie.* tom. i. p. 903.

⁴ *Duc. Lanc.* vol. iv. n. 67.

⁵ *De Lacy Inquisition* of 1311.

⁶ *Ibid.*

⁷ *Duc. Lanc.* vol. xxviii. n. 8c.

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