

MEMORIALS OF HINDLEY.

BY JOHN LEYLAND,

OF

THE GRANGE.

PART FIRST.



"The river that by our door doth pass,
His first beginning is but small and shallow,
Yet, keeping on his course, grows to a sea."

SHAKESPEARE.

MANCHESTER:

JOHN HEYWOOD, 141 AND 143, DEANSGATE.

*Gough Addo Lancashire
8 102*

IN MEMORY
OF
ALFRED PENNINGTON,
A GREAT LOVER OF HINDLEY,
AND
A LIBERAL SUPPORTER OF ITS CHARITIES,
THIS VOLUME
IS AFFECTIONATELY INSCRIBED.

P R E F A C E .

THESE Memorials are not put forth as a History of Hindley. The Compiler, having for many years taken a great interest in the events of his native village, collected, as opportunity served, facts and dates bearing upon its history; and, unwilling for them to be lost, he has taken this means of ensuring their preservation.

THE GRANGE,

December 31st, 1873.

MEMORIALS OF HINDLEY.

HISTORY, speaking in the general acceptation of the term, Hindley has none. No great event of war or politics has ever taken place within its boundaries, nor has it ever been distinguished as the birthplace or residence of any person of national celebrity. The Roman Road from Wigan to Manchester is known to have passed through it. This is supposed to have run in a direct line between the two places, its course having been traced at the back of Brook House and The Leylands, both of which houses are situate in Lordstreet. The soil, when turned up by the plough, in this direction is said to be gravelly and of a different character to that of the adjoining land, and is supposed therefore to offer confirmatory evidence on the point. The late Rev. E. Sibson, incumbent of Ashton, a gentleman of considerable classic and antiquarian reputation, spent much time in investigating the course of the road, and his opinions coincide with the views here expressed.*

The soil has never yet yielded up any coins or pottery of that wonderful people. The history of the County Palatine and Duchy of Lancaster, written by the late

* Mr. Sibson was a man of eccentric habits. He was tall and robust, and a great pedestrian. His walks he often took in a direct line, letting neither ploughed field, nor hedge, nor ditch interrupt his course. A story is related of his Diocesan once paying him a visit. The bishop was accompanied by his chaplain, who began to prepare his lordship on the way for the sort of man he was about to call upon. After describing his personal appearance and peculiarities he ended by saying, "You will find him a diamond in the rough." On approaching the Parsonage Mr. Sibson was seen delving vigorously in his garden and flushed with the exercise, whereupon the bishop turned to his chaplain, and said, "You told me he was a diamond in the rough, but I call him a ruby."

Edward Baines, and edited by the late John Harland, contains the following notice of Hindley:—

“This township of Hindley is amongst the most populous and thriving districts in the parish of Wigan. A hill in this township, called Castle Hill, is supposed to have been the site of a watch tower, the existence of which is indicated by the remains of a moat or trench, the plough and the spade having destroyed all traces of the building. At the base of the hill is a pleasant valley called ‘The Danes,’ (? denes, i.e. dells). Swane, the son of Leofwine, a Saxon, in the time of Henry II., gave to Gospatric half a carucate of land in Hindele in free marriage, and Roger, the son of Gospatric, held that land of Thomas Burnhul in the reign of King Henry. Adam de Hindele held two bovates in Hindele of ancient feoffment; Robert, the father of Richard de Hindele, gave to the hospital thirty acres of that half carucate, in the time of King Henry; and the same Robert, in the time of King John, gave two acres and a half to the hospital, and six acres to the Abbey of Kokersand. Of this family was Hugh Hindley, of Hindley Hall, whose son Adam married Cecily, daughter of Henry Tildesley, of Wardley, and had a grandson, Robert, married in 8 Richard II. (1384-5) to Emma, one of the heiresses of Pemberton. Roger Hindley, about the age of Henry VIII., married Beatrix, daughter of Robert Molyneux of Melling, whose descendant, Robert Hindley, was living at the hall in 1613, having by his two wives four sons and three daughters. In 1664, Hindley Hall was the seat of James Duckenfield, Esquire, an utter barrister of Gray’s Inn, younger son of Robert Duckenfield, of Duckenfield, Cheshire. Hindley Hall is now the property and residence of Roger Leigh, Esquire. An ancient residence of the Hindleys was called Oldfilde House in the reign of Philip and Mary. Hindley as a manor is a member of the barony of Newton. It was granted by Robert Banastre, the last baron of that name, to his kinsman Fulco Banastre, whose son Robert held it in the reign of Edward II.,

under John de Langeton and Alice his wife, the granddaughter and heiress of Robert Banastre, by homage and fealty and the service of a pair of gilt spurs and the king's scutage. This property was alienated by the Banastres to Jordan de Workesley, whose daughter and heiress Margaret, with her husband, Thurstan de Tildesley contested the right to it unsuccessfully against Robert de Langeton, son and heir of John and Alice (who had had no power to alienate it). This Robert, and Margaret his wife, levied a fine at York in 1335 (9 Edward III.) of the third part of the manor of Langeton, in the county of Leicester, of a messuage and a carucate of land in Hendon, in the county of Middlesex, of a messuage and $38\frac{1}{2}$ acres of land in Walton-le-Dale, and of the manor of Hyndleigh, and of half the manor of Goldburn, with appurtenances. An exemplification of this fine was granted by letters patent in 1391 (15 Ric. II.), on the requisition of John de Langeton, son of Robert, the second son of Robert and Margaret, and in the 19 Ric. II. a partition of deeds was made between him and his young cousin Ralph, baron of Newton, who had already in 1364 (3 of Edward III.) confirmed the settlement of the paternal estates in Leicestershire, of Hendon and of Hindley, on the junior branch of the family. The tenure of the manor of Hindley, as parcel of the Makerfeld fee, was in free soccage by a rent of three peppercorns yearly for all services. The Leicestershire property continued in the Langtons until the time of Henry VIII. They were seated at Low Hall, in Hindley, now a farmhouse surrounded by a moat, until the eighteenth century, when Edward Langton, of Low dying without issue, the estate was inherited in 1733 by a nephew named William Pugh, whose nephew and heir, Edward Philip Pugh, of Coytmore, in Carnarvonshire, conveyed in 1765 the Low Hall estate in Hindley, the manor of Hindley, a certain reserved rent, and the mineral under Rigby's tenement, near Hindley Green, for a consideration of £6,650 to the Duke of Bridgewater, whose trustees now hold

the lordship. An Irish family of Langton, seated at Kilkenny in the reign of Henry VII., claim descent from this line. Hindley was formerly subject to inundations, and hence two briefs were granted in this place, the one in 1795, and the other in 1802, to repair the damage suffered by the inhabitants; the former of which yielded £1,310, and the latter £1,002. Hindley Hall is in Aspull. The places of worship in this township are numerous. The Episcopal Chapel was originally built in 1641 by the Puritans, and so was not consecrated. In 1650 the inquisition returned Mr. William Williamson, 'an able, godly, and faithful minister,' as officiating and recommended that it should be made a separate parish. In 1662, the chapel was held by Mr. James Bradshaw, a Presbyterian, a moderate man, who had been removed from the rectory of Wigan by the Independents for not observing the fast in June, 1650. He was one who took a forward part in promoting the Restoration, but nevertheless he was ejected in 1662, and was imprisoned for some months in the attempt to silence him. Owing to the non-consecration of the building, disputes took place about it, the non-conforming party who had built it claiming it with its endowments; but finally they were defeated, and built the present Presbyterian Chapel, where, and at Ranford (? Rainford), Mr. Bradshaw preached. The church, All Saints', was consecrated in 1698, when it probably (says Canon Raine) obtained parochial rights. The living is now a vicarage; the Rev. C. H. Newbold (1863) is the present incumbent; patron, the rector of Wigan. A second church, St. Peter's, built in 1864, is also a perpetual curacy; the Rev. Peter Jones (1866) is the incumbent; patrons, the trustees. There is also a Catholic Chapel, built in 1788; a Presbyterian Chapel, built subsequent to 1662, for Mr. Bradshaw, the ejected minister of Hindley, but now used by the Unitarians; an Independent Chapel, built in 1815, and another built in 1830; and a Wesleyan Methodist Chapel, built in 1832. There are also Primitive Methodist and Baptist Chapels. The

sanitary state of this township, which has increased considerably in population of late years, has recently excited considerable attention, owing to the frequent visitation of epidemic diseases. An effort to place the government of the town in the hands of a board constituted under the provisions of the Local Government Act has this year (1867) been successful, and already sewerage works have been commenced, and before long it is expected there will be a good water supply."

A phenomenon, known as the burning well, obtains this notice from the historian :—

"For nearly three hundred years the cannel of Haigh and the burning well of Hindley have attracted the attention of the curious. Leland, the itinerant, we have seen, mentions the former; and the following curious description is given by the honourable Roger North, in his *Life of Francis North, Baron Guildford*, in the year 1676. In a circuit through the north of England the lord-keeper visited Lancaster, and his biographer says :—

"In the return homewards from Lancaster his lordship took all the advantage he could of seeing great towns and places of note. He staid some days with Sir Roger Bradshaw, whose lordship is famous for yielding the canal (or candle) coal. It is so term'd, I guess, because the manufacturers in that country use no candle, but work by the light of their coal-fire. The property of it is to burn and flame till it is all consumed, without leaving any cinder. It is lighted by a candle like amber, and the grate stands, not against the back of a large chimney, as common coal grates; but in the middle, where ballads are pasted round, and the folk sit about it, working or merry-making. His lordship saw the pits where vast piles of that coal were raised; and it is a pity the place wants water carriage; else London would be, in the better part, served with it. But the greatest wonder his lordship saw, was that which they call the Burning Well. The manner of it is this. First, in some place, where they know the

sulphurous vapour perspires (often in a ditch) they dig up a turf, and clap it down in its place again; and then they are ready for projection. When the shew company are come, a man takes up the turf, and, after a little puffing of a brown paper match gives fire, and instantly the hole is filled with a blue spirituous flame like brandy. It seem'd to waste, and I believe would not have burnt in that manner long; but while it was burning they put water in the hole, and the flame continued upon the water as if it had been spirits. And some people said they used to boil eggs there. That which seem'd most strange was that the vapour should come through the water and burn, and no bubbling of the water appear. It seems to infer that the vapour permeates the body of the water, as water through sands. But, I question, if the body were not fluid, but rigid, as glass, whether the vapour would so easily pass it; for the perpetual action of the fluid parts facilitates the passage. And it is some demonstration how easily the effluvia of a magnet may permeate glass, metals, and every palpable substance we are acquainted with, as we continually observe of them.'

“Other accounts of the burning well, which, a generation ago continued to attract visitors, but has now long disappeared, are given in the *Philosophical Transactions*, and other publications, with some variations, and with the details of a number of experiments, but they all resolve themselves into the same phenomena. In Mr. Stirling's account of the burning well, he speaks of it as at one place only; and says that the water at the boiling place boiled and rose up like water in a pot upon the fire, though his hand put into it felt no warmth. The flame rises in a cone-like form, with a circular base about the circumference of a man's hat at the brim. The burning well was in Derby Lane, about a mile from Hindley Hall, and in 1835 was described thus: 'The gas ascends out of a small hole through a heap of clay, near a little rill, and takes fire on the application of the flame of a candle,

the carbonated (carburetted) hydrogen, a black oily liquid, boiling up and bubbling continually at the bottom, while the flame ascends about half a yard high.' ”

The burning wells of Hindley are now things of the past. For many years there were two in existence. The best known was in Derby Lane, on the margin of a deep ditch, of a few inches in diameter, and about as deep as wide, and is the one referred to in the foregoing extracts. The other was near the Dog Pool, or, as it is now called, Grange Brook. The latter was bricked round, two feet or more in diameter, and several feet in depth. Originally it was within the precincts of the garden of an old farmhouse which stood near the spot, and was doubtless sunk for domestic purposes. The gas passing into the well would render the water unfit for drinking, and cause it to be disused. It is still in existence, but covered up. The one in Derby Lane has been long since buried beneath cartloads of rubbish.

The area of the township is 2,610 acres, statute measure. The surface is for the most part flat. An eminence in the northern part, called the "Castle Hill," affords an extensive prospect. On the west side of this eminence lies a valley, called "The Danes," through which flows the Borsden Brook, which is not without its aspects of picturesque beauty. The soil in this neighbourhood, and up to the northern extremity of the township, is of a rich, loamy character; in all other parts it is thinner and near the clay.

POPULATION.

Year.	Population.
1841	5,458
1851	7,023
1861 ..	8,477
1871	10,627

The number of inhabited houses is 2,159, and the present rateable value of the township is £49,950 0s. 8d.

The Tithes are commuted at £298 11s. 0½d.

A Local Board was formed for the government of the township in 1867, under the provisions of the Local Government Act 1858, consisting of twenty-one members, elected by the ratepayers for three years, one-third of whom retire annually. Sewerage works are now being carried out by the Board, which, when completed, will doubtless contribute materially to the health of the neighbourhood.

PLACES OF WORSHIP.

	Built.	No. of Sittings.
All Saints' Church*	1641	700
Presbyterian Chapel †	1700	250
St. Benedict's Roman Catholic Church ‡	1788	450
St. Paul's Independent Chapel §	1815	480
Bridge Croft Independent Chapel	1838	200
Wesleyan Methodist Chapel, Frederick Street	} 1851	300
Primitive Methodist Chapel, Platt Bridge		
Particular Baptist Chapel, Market Street	} 1854	150
Brunswick Chapel, Hindley Green, United Methodist Free Church ...		
Primitive Methodist Chapel, Woodford Street, Castle Hill	} 1856	200
St. Peter's Church		
United Methodist Free Church, Hindley Common	} 1866	200
Independent Methodist Chapel, Lowe Green		
Wesleyan Methodist Chapel, Walthew Lane	} 1869-70	260

* Rebuilt, 1766.

† Rebuilt, 1788.

‡ Rebuilt, 1868-9. Before 1788 a chapel existed at Strangeways Hall, where service was performed, and before that again at the Lowe Hall.

§ The number of 480 includes the sittings in the galleries, which were not erected until some years after the building of the chapel.

The Lowe Mill was originally a corn mill, with a thatched roof, worked by water power. About 1780-1790, Mr. Richard Battersby, the then owner of the mill estate, added a cotton mill to the corn mill, and was the first to introduce factory labour into the township. Early in the present century the late Mr. John Pennington founded the cotton works known as Worthington Mills, which are still in the possession of his family, and have been growing in importance from that time until now, and in 1832 he became the proprietor, by purchase, of the Lowe Mills. The manufactories at present consist of the Lowe Mills, the Worthington Mills, the Borsden Mills, the Marsh Brook Mills, the Hindley Mill, and the Hindley Common Mills. Altogether, they are computed to have room for upwards of 130,000 spindles, and to give employment to from 1,400 to 1,500 hands. Power-loom weaving is carried on at the Worthington and at the Hindley Mills.

Seams of coal of great value lie under the entire township. They are worked by various proprietors, and afford employment to a large portion of the inhabitants.

The quantity of coal at present raised, I am informed by one of the coal proprietors, is estimated at 950,000 tons yearly, and employment is found at the various collieries for 2,350 persons.

There are no great estates in the immediate neighbourhood of Hindley. The land in the township itself, and for a mile or two round, has been broken up into a variety of small holdings. The manor of Newton, and fee of Mackerfield, which extends over the townships of Lowton, Golborne, Haydock, Ince, Pemberton, Billinge, Winstanley, Orrell, Hindley, Abram, Kenyon, Ashton, Southworth-with-Croft, Haughton, Middleton, and Arbury, Woolston-with-Martins-Croft, and Poulton-with-Fearnhead, was formerly owned by the Langton family, of Lowe Hall, and was sold by them to the Leghs of Lyme, in Cheshire, about 200 years ago, in

whose possession it has remained ever since. The manorial rights of Hindley do not yet appear to be clearly defined. About forty years ago some of the freeholders were summoned by Mr. Legh to attend a court leet at Newton, which was then considered a new exaction, and similar summonses have been served at times subsequently. Other powers than these I never heard of being exercised.

THE LOWE HALL.

The Langtons were formerly the most influential people in the township. Their ancient residence was the Lowe Hall, where they appear to have been settled for several centuries. In 1733 Edward Langton died without issue, and the family was represented afterwards by his nephew, William Pugh, and his nephew, Edward Philip Pugh, sold the hall, with some surrounding land, in 1765, to the Duke of Bridgewater, whose representatives are the present owners. The greater part of the estate, however, had been sold piecemeal, farm by farm, previously.

The house is now nothing more than a farm house; the moat surrounding it, with the tall columns of a gateway, being the only remaining evidence of its former state. A few scattered trees on its western side, some dead, and others dying through the effects of the smoke and vapours of the neighbouring manufactories, mark where an ornamental plantation once stood. Some tapestry hangings were removed—in the memory of people recently living—to Worsley Hall.

The Langtons of Lowe Hall, and the Hindleys of Hindley Hall, are mentioned in several of the Herald's visitations.

HINDLEY HALL.

Hindley Hall, notwithstanding its name, is situate, as stated by the historian, not in Hindley, but in the adjoining township of Aspull. It never seems to have

been a place of importance. If it was ever surrounded by a domain of any extent, it long since disappeared, as, less than a century ago, it was comprised within a score or two of acres immediately surrounding the house. The present estate was formed by the late Sir Robert Holt Leigh, Bart., the then proprietor, purchasing several of the contiguous farms.

In a volume issued by the Chetham Society in 1866, entitled "The Admission Register of Manchester School, with some Notices of the more Distinguished Scholars," edited by the Rev. Jeremiah Finch Smith, M.A., rector of Aldridge, Staffordshire, there is a notice of this gentleman.

"Sir Robert Holt Leigh, Bart., M.A. (date of admission unknown). He was the eldest son of Holt Leigh, Esq., of Hindley and Whitley Halls, Lancashire, by Mary, younger daughter and coheirress of Thomas Owen, Esq., of Upholland Abbey, in that county, and Margaret his wife, only daughter and heiress of Thomas Bispham, Esq., and was born at his father's town residence in Wigan, on Christmas day, 1762. He was descended from a highly-respectable line of ancestry, who had been for some centuries possessed of landed property in this part of the county. His grandfather, Alexander Leigh, Esq., of Bretherton, completed at his own expense the canal which extended from Wigan to the River Ribble, having obtained in 1720 an Act of Parliament for the purpose, thereby conferring great benefit upon Wigan and the neighbourhood. Robert Holt Leigh proceeded from the school to Christ Church, Oxford, and passed the requisite examinations; but, strange to say, he did not take any degree till he was 70 years of age. When I was residing in Oxford as an Hulfman exhibitioner, I remember the baronet coming into residence at Christ Church for the requisite number of days before he could be admitted to the degree of B.A., which he took on the 26th October, 1837, and proceeded M.A. on the 30th of May in the year following. It was said at the time that he did so in order to secure a vote as a

member of convocation on those questions of deep interest affecting the Church and the university which then began to be publicly agitated. He was throughout life a high Tory and firm Churchman, but strenuous Protestant. He was first returned to Parliament in 1802, as member for Wigan, and continued to represent his native borough to the year 1820, when he voluntarily resigned, and was succeeded by Lord Lindsay, afterwards Earl of Balcarres. Throughout his parliamentary career he gave his hearty support to Mr. Pitt and Mr. Canning, except on the question of the Roman Catholic claims, on which he was opposed to them. On the accession of Mr. Canning to office he was created a baronet, his patent bearing date 23rd of May, 1815, with remainder to the male issue of his father, none of whom, however, survived to succeed to the title, and, the baronet dying a bachelor, it became extinct. In the year 1798, when the peace of the country was disturbed by a spirit of discontent leading on to insurrection and riot, he became commandant of a society of gentlemen at Wigan, called the Wigan Arms Association, and distinguished himself in various encounters with the mob. In the agitation consequent upon the Reform question, in 1831, he suffered severely from the violence of the mob at the Wigan election, when he was the proposer of Mr. J. H. Kearsley; and he used afterwards to tell an amusing story how the Liberals of that day, when they got him on the ground and were intent upon administering very severe corporal punishment, even if they spared his life, kicked each other's shins with their heavy clogs as they hastily aimed at his prostrate body, to his amusement and satisfaction alike. His brother, Mr. Roger Holt Leigh, of Leeds, died on the 13th of May, in that year, in consequence of the injuries which he received at this election. Through life he interested himself in all matters relating to the town of Wigan, and was a trustee of the grammar school of that place, as well as of the Manchester school, of which his high classical attainments, quite as much as his rank in society, have

given him a place among her most distinguished alumni. He died at Hindley Hall, on the 21st of January, 1843, in his 81st year, a magistrate and deputy-lieutenant of the county. He left behind him a large property, and a valuable library, particularly rich in classical books, which not only ornamented his shelves, but were read and remembered, and readily and aptly quoted by him as occasion served. One of the great scholars of the age, Dr. Donnegan, in the preface to his Greek and English Lexicon, fourth edition, 1842, says: 'Among the advantages which I have derived from the publication of my *'Greek and English Lexicon,'* there is none I deem more precious than its having procured me the acquaintance, and I may with just pride add, the friendship, of Sir R. H. Leigh, Bart., a gentleman who has improved his talents by refined, well-directed, and assiduous culture. Thoroughly acquainted with the best writers of the modern languages, and having attained a critical and profound knowledge of the Greek language and literature—the excellencies of which his peculiar turn of mind enables him to appreciate fully—he still devotes a considerable portion of his studious hours, with glowing enthusiasm and untiring ardour, to the poets and orators who have bequeathed to us such splendid and enduring monuments of Grecian genius. To the accomplishments of a scholar he has added the advantages of having visited the most interesting countries of Europe, surveyed their choicest specimens of art with a critical eye, and observed the characters of men and manners so truly, as to justify the application to him of the commendation bestowed upon Ulysses by the great poet. Sir Robert Holt Leigh occasionally attended the anniversary meetings of the old scholars, and was steward in 1796, as colleague to George Lloyd, Esq. The preceding brief notice of this distinguished scholar would be imperfectly true, unless it were added that over the latter years of his life it is better that a veil should be drawn. It is very sad to record folly and profligacy in the mature years of a life in which,

otherwise, there is much to admire. By Sir Robert Holt Leigh's will the estates descended to his cousin, Thomas Pemberton, Esq., Q.C., for his life only, who thereupon assumed the additional title of Baron Kingsdown. To him I am indebted for a small photograph of the baronet, which is in the old school, and taken from a miniature, the only portrait in existence of this loyal subject and sound classical scholar. Sir R. H. Leigh was said to be the greatest snuff-taker in England, and carried snuff in his waistcoat pocket. He was also a great epicure, and generally tasted every dish on the dinner table. He rebuilt Hindley Hall from his own designs, and forgot to include a staircase! In affluence and readiness of classical quotations Sir Robert was perhaps unsurpassed by any scholar of his day.' "

ALL SAINTS' CHURCH.

The first church (or chapel, as it was originally called) was built in 1641 on land given by Mr. George Green.* Funds for the building were raised by subscription and from the sale of pews. An opinion prevails, and has even found its way into the history of the county, that it was built by the Puritans; but a Decree issued by the Duchy Court of Lancaster, in 1669, gives particulars of the early history of the chapel, and authoritatively refutes this opinion. As the document has special relation to a portion of the endowment still enjoyed by the church, I give it entire. It was made in Trinity Term, in the 21st year of King Charles the Second, in a cause "Between Edward Green, Peter Harrison, Wm. Crook, Wm. Dennys, John Green, Nathaniel Molyneux, Jeremiah Harrison, Wm. Chetam, and Ralph Prescott, Plaintiffs; Ellen Ranicars, Pearce Ranicars, John Thomason, and Richard Hilton, Defendants. Whereas, the Plaintiffs did in or about Easter Term, 1668, exhibit their Bill into this court against the Defendants, thereby setting forth that George Green, late of Hindley, in the county of Lancaster, deceased, about 30 years ago having a charitable inclination to promote the erecting of a Chapel within the Township of Hindley, where-in the word of God and sacraments might be duly dispensed for the Ease of the neighbourhood (being at a great distance from their Parish Church of Wigan), by his Indenture or deed lawfully executed, did give and convey to the plaintiffs, together with some other persons, since deceased, and their heirs, a parcel of land then marked, hedged out, walled out, or divided from other of his lands, for the erecting of a Chapel therein, and making and fitting of a chapel yard thereunto, and whereupon, at the charge of the plaintiffs, with other of the inhabitants, a Chapel

* Mr. George Green was the owner of the adjoining estate of Wood-daggers, which continued in the possession of his family up to a recent period.

was afterwards erected, and a chapel yard made, wherein, since the erecting thereof, upon every Lord's day ordinarily the Word of God and prayers of the Church, by some orthodox Minister thereto ordained, have been duly preached and said; for the encouragement whereof and towards the maintenance of the Minister since the foundation of the Chapel, some charitable persons have contributed sundry sums, or other yearly benefit, and particularly one John Ranicars, late of Atherton, who, being seized of several messuages and Lands in Hindley, Westleigh, and Pennington, in Lancashire, by his last will dated in August, 1655, devised the messuages and lands unto John Stancliffe, alias Ranicars, and the heirs of his body, and for default thereof unto Pearce Ranicars, of Pennington, his nephew, and to the heirs of his body, chargeable that he the said Pearce Ranicars and his heirs should pay unto the executors of the said John Ranicars the annual rent of six pounds towards the maintenance of a Minister at the said Chapel, and to continue chargeable upon the said lands for ever, and named the Defendants, John Thomason and Richard Hilton, executors, and that shortly afterwards the said John Ranicars dyed, and the said John Stancliffe, by virtue of the devise to him, entered, and about December, 1666, also dyed, whereby the rent of six pounds was growing payable to the said Chapel. That Pearce Ranicars is also dead, and has left Pearce, the Defendant, his son and heir. That after his death the Defendant, Ellen Ranicars, mother of the Defendant Pearce, to whom these lands then remained (he being then an infant), or he the said Defendant, Pearce, entered upon the lands, and having the deeds and last will concerning the disposition of the lands and the rent, together with the other Defendants, take the profits to their own uses, and do not allow unto William Dennys, one of the Plaintiffs, being the present Minister of the said Chapel, the said rent, and that the Executors deny to intermeddle or sue for or receive this rent for the Minister, and to make any settlement thereof. And

that the Defendants in their answers may set forth the will of Jno. Ranicars, and especially concerning the charging of the said rent for the use of the Chapel. And that the Defendants may be compelled to pay over the said rent, and the arrearages thereof, and that the said rent by the Decree of this Court may be secured and settled upon the plaintiff's Feoffees or Trustees, for the use of the Minister for the time being of this Chapel is the scope of the Bill. To which Bill, in or about Easter term last, the Defendants answered, and by their answers the said Defendants, Ellen Ranicars and Pearce Ranicars, say they believe that George Green, deceased, made and executed such conveyance of the parcel of Land in Hindley for the erecting and making of a Chapel and chapel yard, and for such use and intent as by the Bill, and confess that John Ranicars, deceased, by his last will, dated the 16th of August, 1655, did give all his messuages and lands in Hindley, Westleigh, and Pennington, unto John Stancliffe, alias Ranicars, his reputed son, and to the heirs of his body, and for default thereof to his nephew, Pearce Ranicars (now deceased), late husband of the Defendant Ellen, and late father to the Defendant Pearce, and to the heirs of his body, charged and chargeable that he, the said Pearce and his heirs, should pay to the Executors of the said John Ranicars and their heirs the annual rent of six pounds, for and towards the maintenance of a Minister at the Chapel of Hindley, out of the issues and profits thereof, to continue for ever for the use of the said Minister, and named the Defendants, John Thomason and Richard Hilton, and one John Withington (since deceased), his Executors, and shortly afterwards dyed, and that John Stancliffe, alias Ranicars, the first devisor, also dyed about the time in the Bill mentioned, without any issue of his body begotten. That since his death the Defendant, Ellen Ranicars, in right of the other Defendant, her son Pearce, did enter upon the said lands and received the profits, amounting to twenty pounds per annum, concerning which and the said yearly

rent of six pounds given to the use of the Minister at Hindley, and the settlement thereof upon the complainants as Feoffees or Trustees for the use and benefit of the said Chapel, the Defendants submit to the order and decree of this Court. And the said other Defendants, John Thomason and Richard Hilton, do by their answers say that they do believe that George Green made such settlement upon the Plaintiffs for the use of the Chapel as in the Bill is set forth, and that John Ranicars, deceased, made such last will for the disposition of the six pounds per annum for the use of a Minister at the Chapel of Hindley as in the other Defendants' answers are set forth, and the other Defendants, Ellen and Pearce Ranicars, or the one of them, have entered upon the lands and take the profits thereof yearly, but deny that they at any time have received the said annual rent of six pounds so given by the will, or intermeddled therewith, albeit they are satisfied that it ought to be paid for the use in the will mentioned; and as to the settlement thereof upon the complainants as Feoffees or Trustees, for or on the behalf of the said Chapel and of a preaching Minister there, they, the said Defendants, submit to the discretion of this Court. And whereas it is ordered on the 12th of June instant, by consent, that the cause should be set down to be heard and determined in this Court upon Bill and answer this present day without notice to be given to the Defendants, or any of them. Now this day the same came to hearing accordingly. Upon opening the Plaintiff's Bill, by Mr. Lever, of the Plaintiff's counsel, and the Defendant's answer, by Mr. Holden, of the Defendant's counsel, it is this day finally ordered, adjudged, and decreed by the Right Honourable the Chancellor and Council of this Court, that the Defendants, Ellen Ranicars and Pearce Ranicars, or the one of them, and the heirs of the said Pearce, shall, from June to June, for ever hereafter, pay yearly unto the Plaintiffs, their heirs and assigns, the annual or yearly rent or sum of six pounds upon the feast days of Saint Michael the archangel, and the first day of May,

by equal portions, for the use and towards the maintenance of a preaching Minister at the Chapel of Hindley, and that the messuages, lands, tenements, and hereditaments in and by the said last will of the said John Ranicars, mentioned, given, and devised, shall from time to time stand and be chargeable with the payment of the said annual or yearly rent as aforesaid, and that the other Defendants, John Thomason and Richard Hilton, the Executors named in the said will, shall be hereby discharged from the receipt of payment thereof.

“J. HEATH.”

From this document it therefore clearly appears that the building was destined from the first as a place of worship for the Church of England. During the unsettled period which followed its erection it fell, like other churches in the kingdom, for a time into the hands of the Nonconformists, and a contest ultimately ensued between one portion of the trustees who supported the Church of England, and another who supported the Nonconformists, for the possession of the building, when it was finally decided that the latter had no valid claim to it. From various causes, therefore, it was not until the year 1698 that steps were taken for its consecration.

*Copy of the Petition to the Bishop of Chester to
Consecrate Hindley Chapel (1698.)*

“To the Right Reverend Father in God Nicholas Lord Bishop of Chester,—May it please your Lordship, we, John Ranicars, Church Warden of the Parish Church of Wigan, John Prescott, James Cheetham, Jonathan Thomason, John Marsh, the Feoffees for the land whereon the Chappell of Hindley is built, the said Chappell and Chappell yard thereto belonging, and we, Peter Worthington, John Prescott, and James Cheetham, named and constituted Feoffees or Trustees of several pious Devises, Gifts, and Legacies to ye use of the said Chappell of Hindley, in the Parish of Wigan and County of Lancaster, and the rest of the inhabitants

of ye Township of Hindley aforesaid, do, with united minds and desires, humbly represent unto your Lordship that our said Parish Church of Wigan being three miles distant from the greatest and most populous part of the said Township of Hindley, and George Green, of the said Township, Gentleman, having given and devoted a parcell of land to the end a Chappell might be built upon it, and the residue of the said parcell for a Chappell yard, a Chappell was thereupon erected, and a Chappell yard enclosed and fenced, in the year of our Lord God 1641, with the approbation and consent of Doctor Bridgman, ye then Lord Bishop of Chester and Rector of Wigan, at the contributions and charges of the Inhabitants of the said Township. That the said Chappell is regularly built, with a Chancell at the East end of it, distinguished from the body of the Chappell, having a communion table placed therein, and in ye Chappell a reading desk, pulpitt, seates, with other necessaries and ornaments. That, since the happy restoration of King Charles the Second and of the rights and privileges of the Church, several Benefactions and Legacies have been made and given to the endowment of ye said Chappell and the use and maintenance of an Orthodox and lawfull Minister of the said Chappell, so that the same do amount to the sum of Twenty Pounds per annum, or thereabouts. That some Dissenters from the Church of England (which God Almighty preserve) have (as your Lordship very well knows) by a long and obstinate suit attempted to seize ye said Chappell and to pervert it and the said gifts and devises from ye said uses to which they were piously devoted, and had probably succeeded had not your Lordship interposed as well your indefatigable pains, as your purse, in that cause wherein you have prevailed to have them restored and settled by definitive Decree in the Chancery of the Dutchy of Lancaster; and for your Lordship's affectionate and just vindication of the rights of the Church in general, and of the said Chappell in particular, we have reason to bless God and to hold your name and memory

in veneration. And now for the reasons above mentioned we the said John Ranicars, John Prescott, James Cheetham, Peter Worthington, Jonathan Thomason, John Marsh, Feoffees and Trustees, and we the said Inhabitants, become humble and unanimous suitors to your Lordship as God's minister, the Bishop and Ordinary of this Diocese, to accept of this our free-will offering, and to Decree this Chappell and Chappell yard to be severed from all common and prophane uses, and so to sever them; and also by the Word of God and prayer, and other spirituall and religious duties, to dedicate and consecrate this Chappell to the sacred name of God, and to His service and worship only, and this Chappell yard to be a Cemetery or place of Christian buriall, wherein our bodies may be laid up until the day of the general Resurrection; promising that we will thenceforward ever hold this said Chappell as an Holy place, even as God's house, and this said Chappell yard as Holy ground, and use them accordingly; and that we will from time to time, and ever hereafter, as need shall be, see this Chappell conveniently repaired and decently furnished, and this yard conveniently repaired and fenced, in such sort as a Chappell and Cemetery or burying place ought to be; and we will (as occasion shall require) procure us some sufficient Clerke, being in Holy Orders, by your Lordship as Ordinary of this place, and by your successors, to be admitted and licensed, and to him to yield competent maintenance, to the end that he may take upon him the cure of the said Chappell, and duly say Divine Service in the same at times appointed, and perform all other such offices and duties as by the Canons of the Church and laws of the realm every Curate is bound to perform.

THE FEOFFEES.

Jno. Ranicars.
Jno. Prescott.
James Cheetham.

P. Worthington.
Jonathan Thomason.
Jon. Marsh.

THE INHABITANTS.

J. Hindley.	Rowland Meadow.
Jo ^a Bethell.	Ja. Bradshaw.
Wm. Taylor.	Henry Leyland.
Jo ^a Morres.	John Hayes.
Josep Skinner.	James Jolleyes.
Wm. Aspull.	John Leyland.
Thomas Lythgoe.	Thomas Partington.
John Chadock.	John Lowe.
Jo ^a Smethurst.	Thomas Hindley.
John Ashurst.	Richard Ince.
Wm. Needham.	Jon. Duckworth.
Ralph Green.	Roger Ranicars.
Richard Hindley.	Thomas Rigbys.
Gilbert Lythgoe.	Giles Gregoreys.
Peter Lythgoe.	Thomas Morris.
Adam Johnson.	James Pennington.
Edward Marsh.	James Haverson.
Jonathan Rothwell.	William Swift.
George Greene.	Oliver Rigbie.
Matthew Smith.	Widow Snape.
Robert Rigby.	Widow Dounall.
John Hodson.	Gilbert Ounsworth.
John Farbrother.	John Swisft.
Henry Walker.	Jane Thomason, widow.
George Jolly.	William Hampson.
James Whittle.	Margt. Hart.
Richard Yates.	Jonathan Whalley.
Anthony Rigby.	Hugh Hyton.
Peter Greene.	Peter Smith.
John Adamson.	Tho. Leyland.
George Jolly, sen.	John Hodson.
Jo ^a Rigbie.	James Hodson.
Roger Aspull.	Ralph Rigby.
Christop. Thomason.	William Raycroft.
Joseph Southworth.	Joseph Hoults.
Jo ^a Alred.	Richard Cross."
Raph Ricroft.	
George Sæpraef.	
W ^m Bibby.	

Copy of the Deed of Consecration (1698).

“In the name of God, Amen. Since George Green, of Hindley, in the County of Lancaster and our Diocese of Chester, Gentleman, moved by a pious and religious devotion, has given and dedicated a parcel of land, or his field, that a Chapel or Oratory should be built in a part of the same, and that the rest of the same be consecrated as a place of burial, or Cemetery, for the use of the inhabitants of the village of Hindley aforesaid, within the Parish of Wigan, in the County of Lancaster and our Diocese of Chester as aforesaid. Since from that time foresaid inhabitants of the said village (the same village, or a part of it, being distant to the inhabitants more than three miles or thereabouts from the Parish Church of Wigan aforesaid) have built, raised up, and enclosed, in the year of our Lord 1641, this Chapel or Oratory (which, with the chancel, contains in itself, from east to west, 19 rods and four thumbs' breadth in length, and from north to south 8 rods 1 foot and five thumbs' breadth in width, or thereabouts; also the land or surrounding place as a place of burial (with approbation and consent of the Revd. in Christ Father John Bridgeman, at that time Bishop of Chester, and rector of the rectory and Parish Church of Wigan aforesaid, our predecessor), and have decently and suitably provided ornaments, the said Chapel or Oratory with a reading desk or pulpit, a table adapted for the holy supper, convenient seats, and other necessities. Since from that time many inhabitants of the said village, or the same neighbourhood, led on by a similar pious and religious devotion, have given, left, and devoted legacies, donations, and sums of money to the annual amount of £20, or exceeding, for the endowment of the said Chapel or Oratory, and for the use and support of a Minister lawfully sent, or to be sent, to serve the same curacy; and since prudent and discreet men—John Ranicars, John Prescott, James Cheetham, Jonathan Thomason, and John Marsh, feoffees of the

parcel of land or the aforesaid field or close, as also Peter Worthington and the said John Prescott and James Cheetham, feoffees of the said gifts, legacies, and sums of money, setting aside their right, title, and interest in the same, and giving up to us willingly and humbly their right, title, and interest for the following uses, have, together with the inhabitants of the foresaid village of Hindley, earnestly intreated, insomuch that we have vouchsafed to separate from common and profane uses, and by our ordinary and Episcopal authority, to dedicate and consecrate this House or Chapel for sacred and divine uses; as also, the place or surrounding portion of land or foresaid field, for sacred uses, and as cemetery or place of burial for the inhabitants of the aforesaid village of Hindley, that the bodies of those dying there may be buried according to the Christian rite. Therefore, We, Nicholas, by the Divine permission Bishop of Chester, favouring in this respect the pious and religious wish of the same feoffees and inhabitants, for the consecration of this House or Chapel erected and supplied with all requisites, and also of the aforementioned surrounding (as before mentioned) on this day, Wednesday, the feast of All Saints, that is to say the first day of November, 1698, instant, and having first humbly called upon the great and only God, Father, Son, and Holy Ghost, by our ordinary and Episcopal authority we separate this Chapel or Oratory and land aforementioned surrounding place, from all common and profane use; and—according to the power vested in us, and we can by the canons of the Church; and the statutes of this Kingdom of England—we devote, dedicate, and consecrate, to the honour of God, this Chapel or Oratory raised for divine service, the celebration of sacred rites, for ministering the sacraments in the same, likewise for pouring out divine prayers to God, for preaching and expounding in the same the pure and sincere Word of God, for burying the dead inhabitants of the aforesaid village of Hindley, and for the performance of those other things that are done in

other chapels ; and we consecrate the said land or surrounding place for a cemetery or place of burial for the bodies of those who die in the said village, that they may be buried according to the Christian rite, and we openly and publicly decree and declare that these same ought in future to remain devoted, dedicated, and consecrated, without, notwithstanding, any prejudice, and the right of the parochial and mother church of Wigan aforesaid, being always preserved in all its tenths, privileges, and ecclesiastical profits whatsoever ; as likewise our rights and those of our successors, and the dignity, jurisdiction, and honour of our cathedral church of Chester being always preserved ; provided always that all and each of the priests or ministers, about to take from time to time the cure of souls in the said Chapel, be examined, approved, and admitted by us and our successors, according to the laws and canons of the kingdom of England ; and that the forementioned feoffees and inhabitants, and their successors, maintain and support the same priests or ministers thus examined, approved, and admitted, and that they pay to the same the annual stipend of £20 at least, and that they keep the said Chapel sufficiently repaired, covered, and decently furnished, and the cemetery or place of burial sufficiently enclosed and fenced, without any diminution or defalcation of the ecclesiastical rights, of tenths, oblations, or gifts, belonging by right or custom to the said parochial or mother church of Wigan aforesaid, or the Rector of the same for the time being. All which and each, as far as lies in our power, we thus decree and confirm for us and our successors by these presents."

The chapel was built in 1641, and from that time up to a recent period was called "the Parochial Chapel of Hindley." The original building stood for 125 years, when it was pulled down, having probably become dilapidated and too small for the wants of the neighbourhood. The present church was erected in its place in 1766, partly by a brief, partly by the sale of pews,

and partly by subscriptions. It is a plain brick structure, with arched windows, and is entirely destitute of architectural beauty. The property with which it was endowed was vested in trustees, and the patronage in the trustees and the best inhabitants of the township. The patronage was thus exercised without molestation for a considerable time, and there is no evidence of the transfer of the right. It is yet an undeniable fact that the rectors of Wigan claim, and now possess, the patronage. The trustees to whom George Green conveyed the land for the erection of the chapel are named in the Decree of the Duchy Court of Lancaster I have already quoted. The names of the trustees at other periods are subjoined.

A Trust Deed bears date the 28th and 29th of February, 1776. Thomas Needham, of Hindley, Yeoman, was the sole survivor of the former trustees.

The new trustees appointed therein were—

John Walmesley, the elder, of Preston, Esquire.	
Ralph Peters, of Platt Bridge, Esquire.	
Holt Leigh, of Wigan, Esquire.	
James Eckersley, the elder, Hindley, Chapman.	
John Birchall,	do., Yeoman.
Robert Ashton,	do., Shoemaker.
James Needham,	do., Weaver.
Henry Southworth,	do., Chapman.
James Woods,	do., Yeoman.
John Rigby,	do., do.
Hugh Stirrup,	Lowton, Chapman.

The next Trust Deed is dated the 23rd and 24th of February, 1824. Of the former Trustees, John Walmesley, the elder, formerly of Preston, now of Bath, was the only survivor.

The new Trustees were—

John Walmesley, the younger, of Bath, Esquire.
Sir Robert Holt Leigh, Hindley Hall, Baronet.

Peter Ditchfield, Hindley, Gentleman.
 John Pennington, Hindley, Cotton Spinner.
 John Hargreaves, Westhoughton, Common Carrier.
 Charles Ditchfield, Hindley, Gentleman.
 Henry Battersby, do., Cotton Spinner.
 Charles Battersby, do., do.
 Richard Pennington, do., Cotton Manufacturer.

Another Trust Deed was executed on the 29th of October, 1853.

John Walmesley, John Hargreaves, and Richard Pennington, were the survivors of the preceding body.

The new Trustees were—

Alfred Pennington, of Hindley, Cotton Spinner.
 Richard Spooner Bond, do., Cotton Spinner.
 John Leyland, do., Gentleman.
 John Jacson, do., Cotton Spinner.
 Robert Rowbottom, do., Gentleman.
 Richard Pennington, } do., Cotton Spinner.
 the younger, }

In the interval of little more than eight years from the date of the preceding Deed the deaths of two of the Trustees occurred, viz., John Walmesley and John Hargreaves, Esqrs., and the resignation of two others—Richard Spooner Bond and John Jacson, Esqrs.

A further Trust Deed became necessary in consequence, which bears date December 27th, 1861.

The remaining Trustees were therefore—

Richard Pennington, of Hindley, Esquire.
 Alfred Pennington, do., Cotton Spinner.
 John Leyland, do., Gentleman.
 Robert Rowbottom, do., do.
 Richard Pennington, } do., Cotton Spinner.
 the younger, }

To these were added—

Nathaniel Eckersley, of Wigan, Banker.
 Charles Duckett Hargreaves, Bolton-le-Moors, Cotton Spianer.

Edward Grime, Hindley, Shopkeeper, and
Johnson Martin, do., Gentleman.

A record of the early ministers of the Chapel has not been preserved. At the Restoration a Mr. Bradshaw seems to have been the minister, but, on his refusing to conform to the usages of the Church, he was ejected. After this the chapel stood vacant until 1668, when the Rev. William Dennys, the first regularly-constituted minister, entered upon the office. Various gentlemen followed him in the few succeeding years, but it was not until the appointment of the Rev. John Jackson, in 1698, that the names of the incumbents, and the dates of their appointment, can be given with accuracy. To Mr. Jackson succeeded the Levers, father and son, who together filled the office for the long period of 81 years. The Rev. Thomas Lever was the last clergyman who inhabited the old parsonage at the Hollins; he died in 1789, and was followed by the Rev. John Croudson. This gentleman was head-master of the Wigan Grammar School, an office he retained all the time of his 22 years' incumbency. He died on the 24th December, 1810. It was his custom to visit the village one day in each week, accompanied by Mr. Ralph Peters, of Platt Bridge (of whom I shall have to say more hereafter). Regularly as the day came round the two gentlemen might be seen entering the different houses of the parishioners, inquiring after those who had been absent from church the preceding Sunday, and carrying the messages of the Gospel to the sick and to those who from other causes were unable to attend public worship.

In 1813 the living was sequestrated, in consequence of some impropriety, or alleged impropriety, on the part of the then incumbent, the Rev. George Hendrick, and the Rev. Hugh Evans was appointed curate in charge, the duties of which office he continued to discharge until Mr. Hendrick's death, in 1830.

DATE OF INSTITUTION.	INCUMBENTS.	CAUSE OF VACANCY.
Minister in 1668	William Dennys	
—	— Atherton	
—	John Wood	
—	Richard Croston	
—	Robert Bradshaw	
—	Samuel Shaw	
—	James Shaw	
1698	John Jackson*	Died, 1708
1708	Samuel Lever†	Resigned, 1753
1753	Thomas Lever	Died, 1789
1789	John Croudson	Died, 1810
1811	Edward Grime	Resigned, 1811
1811	George Hendrick	Died, 1830
1830	Edward Hill	Died, 1853
1853	Peter Jones	Resigned, 1863
1863	Chas. Hutchison Newbold	

* Mr. Jackson was the first incumbent who kept registers. These records commence on the 24th of June, 1698. The first entries are as follow:—

CHRISTENINGS.

October, 1698.

16th. John and Alice, son and daughter of John Chadock, of Hindley, baptised.

MARRIAGES.

January, 1698-9.

5th. Thomas Rigby and Jane Hart, of Hindley.

BURIALS.

October, 1698.

17th. Nathaniel, son of Roger Gregory.

† This gentleman appears to have been the first minister appointed by the rectors of Wigan.

The Table of Benefactions suspended inside the church preserves some historical facts. On it we read :

“This chapel and an house for the curate were built about the year 1641, by the inhabitants of Hindley, the ground being given by George and Edward Green.”

Here follows a list of Benefactors and Benefactions since :—

	£	s.	d.
John Ranicar, of Atherton, gave a rent-charge upon Stone House for ever ...	6	0	0
Mrs. Frances Duckinfield, al's Croston, a rent-charge upon lands in Mobberley for ever	2	10	0
Humphry Platt, the yearly crop of hay and grass arising from 3 tofts lying in Low Meadows	0	15	0
Oliver Stopford, a legacy of	10	0	0
Thomas Aspul, do.	10	0	0
Edward Green do.	10	0	0
William Sale, sen., do.	3	0	0
William Sale, jun., do.	3	0	0
Randal Collier, houses and land in Hindley, to the yearly value of	10	7	0
Mary Collier, widow, and relict of the said Randal, a legacy of	50	0	0
Mr. Thomas Crooke, of Abram, gave an estate in Aulston and Whittingham to several pious uses, of which the Minister of Hindley's share is yearly, more or less	0	18	0
Improvements made by the Feoffees during several vacancies	114	0	0
Mr. Richard Wells, of Wigan, a legacy of	100	0	0
Thomas Lythgow, for a sermon every Saint Thomas' day, a legacy of	20	0	0
Mr. John Prescott, a rent-charge upon his lands in Hindley for ever	0	10	0
Margaret Hart, a legacy of	5	0	0
James Pemberton, of Aspull, for an annual sermon on St. James' day	10	0	0

“Nehem. xiii., 14: Remember me, O my God, concerning this, and wipe not out my good deeds that I have done for the House of my God, and for the offices thereof.”

The following extracts from the Churchwardens' Accounts may be found interesting:—

		£	s.	d.	
1753-4.					
April 24.	P ^d . Visitation Court Fees	...	0	5	0
	Spent as Usual	... ..	0	2	0
	P ^d . Visitation Court Fees	...	0	4	0
	Spent upon that and some other of the Chapel Affairs	... ..	0	3	0
	P ^d . for Ale and Candles for th' Ringers on the 5th Novr.	0	2	1	
	Spent among the Feoffes on New Year's Day	... ..	0	0	9
	Spent at Signing the Ley Book	...	0	1	6
	P ^d . Clerk his Wages	... ..	2	0	0
	P ^d . for Cleaning Chapel, Dubing, Weeding, and Hanging Pulpit Cloths	... ..	0	4	6
	P ^d . Mr. Mort for Writing a Ley Book	... ..	0	1	6
1756-7.					
April 20.	P ^d . for an Act against Profane Swearing	... ..	0	0	6
1757.					
May 7.	P ^d . Samuel Hilton Bill for Chapel Yate	... ..	0	5	7½
1758.					
March 27.	P ^d . to Samuel Hilton for Mend- ing Chapel Yate	... ..	0	1	4
	P ^d . for a Form of Prayer for taking of Louisbourgh	... ..	0	0	8
	P ^d . for a Whip for Thomas Rycroft	... ..	0	0	2½
	P ^d . for a Notice for a Publick Fast	0	0	8	

		£	s.	d.
	P ^d . the Apparitor for a Form of Thanksgiving	0	0	8
	P ^d . to the Singers towards Buying Dr. Green's Vol. of Anthems	1	1	0
	P ^d . Thomas Rycroft in part of his Wages*... ..	0	6	6
1759.				
May 18.	P ^d . to Thomas Rycroft for a Hat	0	2	6
	P ^d . for making Bier Cloth and Turning Pulpit Cloth	0	2	0
1759.				
May 18.	P ^d . for Ale for Ringing for the Taking of Quebeck... ..	0	1	0
	P ^d . for a Proclamation for a General Fast	0	0	8
1760.				
May 18.	P ^d . for a Form of Prayer for tak- ing of Montreal	0	0	8
	P ^d . for an Order of Council for Praying for y ^e Royal Family	0	0	8
	P ^d . for a Quarter of Cloth and Threed for Necking Surplice	0	0	6½
1762.				
April 13.	P ^d . for 600 of Brick	0	6	0
	P ^d . for an Anthem Book for the Singers	0	3	0
	P ^d . for a Reed for the Bassoon ...	0	1	0
	Spent on the Coronation Day ...	0	5	0
	P ^d . Mr. Finch for Binding Com- mon Pray'r Book	0	5	0
	P ^d . for Writing the Register† ...	0	2	0
1763.				
April 5.	P ^d . to Robert Grime for 3 Reeds for the Bassoon pro- mised by John Birchall whilst he was Chapel Warden	0	3	0

* As Sexton probably.

† A frequent charge in the accounts.

		£	s.	d.
	P ^d Thomas Marsh for 16 Baskets of Coals and Leading for the Vestry	0	4	4
	P ^d to John Hays for a Box to gather the Brief Money in...	0	0	6
	P ^d Mr. Alcock's Bill when over concerning the Brief	2	12	6
	P ^d for a Stamp	0	1	7
	Spent at the same time at Mr. Wiggans	1	1	7½
	P ^d to the Workmen for Enlarg- ing the Chapel Yard and for Quick Woods	3	16	10
1764.				
April 23.	P ^d for a Form of Prayer for the Young Prince	0	0	8
	P ^d for Cloth and Necking New Surplice, and Repairing the Old Ones	0	1	8
1765.				
August 24.	Gave the Sextones of Wigan for Finding us out a Bell Rope	0	0	2
Sept. 2.	P ^d to some Strange Singers who came of Singing to the Chapel	0	2	0
1765.				
Jan. 21.	Sp ^t at Wigan on some of the Trustees meeting to Sign a Draft on Mr. Byrd, of Staf- ford, for Payment of Part of the Brief Money, and some other business relating to the New Chapel	0	3	5½

At a Vestry held this 9th day of April, 1765, it is ordered by the inhabitants assembled that the Clerk's Wages for the future shall be increased to the sum of £3 12s. per annum. And it is further agreed that the Sexton's Dues for Burials shall be as follows. That is to say :—

		£	s.	d.
	For Making the Grave ...	0	0	8
	For Carrying the Bier ...	0	0	4
	For Tolling	0	0	2
1766.				
June 26.	P ^d for Box and Lead Weight to Ballance Chancel Door for clapping too with the wind as ordered at the last Vestry meeting	0	1	6
July 3.	P ^d for a Book of Articles ...	0	0	8
March 29.	P ^d for a Commission from Chester to Pull Down and Rebuild the Chapel by	5	2	4
1767.				
April 21.	P ^d for a Form of Prayer for the princess	0	0	8
	Laid Down for a Brief	0	5	2½
	Geave the Workmen when the first Stone of this Chapel was Laid	0	2	0
1767.				
April 21.	Divine Service was performed in this Chapel being the first time after its being rebuilt.			
1768.				
April 5.	P ^d one half of the Expences when agreement was made with Edw ^d Green for Exchanging some Land to be laid to the Chapel Yard, omitted last year	0	2	0
	P ^d for Publishing two Meetings about Selling the New Seats, &c.	0	0	4
	P ^d for mending the Pulpit Cushion	0	0	8
Oct. 9.	P ^d for Graveling the Chapel Yard, Mending the Horse Stone &c.	0	6	0

		£	s.	d.
Oct. 21.	P ^d Mr. Dennil a Fee when consulted relating to the Singers obtaining consent from y ^e Court to Sing Anthems ...	0	5	0
1767.				
March 27.	P ^d Richard Prescott for Platstones used about the Horse Stone	0	1	4
1771.				
June 18.	P ^d for a Prayr for the Yong princess	0	0	8
March 23.	P ^d Clerk for Candles for Ringers on Nov ^r 5th	0	0	1
1774.				
	P ^d William Blundell for Ale for the Ringers on Nov ^r 5th	0	3	0
March 18.	P ^d Ralph Rylance for a New Chest for the Chapels use ...	3	9	5
	Expended on the Chapel Warden and Singers in waiting of his Lordship the Bishop of Chester in Petitioning for to Sing Anthems	0	5	0
July 28.	P ^d for Cleaning Dialpost and painting	0	1	6
Oct. 21.	P ^d for Brief Money that was stolen	0	9	2½
Oct. 22.	P ^d for a Quarter of Cloath to Neck the Surplice	0	1	0
	P ^d for Repairing Surplice	0	0	8
	P ^d for a Load of Cennel	0	2	10
1776.				
May 19.	P ^d to a Brief for Hail Storm in West Wycombe	0	4	2½
	P ^d to a Brief for Bradshaw Chapel*	0	2	7

* Such entries are numerous.

37

		£	s.	d.
Nov. 10.	P ^d . to a Brief for Thornhill Church	0	2	5½
	P ^d . for Assisting in putting up Kings Armes and the Com- mandments to two men ...	0	2	0
	P ^d . to a Brief for Edenfield Chapel	0	2	8
1777.				
April 1.	P ^d . for a Brief for Epston Church	0	2	2
	P ^d . for a Brief for Boteswergoch Church	0	2	4
	P ^d . for Ale on the Rejoicing of the Good News from America ...	0	3	6
	P ^d . for Ale on the Rejoicing of the News from America ...	0	5	0
	P ^d . for Writing these Accounts ...	0	0	6
1778.				
April 21.	P ^d . to James Wielding for a Cheain and Pullies for the font and fixing them	0	11	0
	P ^d . to Horwhich Church Briefe...	0	4	1
	P ^d . to Butterton Church Brief ...	0	1	9
	P ^d . to Ale for Ringers on Nov ^r . 5th as usual	0	3	0
	P ^d . to a Form of Prayer for Young princess	0	0	8
1778.				
April 21.	P ^d . To a Book of Articles ...	0	0	8
	P ^d . To Court fees	0	4	0
	P ^d . To Attending Court ...	0	2	0
	P ^d . To one Load of Cannel, and Leading	0	5	6
	P ^d . To Robert Grimes, for Reeds, as usal	0	10	0
1780.				
March 28.	P ^d . To Good New(s) from America for rejoicing	0	2	0
	P ^d . To Welling Church Brief ...	0	4	5
	P ^d . To Holemford Chapel Brief	0	2	11
	P ^d . To Weandworth Brief ...	0	4	7
	P ^d . To Staponhill Brief ...	0	3	2

		£	s.	d.
	P ^d To the King's Proclamation for a general fast	0	1	4
1781.				
April 17.	P ^d for Alteration of y ^e prayer for Rebellion	0	0	8
	P ^d for Rejoicing for Taking of Charls Town in America ...	0	3	0
	P ^d for Rejoicing for Taking St. Eustatia	0	1	0
	P ^d for 2 Measuers of Lime for Building Chapel Horse Stone	0	1	0
	P ^d for Brickwork and serving do.	0	2	0
1782.				
Nov. 8.	P ^d for Crying Seats	0	0	2
	P ^d for Crying Vestery Meeting	0	0	2
1783.				
May 16.	P ^d for Rejoicing for Rodney's Counquest over the French Fleet on the 12 of April ...	0	2	6
	P ^d for Book of Thanksgiving ...	0	0	8
	P ^d to Talk on y ^e hill fire Brief	0	1	2
	P ^d for Handels and Purcels Tedeum for Singers ...	0	13	0
1784.				
April 13.	P ^d To a Stamp for Births and Burials	0	6	0
	P ^d Mr. John Lever for Copying sevr ^{al} Deeds writing re- lating to Benefactions and Charities bestowed upon Hindley Chapel by Bill ...	3	13	6
1786.				
April 18.	P ^d to Mr. John Lever for Writings Betwixt the Faffees of this Chapel and George Hodkinson concerning per- sonage house	1	0	6
1787.				
April 10.	Spent when looking for Donations	0	1	0

		£	s	d
	P ^d to Necking Surplice ...	0	1	6
1787.				
April 10.	P ^d for a Box and Lock and Key to put Duty Money in	0	1	6

At the proceedings of a Vestry Meeting held on Nov. 5th, 1789, we read: "At the same Time it was agreed y^t the Communion Plate should be remov'd out of the Vestry to the House of Mr. Richard Battersby, and to be fetch'd by the Clerk every Time it is wanted: and y^t a good strong Oak Box be provided for putting the same in, with a Lock to it. Also y^t 4 small Boxes be provided for collecting Alms. At the same Time it was agreed y^t two additional Locks of different form be provided with Keys, one Key of which to be in the Possession of the Minister, one of the Chapel Warden, and one be lodg'd with Robert Ashton.

"It was at the same Time further agreed that ten shillings a year be allow'd the Clerk for washing the Surplice and his Trouble of conveying the Communion Plate to Mr. Battersby's.

"And y^t two Pounds two shillings a year be allowed the Sexton for ringing the Bell and keeping the Chapel Yard in decent Repair."

1791.				
April 29.	P ^d for a sequestration ...	1	13	0
May 29.	P ^d for a UMBERELLO ...	1	2	0
Feb. 9.	P ^d for 6 Black and White Pall Bobs 2s. ...	0	12	0
1794.				
April 2.	Spent as Usal of Eeaster Tuesday	0	7	4
April 9.	To ringing at Chapel for News ...	0	2	6
1795.				
May 28.	Gave for Ringing on the Duke of York Victory ...	0	3	0
June 1.	Gave for Ringing on account of Lord Hows Victory ...	0	4	6

		£	s.	d.
1796.				
Feb. 29.	To 100 Advertisements for prohibiting Shop-Keepers Sabbath breaking	0	3	0
	To 101 Sparrow heads	0	4	2½
1796.				
March 21.	To Thomas Huff for removing the Horse Stone and rebuilding it and lime	0	5	9
1798.				
April 10.	28 Dozen and 11 Sparrow Heads	0	14	5½
1801.				
Jan. 4.	P ^d for Sparrow heads	0	18	7½
1806.				
April 16.	To Sparrow Heads	2	17	0
1807.				
March 31.	P ^d To Sparrow Heads	0	17	2
1814.				
April 11.	To the Reverend Hugh Evans Ordanition	0	10	0
	To Violincelles Strings	0	3	6

“February 23, 1815.—At a public Vestry Meeting held this day, pursuant to public notice given on Sunday last in this Chapel, to consider the necessity of an application to the Lord Bishop of Chester for a faculty to empower the Chapel Warden, or his successors, to take down the East end of the said Chapel, and to rebuild it upon a larger plan, with power for Trustees to dispose of the seats. Also to fix what quantity of land shall be purchased from Mr. George Green to enlarge the said Chapel yard.

“We whose names are hereunto subscribed, being a majority of land owners and leaseholders there present, do agree and consider the Chapel as it now is is too small for the congregation to assemble, and that an enlargement of the said Chapel is necessary, and do appoint the Chapel Warden or his successor to apply for a

faculty for the same, and that about forty falls of land be purchased to be laid to the aforesaid burial ground.

“ H. Evans, Minister.	Peter Ditchfield.
“ Henry Southworth.	Thomas Somner.
“ Jona ⁿ Thomason.	Tomas Cave.
“ George Green.	H. Battersby.”

The new Parsonage was built in 1810. The site chosen for it was on an estate called Rosbothams, purchased on the 23rd of October, 1779, from William Clayton, of Wigan, gentleman, for £400, in order to augment the living. £200 of this sum was contributed by the Governors of the Bounty of Queen Anne, and the remainder, with the expenses connected with the purchase, which amounted to £30, was raised by the Trustees and by the Incumbent giving up one half-year's salary. This estate is under the entire control of the Incumbent, and is the only part of the church property not vested in the Trustees.

The principal contributors to the new Parsonage were :—

	£	s.	d.
Ralph Peters, Esq.....	100	0	0
The Marquis of Stafford.....	100	0	0
The Hon. & Rev. George Bridge- man	100	0	0
Robert Holt Leigh, Esq.	50	0	0
John Hopwood, Esq.	50	0	0
Edward Kearsley, Esq. ...	50	0	0
John Pennington, Esq.	30	0	0
The Rev. George Hendrick	20	0	0
Queen Anne's Bounty Office	300	0	0
Proceeds of Timber, &c.....	52	8	9
	<u>£852</u>	<u>8</u>	<u>9</u>

Mr. Pennington, the subscriber in the above list of £30, was Chapel Warden at the time the Parsonage

was erected. The cost of the building amounted to about £300 more than the subscriptions, a sum Mr. Pennington never succeeded in recovering.

The members of the choir were formerly great chapel functionaries, but since the erection of the organ, which was opened on Sunday, the 23rd of February, 1840, their importance has considerably declined. The well-known family of Grime, with whom musical genius seems to be hereditary, contributed several members.* I have heard of an old Robert Grime and his wife Catherine, long before my time, always sitting up on Christmas Eve, with a bottle of good home-brewed ale for company, and as soon as the clock struck twelve, singing the Christmas Hymn.

Several persons named Eatock rendered valuable service also to the choir. Timothy Eatock, in my early days, was one of the most noted. He used to sing, alone, the first verse of the Easter Hymn :—

“The Lord is risen! He who came
To suffer death, and conquer, too,
Is risen! Let our songs proclaim
The praise to man's Redeemer due.”

As he became old his voice grew shrill and querulous, but he sang the glorious words to the last. The only one of the body I was personally acquainted with was James Platt, the bassoon player. I took lessons from him in psalmody when I was a lad, and was intimately acquainted with him for a many years afterwards. He

*In 1788 the choir consisted of—

Robert Grime, and his wife,
Catherine.
Richard Chisnal,
Alexander Winward,
Thomas Gakes,
Christopher Meadow,
John Bellow,
James Isherwood,
James Rigby,
William Grime.

Ralph Pennington.
John Bethel.
John Jenkinson.
Timothy Eatock.
Richard Hunter.
John Lathwate,
James Bullow,
Betty Grime,
Molly Eatock, and
Ann Grime.

William Grime died in 1825, after being a member of the choir for fifty-three years, and leader of the choir for forty years.

had an invaluable helpmate in his wife, who kept her house a pattern of neatness and order. Both died before old age overtook them, and within a year or two of each other. They were as worthy a couple as ever lived. One of their sons was also a bassoon player, and a story is told of the odd use he once made of his instrument. Along with some others, he had been invited by a son of the farmer at Lowe Hall, in his father's absence, to join an evening musical party; and when the assembled guests were in the midst of their harmony the master of the house unexpectedly returned, and not only expressed strong disapprobation at the visit, but dismissed them summarily, saying he would have no *consorts* there. The visitors had therefore to beat a precipitate retreat. But a moat surrounded the house and interposed a difficulty to a hasty exit, and young Platt used the bassoon to probe the depth of the water, and was thus enabled to choose a shallow place to cross over.

The choir had a tier of pews allotted to their use in the west gallery of the chapel, and the front pew was occupied by the bass singers. One, Aaron Bullough, a short stout man, played the violoncello, and sat in this pew. Towards the end of his days he grew deaf, and led his colleagues one Sunday forenoon into an unpleasant dilemma. Somehow or other he mistook the tune which had been selected for one of the psalms, and began playing a wrong tune. The other members of the choir were put out in consequence, and came to a dead stop. Again they started; Bullough's deafness preventing him from discovering what he was doing. This time he played louder than before, thinking that the discordance in the ranks behind him might be overcome by his own resolution; just as the captain of some host, on seeing his followers hesitate in battle, endeavours to infuse fresh courage into them by the display of his own personal valour. The singers were again brought to a standstill, when he turned round and indignantly cried "Shame, shame." The

instrumental part of the choir consisted ordinarily of a violoncello, bassoon, and clarionet; but on great occasions, such as a charity sermon, or one of the Church festivals, fiddles, hautboys, French horns, and I don't know what besides, were put in requisition. On a grand muster like this the congregation were generally treated to an anthem, which used to inspire me, when very young, with feelings of deep admiration. The hymns for Advent, Christmas, and Easter had each its own peculiar tune, and were very popular. To have sung a new tune to any one of them would have stirred up as great a commotion in the congregation as the suspension of Habeas Corpus or trial by jury would among the people of Great Britain. The services of the choir were gratuitous, their only remuneration being at Christmas, when they went the round of the houses of the principal members of the congregation, and received a present according to the means of the various families.*

For the long period of forty years there was connected with the chapel, first as sexton and afterwards as clerk, one Joseph Oakes. In the first capacity he kept, for the twenty-three years ending in 1839, the chapel and chapel-yard in a state of commendable cleanliness and order; and his staid, reverend look, and his grave manner of reading the responses, enabled him, for the seventeen following years, to fill admirably the latter office. Two anecdotes may serve to give the social aspect of his character. During the time he officiated as sexton there was a funeral at the chapel one Sunday afternoon, and the funeral party adjourned, according to a custom among the operative

* About a century ago there was an officer attached to the chapel called a "Bobber," whose duty was to parambulate the aisles during service with a short staff, and if he saw any of the congregation giving way to sleep, to touch or "bob" them on the head with his staff. Correction in this public manner usually gave considerable annoyance, and emphatic protestations were often heard from the reprov'd persons at the conclusion of the service, that they were as wide awake as the "Bobber" himself.

class, accompanied by Joseph, to the Hand and Banner—a public-house in the immediate neighbourhood—after the interment. It not unfrequently happens on such occasions that excesses are indulged in, and that mirth and revelry follow quickly on the heels of sorrow and mourning. From the sequel it would appear to have been the case in the present instance. The evening had advanced to a late hour, when the conversation turned upon the courage necessary to go alone at that time of night into the chapel. The scene that ensued may be easily imagined. First one and then another would boast of possessing sufficient courage for the exploit, until some person would be dared to undertake it. At last a female volunteer stood forth. To guard against false play, and to prove that she had really been inside the chapel, it was arranged that she should ring the bell; and, woman as she was, she went boldly through the undertaking. Results often follow pranks of this nature which are at the time little anticipated. The bell was heard by the assembled company it is true, but, unluckily, it was heard by others as well, and created considerable alarm in the neighbourhood. Inquiries were made as to the reason of such an unusual proceeding, when the whole affair became public, and Joseph was summoned before the authorities. In his defence he said the keys of the chapel had been stolen from his pocket, and that he was perfectly innocent in the affair; but he failed to convince his judges that he was less guilty than the more active offender, and got suspended for a year from his office.

The other anecdote is this: One Friday, on his return, at a late hour, from Wigan market, Joseph was set upon by robbers, who took away his watch and some money he had upon him. Soon after, a person was taken up on suspicion of being concerned in the robbery, and brought before the magistrates. At the examination the legal gentleman who defended the prisoner thought proper to question Joseph closely as

to the state he was in at the time of the robbery. Joseph maintained stoutly that he was sober, but admitted to being *market merry*, a term he had some difficulty in explaining, and which caused considerable amusement in court.*

The church contains several mural tablets, the inscriptions on which I subjoin:—

ON THE SOUTH WALL OF THE CHANCEL.

In the Vault underneath
the adjoining Communion Table
are interred the remains of
ELIZABETH the Wife of RALPH PETERS
of Platbridge, in the Parish of Wigan, Esquire,
who died the 5th day of September, 1801,
Aged 70 years.

And of the same RALPH PETERS,
who died the 12th day of July 1807,
Aged 78 years.

They lived beloved and died respected
and in memory of them this tribute is erected
by their affectionate Son, RALPH PETERS.

ON THE NORTH WALL OF THE CHANCEL

IN A VAULT UNDERNEATH LIETH THE BODY
OF R. PETERS, ESQUIRE,
LATE OF PLAT BRIDGE HALL IN THIS COUNTY
WHO DEPARTED THIS LIFE THE 3RD OF DECEMBER, 1838,
AGED 63 YEARS.

SACRED BE THE TABLET WHICH THE GRATITUDE AND AFFECTION
OF HIS BEREAVED FAMILY HAVE ERECTED TO THE MEMORY
OF A BELOVED AND AFFECTIONATE FATHER.

ALSO FRANCES, RELICT OF THE ABOVE RALPH PETERS,
WHO DEPARTED THIS LIFE 3RD DECEMBER, 1845, AGED 61 YEARS.

* Among the clerks of the chapel I find the name of James Chisnal, in 1760, and that of his son, William Chisnal, in 1788. Father and son filled the office, one after the other, for more than sixty-eight years. Robert Grime was clerk from the 8th of April, 1819, to his death, on the 7th of January, 1839.

AT THE EAST END OF THE SOUTH GALLERY.

TO THE MEMORY OF
LIEUT. COLONEL NATHANIEL ECKERSLEY, K.H.,
SON OF JAMES AND MARY ECKERSLEY OF HINDLEY,
WHO DIED AT HIS RESIDENCE IN THIS TOWNSHIP
ON THE 12TH OF NOVEMBER 1837,
AGED 58 YEARS,
AND WAS INTERRED IN THE CEMETERY OF THIS CHAPEL.
HE ENLISTED INTO THE 10TH REGIMENT OF LIGHT DRAGOONS,
AS A PRIVATE, IN THE YEAR 1795, AND WAS IN ACTIVE SERVICE
UNDER THE COMMAND OF THE DUKE OF WELLINGTON,
DURING THE PENINSULAR WAR.
HE WAS STATIONED IN MANCHESTER 8 YEARS
FROM 1819 TO 1827,
AS BRIGADE MAJOR OF THE DISTRICT,
AND WAS AFTERWARDS 6 YEARS AT BARBADOES
AS DEPUTY QUARTER MASTER GENERAL OF THE FORCES
IN THE WINDWARD AND LEeward ISLANDS, WEST INDIES.

ON THE SOUTH WALL OF THE SOUTH GALLERY.

IN A VAULT
IN THE
YARD OF THIS CHURCH
LIE THE REMAINS OF
JOHN LEYLAND
OF
HINDLEY,
WHO DIED IN FEBRUARY, 1811,
IN THE 84TH YEAR OF HIS AGE.
*"THOU SHALT COME TO THY GRAVE IN A
FULL AGE, LIKE AS A SHOCK OF CORN
COMETH IN IN HIS SEASON."*
HE MARRIED ALICE,
DAUGHTER OF
JOHN AND MARY BRADFORD,
OF KINGSLEY,
IN THE COUNTY OF CHESTER;
WHO SURVIVED HIM UNTIL THE YEAR 1817,
AND WAS INTERRED AT WINWICK,
IN THIS COUNTY;
THE BURIAL PLACE,
FOR SEVERAL GENERATIONS,
OF THE
LEYLAND FAMILY.

ALSO ON THE SOUTH WALL OF THE SOUTH GALLERY.

IN MEMORY

WILLIAM LEYLAND	OF	MATTHEW SEDDON
OF		OF
HINDLEY,		HINDLEY
WHO DIED AUGUST 9TH 1830		WHO DIED MARCH 3RD 1804
AGED 56 YEARS;		AGED 70 YEARS;
AND OF		AND OF
CATHARINE HIS WIFE (DAUGHTER		ISABEL HIS WIFE (DAUGHTER OF
OF MATTHEW AND ISABEL SEDDON)		RICHARD & CATHARINE BATTERSBY)
WHO DIED JULY 10TH 1847 AGED		WHO DIED DECEMBER 39TH 1804
72 YEARS:		AGED 68 YEARS:
ALSO OF		ALSO OF
SARAH THEIR DAUGHTER, WHO DIED		ELIZABETH THEIR DAUGHTER, WHO
JAN. 4TH 1825 AGED 14 YEARS.		DIED JANUARY 22ND, 1837, AGED
		65 YEARS.

THEIR REMAINS ARE INTERRED IN A VAULT IN THE YARD OF THIS CHURCH.
 "FOR AS IN ADAM ALL DIE, EVEN SO IN CHRIST SHALL ALL BE MADE ALIVE."

On the external south wall of the vestry there is a brass plate embedded in a framework of stone, inscribed—

IN HOPES of a GLORIOUS RESURRECTION

In this
VAULT

are deposited the
REMAINS

of the late REV^d JOHN CROUDSON,
 22 years MINISTER of this CHAPELRY, and
 36 years Head Master of the Free Gram^r School, Wigan.
 HE DIED 24TH DECEMBER, 1810, AGED 62.
 Leaving to the World an Example Worthy Imitation.

Also

Mary his Wife
 who died 19th September, 1806, aged 47.

Likewise

MARTHA,

the beloved wife of WILLIAM, son of the above,
 Cut off in the Bloom of Life by that fell Despoiler of Beauty,
 CONSUMPTION,

on the 13th September, 1814, aged 26.

This short MEMORIAL, a tribute of GRATITUDE,
 is Inscribed by AN AFFECTIONATE SON
 A FOND HUSBAND.

A stone slab placed immediately underneath the above contains a further record of this family :—

SACRED
TO THE MEMORY OF
WILLIAM CROUDSON, OF WIGAN,
eldest son of the Revd. John Croudson,
Who died 13th January, 1854,
Aged 70 years.

Also of
MARY ANN, his second wife,
Who died 9th January, 1826,
Aged 28 years.

And of their only son,
WILLIAM MELLOR,
Who died 17th May, 1840,
Aged 16 years.

Also of ELIZABETH HARDING, SISTER
of Mary Ann Croudson, who died
1st September, 1859,
Aged 73 years.

“Blessed are the dead which
die in the Lord.”

The yard appears to have been enlarged about 1763, to a small extent. Half a century later, we gather from an extract given from the Wardens' Books, in the foregoing pages, that public attention was drawn to the necessity for enlarging both the chapel and yard. The project, so far as the chapel was concerned, was never carried out; but the want of additional burying ground became so urgent that a considerable enlargement was made to the yard in 1837 and 1838, the funds for which (£350 12s. 11d.) were raised by subscription. The old yard was surrounded by lime trees, planted, it is said, by Madame Walmesley. Some of these are still standing, and suffice to mark the boundaries of the old yard; others were cut down when the yard was enlarged.

A statement of the income of the Church, given in a book kept in the Church chest, dated November 30th, 1699, enables us to compare it with that of the present time.

"A true and perfect account of all the Donations belonging to the Chapel of Hindley, together with the Names of the Benefactors, as they stand this 30th day of November, Anno Domini 1699 :—

John Ranicars, of Atherton, gave the yearly sum of	£	s.	d.
Mrs. Frances Duckenfield, of Abram, per annum	2	10	0
Humphrey Platt, of Hindley, the yearly growth or crop of hay-grass arising off three-quarters of an acre of land lying within the Low Meadows, amounting to the yearly sum of	0	15	0
Oliver Stopford, of Hindley, per annum ...	0	10	0
Thomas Aspul, of the same, per annum ...	0	10	0
Edward Green, of the same, per annum ...	1	4	0
William Sale, jun., of the same, per annum	0	3	0
William Sale, sen., of the same, per annum	0	3	0
Randle Collier, of the same, in land in present possession, to the clear yearly value of	6	0	0
More in land in reversion, not yet fallen, to the clear yearly value of	6	0	0
Mary Collier, relict of the said Randle, per annum	2	10	0
Thomas Crook, of Abram, Gent., per annum	1	0	0
The improvement of the arrears, as in the page foregoing, per annum*	6	16	0
Mr. Jno. Prescott, a rent-charge, per annum	0	10	0
Mr. Wells, legacy of £100:.....	5	0	0
Thos. Lythgoe's legacy, per annum	1	0	0
	<hr/>		
	£40	11	0
	<hr/>		

Particulars of the Yearly Income of the Parochial Chapelry of Hindley, now called All Saints' Church—1873 :—

* Taken from a book deposited in the Church chest.

	£	s.	d.
Sundry small farms	69	8	0
Do. chief rents	59	18	2
Stipulated rent of mines under the Trust Lands leased by the Trustees to the Wigan Coal and Iron Company Limited, at £200 per annum—one-fourth of this sum being paid to the Incumbent, and the remaining three-fourths being invested. The interest on the sums invested (£1,981 4s. 8d.) is also paid to the Incumbent	50	0	0
Wigan Coal and Iron Company, for Coal Way-leave	10	0	0
Interest on proceeds of mines (£1981 4s. 8d.) invested in 3 per cent Consols	64	5	0
Interest on balance of mine rents (£327 4s. 8d.) lying in the Bank of Messrs. Woodcock, Sons, and Eckersley, about	5	0	0
	<hr/>		
	£258	11	2

The above are the gross sums paid to the Trustees, and are subject to property-tax and charges for repairs.

The following sums are paid to the Incumbent direct :—

Rent-charge, devised by John Ranicars, on Stone House Farm, in Hindley.....	6	0	0
Rent-charge, devised by Mrs. Frances Duckenfield, on lands in Mobberly, Cheshire	2	10	0
Rent-charge, devised by Thomas Crook, on lands in Alston and Whittingham	1	0	0
The Bridgewater Trustees pay Humphrey Platt's bequest of Hay-grass, on land lying in the Lowe Meadows	0	15	0

	£	s.	d.
Pew Rents, which William Bavington, the Collector for many years past, states, produced during Mr. Jones's Incumbency in March of each year, £12 16s., and in September of each year, £3 12s.—together, £16 8s.—produced only in September, 1872, £2 18s.; and in March, 1873, £7 2s. 6d.	10	0	6
The value of the Parsonage or Vicarage House is estimated at.....	25	0	0
The land surrounding the Parsonage or Vicarage House, is leased to Mr. Edward Grime for a term of six years, from May 12th, 1873—the first year's rent to be £30, the remaining five years to be £32 10s.	30	0	0
The surplice fees are estimated at.....	70	0	0
The Grant from the Ecclesiastical Commissioners is	104	0	0
	<hr/>		
	£507	16	8
	<hr/>		

ALL SAINTS' CHURCH SUNDAY SCHOOLS.

In the last generation a gentleman named Peters (to whom I have already referred) was deservedly held in great honour and esteem by the inhabitants of Hindley. By profession he was a barrister, and filled the office of Recorder of Liverpool, in which town he resided a part of every year. At other times he lived at his house at Platt Bridge, on the borders of Hindley. Through his indefatigable zeal, Sunday schools were opened in the township two years only after they were first established by Robert Raikes at Gloucester. The first school was held in the Danesgate, under the superintendence of a Mr. Eccles. A second was soon after opened at Hindley Common, and conducted by one Adam Rigby.* Three years afterwards a school was erected for girls in Mill Lane, and another for boys at Chapel Green. The cost of the school in Mill Lane was defrayed entirely by Mr. Peters. To the fund for the erection of a Boys' School, and for the permanent endowment of both schools, Mr. Peters also contributed liberally. The Boys' School was erected on land at Chapel Green given by the Duke of Bridgewater, in extent far beyond the requirements of the school. Subsequently a number of cottages were built on the land out of funds raised for the endowment.

In the articles of agreement dated the 18th of February, 1788, between the subscribers and the Trustees, the names of the subscribers are given. They are—

Ralph Peters	...	...	...	...	£109	0	0
Rev. Thomas Lever	...	...	...	...	21	0	0
Benjamin Eckersley	...	...	...	...	10	10	0
John Leyland	...	...	...	...	6	6	0
William Blundell	...	...	...	...	4	0	0
John Hargreaves	...	...	...	...	10	10	0
Jonathan Thomason, jun.	...	...	...	...	4	4	0
Richard Battersby	...	...	...	...	3	3	0

* The jubilee of the schools was celebrated on the 7th of September, 1834.

Peter Ditchfield	...	...	...	...	£2	2	0
Rev. Jo ⁿ Hodgkinson	..	...	...	...	2	2	0
James Needham	...	...	...	...	1	1	0
Edward Prescott	...	...	...	(no sum stated)			
John Watmough	...	...	...	...	1	0	0
Peter Gaskell	...	...	...	..	1	0	0
Francis Heyes	...	...	...	...	1	0	0
William Bullough	...	...	...	...	0	5	0

The subscribers who signed the deed are—Thomas Lever, minister, of Hindley, R. Peters, Benjamin Eckersley, Jonathan Thomason, Richard Battersby, and James Needham. Ralph Peters and Thomas Lever were appointed Visitors, and Ralph Peters Secretary.

A Lease and Release, bearing date respectively the 24th and 25th of October, 1788, convey the property to the following Trustees:—

Ralph Peters, the elder, Esquire.

Ralph Peters, the younger, Esquire.

The Rev. Croxton Johnson, Rector of Wilmslow, Cheshire.

John Gilbert, the younger, of Worsley, Esquire.

James Kearsley, of Hulton, Esquire.

Edward Kearsley, of Hindley, Esquire.

John Lever, of Wigan, Gentleman.

Ralph Peters, the younger, was the sole survivor of his colleagues. He died on the 3rd of December, 1838, without having appointed successors, and it therefore devolved upon Thomas Batty Addison, Esq, the surviving devisee in trust named in his will, to discharge that duty.

On the 29th of November, 1851, a new Trust Deed was executed by Mr. Addison, appointing the following gentlemen Trustees:—

The Rev. Thomas Peters, Clerk, Rector of Eastington, in the County of Gloucester.

Alfred Pennington, of Hindley, Cotton Spinner.

John Leyland, do., Gentleman.

Richard Pennington, do., Cotton Spinner.

Richard Pennington,	} of Hindley, Cotton Spinner.	
the younger,		
John Scowcroft,	do.,	Collier.
Rev. Edward Hill,	do.,	Clerk.
John Grime,	do.,	Farmer.

The first sermon on behalf of the schools was preached on Sunday, the 15th of October, 1786, by a Mr. Bennett, and the hymns were sung by children belonging to the Sunday school in the district of St. Mary's, Manchester.* It was the first celebration of the kind in the neighbourhood, and excited much interest. People flocked thither far and near, and so dense was the crowd round the chapel, as the time of divine service approached, that the preacher had some difficulty in forcing his way through. Even at the present day the anniversary sermons draw a large concourse of visitors. Of late years the day has been known as "the wakes."

The present schools were erected in 1828, at a cost of £220, chiefly raised by subscription. In aid of the building fund a ball was held, on the 13th February, 1829, at the house (then untenanted) which Mr. Alfred Pennington gave, in 1870, to the trustees of St. Peter's Church, in order that the site might be added to the churchyard, and which has since been pulled down. The ball was eminently successful; the arrangements were excellent, and the enjoyment among the guests was general. A circumstance connected with it caused a good deal of amusement at the time. The managers, wishing the proceeds to be as large as possible called on the principal inhabitants a day or two before the ball took place, to solicit gifts of wine, which was responded to so liberally that not a penny had to be expended on that score. Some wag informed the newspapers, and a paragraph appeared in the next publication of a Wigan newspaper, headed "Economy Extraordinary," setting forth that, at the recent ball at Hindley, the company lacking some exhilarating beve-

* A copy of the hymns sung on the occasion is in my possession.

rage, the managers went out to beg wine in the neighbourhood; making it appear as if it was done at the very time the ball was being held. The schools were considerably enlarged in 1842, and class-rooms were added in 1866.

The endowment now consists of eight cottages and a chief rent, the gross yearly income of which amounts to £59 17s. 10d.

Mr. Peters had a worthy coadjutor in his benevolent schemes in the person of his wife. Among other good deeds, she dispensed medicines one day in each week to the poor gratis. The Peters family were the first to use umbrellas at Hindley, and probably soon after they were introduced into the metropolis by the celebrated Jonas Hanway. I have heard a lady, who was an eye-witness, describe the surprise she experienced, when quite a girl, on seeing Mrs. Peters's servant carry one over his mistress's head for the first time from her carriage to the chapel door. A skeleton of one of the earliest of these now indispensable articles, which belonged to my grandfather, lay for a long time in a lumber room at our house. It was large and heavy; the whalebones were of great strength, and two strong brass wires stretched from each whalebone to the stick; the covering had been of oilcloth. Its general appearance was not very unlike, though smaller in size, a modern gig umbrella, and presented a strong contrast to the neat and light article of the present day.

Mr. Peters and his lady lived to a good old age, revered by their neighbours, and died universally lamented. Their son, some years afterwards, sold the family property, and moved to another part of the country.

ST. PETER'S CHURCH

The foundation-stone of this church was laid on the 19th of October, 1863, by Richard Pennington, Esq., of Westfield House, Rugby,* and three years afterwards, on the 15th of October, 1866, the church was consecrated by Dr. Jacobson, Bishop of Chester. It is built of stone in the decorated style of pointed architecture, and consists of a nave of five bays, with side aisles, and choir. The cost of the fabric and the site, including £1,100 paid to the Ecclesiastical Commissioners towards the endowment, and £200 set aside for a Repair Fund, amounted to £9,506 13s. 1d. This money was raised by subscription, the principal portion being given by the Pennington family, the late Mr. Alfred Pennington alone contributing £3,781. In addition to this munificent subscription, Mr. Alfred Pennington presented the church with an oak reading-desk, a stone pulpit, and a peal of eight bells. Mrs. Jane Pennington, of Westfield, Rugby, gave the font. The church was placed behind a pile of buildings, which stood on its north-western side, between it and the public road. Mr. Alfred Pennington owned these buildings, and generously gave them to the church in 1870, on the condition that they should be pulled down, and the site added to the church-yard. The public road was widened some little out of the land, and the church was thus opened to the view of the principal thoroughfare.

The Rector of Wigan being the owner of the Tithes of Hindley, which are commuted at £298 11s. 0½d. the year, for which he returns no service to the township, the Building Committee applied to him, and to the Earl of Bradford, the Patron of the Wigan Rectory, to endow the church with some portion of the amount. Lord

* At the ceremony of laying the foundation-stone a silver trowel was presented to Mr. Pennington, bearing an appropriate inscription. By some mischance the box containing the trowel was lost on Mr. Pennington's journey homewards. The trowel was naturally much valued by him, and its mysterious disappearance was a source of considerable regret. After the lapse of nearly three years, and when the hope of its recovery had been given up, it was found in the lost luggage office, Euston Station, London.

Bradford, after communicating with Mr. Gunning, the then Rector, offered to endow the church with £50 per annum on the condition that the patronage should either be vested in five trustees, of which number himself and Mr. Gunning were to be two, or that it should be vested in the Rector, and any trustees the committee might appoint, with alternate presentation. The latter stipulation was accepted, and it was arranged that the first appointment should be exercised by the trustees. Messrs. Richard Pennington, of Rugby; Alfred Pennington and Richard Pennington, jun., of Hindley; Nathaniel Eckersley, of Wigan; and John Leyland, of Hindley, were the trustees appointed by the Building Committee.

The income of All Saints' Church having for some years increased, owing to the leasing of the mines, the Rev. P. Jones, the incumbent, offered, as the new church took away a portion of his district, to endow it with £25 a year out of his living. Fifty pounds having thus been promised by the Rector of Wigan, and £25 by the Incumbent of Hindley, the committee entered into communication with the Ecclesiastical Commissioners, who agreed to raise the income to £150, provided the committee handed over to them the sum of £1,300. The committee agreed to do this, and, at the appointed time, paid the money. At this juncture Lord Bradford unfortunately became incapacitated for business, Mr. Gunning resigned the Rectory of Wigan, and Mr. Jones resigned the Incumbency of Hindley—a combination of circumstances which caused much trouble and anxiety to the committee. The Honourable and Reverend G. T. O. Bridgeman, son of the Earl of Bradford, was appointed Rector of Wigan, and the Rev. C. H. Newbold Incumbent of Hindley. Mr. Bridgeman refused to carry out the promise made by his own father and his predecessor, unless he had the whole and undivided patronage—a demand to which the committee very properly refused their consent; and Mr. Newbold never could be induced to pay one farthing

of the £25. The arrangement with the Ecclesiastical Commissioners, therefore, fell to the ground, and all that was left for the endowment was the interest on £1,000, a portion of the money paid by the committee to the Ecclesiastical Commissioners, and a grant of income to meet the remaining sum which was treated as a Benefaction; so that the endowment at the present time amounts only to £58 17s. 4d.*

Much credit is due to the Rev. Peter Jones for his exertions on behalf of the church. The idea originated with him, and from the first meeting of the committee, which was held on the 7th of January, 1856, to the time of his resignation of the living of All Saints', in 1863, he laboured indefatigably in furthering its interests. So much were his services valued that the majority of the trustees, with many others, were anxious for him to fill the office of incumbent to the new church; and although he at first declined the offer when it was made to him, he was ultimately induced to accept it.

An organ built by the celebrated builder, Schulze, of Germany, was opened on the 18th of February, 1873, the cost of which was wholly defrayed by the representatives of the late Mr. Alfred Pennington, in conformity with his expressed wish. It remains yet without a case, but the efforts now being made to supply this want will, no doubt, shortly be crowned with success. A brass plate has been placed in the north wall of the church, near to the font, inscribed thus:—

ST. PETER'S CHURCH, HINDLEY.

The Foundation Stone of this Church was laid on the 16th of October, 1868, by Richard Pennington, J.P., of Westfield House, Rugby, formerly of Hindley. The Church was consecrated on the 16th of October, 1868, by the Right Reverend William Jacobson, D.D., Lord Bishop of Chester.

The entire cost (including £1,100, towards the endowment, and £200 for the repair fund) was £2,000 12s. 1d. This sum was raised by voluntary contributions, assisted by the Incorporated and Diocesan Church Building Societies.

the principal contributor being Alfred Pennington, of Hindley, who was also the donor of the Peel of Bells and of the Pulpit.

Peter Jones, M.A., First Incumbent. Edward G. Paley, Architect.
James Neill, Builder.

Alfred Pennington, } First Wardens.
John Layland, }

This plate was erected by Richard Pennington, jun., J.P., of Hindley Lodge, July, 1873.

* On the failure of the agreement with the Ecclesiastical Commissioners £200 of the £1,300 paid was set aside by them for a repair fund.

Handsome schools are now (1873) in course of erection near to the church, by the Pennington family, as a memorial to the late John Pennington and his son Alfred. The foundation stone was laid on the 26th of April, 1873, by Richard Pennington, jun., J.P., of Hindley Lodge.

Another school is likewise being erected at Lowe Green, in St. Peter's district, the foundation stone of which was also laid by Mr. Richard Pennington, jun., on the same day as that of the schools near to the church. The site for the Lowe Green Schools was given by the Bridgewater Trustees, and the cost of the building is estimated at £1,800 or £1,900. The greater part of the sum has been raised by subscriptions, but several hundred pounds are still wanting to complete the amount.

ST. BENEDICT'S CATHOLIC CHAPEL.

The Fathers of the English Congregation of St. Benedict were chaplains to the Langton family of Lowe Hall; and it was in a chapel under the roof of the Hall that the members of the Catholic faith formerly met in the township for public worship. The Langtons embraced the Reformed religion soon after the middle of the eighteenth century, upon the occurrence of which event the Trafford family gave the Benedictine Fathers an asylum at Strangeways Hall, and the congregation continued to meet there until 1789, when a chapel in the Mill Lane, now Market Street, was opened for public worship, which had been erected in the preceding year, 1788. The funds for the building were raised by subscription, and through the exertions of the Rev. Edmund Ducket.

The Chaplains at Lowe were:—

Father Placid Acton, who died there in ...	1727
Father Edward Houghton, who also died there in	1751
The Congregation was probably served from Standish until	1758
Father Anslem Eastham next followed, in whose time the chapel was removed to Strangeways, and who left in	1773
Father Edmund Ducket succeeded, and removed to Hindley in 1789, where he died in.....	1792
Father Placid Bennet, the next in order, left in	1792
„ Bernard Ryding do. do.	1797
„ Dunstan Webb do. do.	1801
„ Laurence Forshaw do. do.	1805
„ Richard Marsh do. do.	1806
„ Anselm Appleton do. do.	1836
„ Placid Corlett do. do.	1862
„ Cyprian Tyrer do. do.	1864
„ Ignatius Stuart do. do.	1864
„ Augustine Bury do. do.	1870
„ Ildefonsus Brown do. do.	1872
„ Cuthbert Murphy	

The church was rebuilt in 1868-9, after designs by Joseph Hansom, of London, Esq., in the early English style of architecture, at a cost of £3,500. The foundation stone was laid by Dr. Goss, the Catholic Bishop of Liverpool, on Sunday, April 26th, 1868, and was opened by the same prelate on Sunday, October 10th, 1869. A tower, which formed part of the plan of the building, has not yet been erected.

The foundation stone of new and commodious schools was also laid by Bishop Goss some years previously, viz., on the 10th of June, 1861. They are calculated to hold 250 children, and the cost was about £1,700.

The earliest officiating priest, in my recollection, was the Rev. Thomas Appleton, a gentleman noted in the neighbourhood for his eccentricities. Although of the most uncouth appearance, he was a well-informed man, a good classic scholar, and intelligent and agreeable in conversation, so long, at least, as he steered clear of religion and politics. That he should be a strenuous supporter of his church, and defend it warmly against attack, was what might naturally have been expected, but he was apt to lose his temper in argument, and to give way to violent language. Returning from Manchester on one occasion by the stage coach, he entered into a dispute with a fellow-passenger of different politics, and got so excited that he actually spat in his face. How I first gained his acquaintance I cannot tell, but gain it I did somehow or other. The recollection of a *rencontre* I had with him one day when I was quite a lad, has often amused me. I was walking up the Castle Hill reading Mrs. Radcliffe's novel of "The Italian." Happening to look from the page, I saw him approaching, and involuntarily shut the book and put it in my pocket. When he came up to me he stopped, planted his stick firmly on the ground before him, for he had a curious habit in walking, and always used one, and said very fiercely, "What is that book you are so solicitous to hide?" Cowed by his sternness, I instantly produced the book. "Ay," he said, turning over the pages,

"it is a bad book, a very bad book ; there is not one of these books fit to read, excepting the Vicar of Wakefield, and even that is not without its faults." The book contained wood engravings of the incidents of the story, one of which represented the Monk Schedoni in the open country, which he mistook for a nun, for he said, "Here is a nun ; now the nuns are never allowed to go out. Go home, boy, and burn the book ; it is a very bad book."

Some years after this a Conservative society, called "The True Blue Club," was established in the village, of which I became secretary. On meeting him one day about this time, he said to me very contemptuously, "You young sprig, I hear of your doings." The club, on one occasion, had a public dinner, and shortly before it took place, I met him in company with one of the most prominent members, who asked him, by way of joke, if he would join us at dinner, to which he replied, with great vehemence, "I would as soon dine with Lucifer in Pandemonium." Mr. Appleton rented a few acres of land from the Trafford family, which he cultivated in a great measure with his own hands. Often he might be seen going backwards and forwards between the fields and his own house, with a spade on his shoulder, dressed as a common labourer, and sometimes driving his cows. His sister, a lady of great amiability, who bore his rough humours with the utmost meekness, kept his house. She dressed in the coarsest manner, and it was said by his express orders. I was once inside his house, along with my neighbour, Thomas Gaskell, who asked me to accompany him on some little business he had to transact. Soon after we were seated, he called in fierce tones to his sister, "Woman, bring a tankard of ale ;" and the good lady, without a word of expostulation at his uncourteous address, obeyed, and placed a brimming tankard on the table, with three glasses. Such was Priest Appleton. I have yet heard several instances of his charity related at different times, which show that, with all his roughness of manners, he had a kind and feeling heart.

THE PRESBYTERIAN CHAPEL.

Presbyterianism struck deep roots in Lancashire during the period of the Commonwealth. Very many of the Episcopalian pulpits were filled by Presbyterian ministers, and a great number of chapels were erected for the ejected ministers, after the Restoration, by such of the people as had become attached to the Presbyterian form of worship.*

Misconception seems to exist respecting the foundation of this chapel as well as that of All Saints' Church. According to the county historian it was erected for

* A scarce tract, "Printed for Edward Husband, Printer to the Honourable House of Commons, 1646," contains some curious information relative to the Presbyterians of Lancashire. I quote only so much of it as relates to this immediate neighbourhood:—

"Die Veneris 2^o Octobris 1646

"The County Palatine of Lancaster, is divided into nine Classicall Presbyteries following."

"The fourth Classis to containe Warrington Parish, Winwike Parish, Leigh Parish, Wigan Parish, Holland Parish, Prescott Parish.

"The ministers fit to be of the fourth Classis. Master Charles Harle of Winwick. M. Thomas Norman of Newton. M. James Wood of Ashton. M. William Leigh of Newchurch. M. Henry Atherton of Hollinshaire. M. Bradley Hayhurst of Leigh. M. Thomas Crompton of Astley. M. James Bradshaw of Wigan. M. Thomas Tonge of Hindley. M. Henry Shaw of Holland. M. William Plant of Farnworth. M. Richard Modesley of Ellins. M. Timothy Smith of Rainforth. M. John Wright of Billing.

"Others fit to be of the fourth Classis. William Ashburst of Ashhurst, Esqre.; Peter Brook of Sankie, Esqrs. William Vernon of Shakerley, Gent.; John Dunbabin of Warrington, Gent.; Thomas Risley of Warrington, Gent.; Robert Watmough of Winwick, Gent.; Gilbert Eden of Winwicke, Gent.; John Ashton of Newton, Gent.; George Aynsworth of Newton, Yeoman; James Pilkington of Ashton, Gent.; Arthur Leech of Westleigh, Yeoman; Peter Smith of Westleigh, Yeoman; Richard Ashtley of Tildesley, Gent.; Thomas Guest of Astley, Yeoman; Henry Morrice of Atherton, Gent.; Alexander Tompson of Wigan, Gent.; Peter Harrison of Hindley, Gent.; Thomas Sephton of Skerndadale, Gent.; Jeffery Birchall of Orrell, Gent.; John Lathom of Whiston, Gent.; George Deane of Rainhill, Yeoman; William Barnes of Sankie, Gent.; John Marsh of Bold, Gent.; John Rylands of Sutton, Yeoman; Thurstian Peak of Warrington, Gent.; Ewan Heaton of Billing, Gent.; Roger Topping of Dalton, Yeoman; Peter Leyland of Haddock, Yeoman."

"Die Veneris 2^o Octob. 1646.

"Resolved by the Lords and Commons assembled in Parliament,

"That they do approve of the Division of the County of Lancaster into the Nine Classicall Presbyteries, represented from the said county.

"Resolved, &c.

"That the said Houses do approve of the ministers and other persons represented from the County of Lancaster, as fit to be of the severall and respective Classis into which the said county is divided.

"Jo. BROWN, Cler., Parliamentorum.

"HEN. ELAYNE, Cler. Parl. D. Com."

the ejected minister, Mr. Bradshaw. I do not find that this gentleman had anything to do with the building of the chapel.* Documents in the possession of the Trustees evidence that it was erected in the year 1700 by Mr. Richard Crook, of Abram. An inscription on the front of the gallery inside the chapel, also gives this date. It runs—

Anno Dom 1700,
Hoc
Capella fuit
fundata per
Richardum
Crook, de Abram.

The chapel remained Mr. Crook's private property for the seventeen following years. On the 16th of Nov., 1717, a deed was executed by Mr. Crook conveying an acre and a half of land, and the new edifice, oratory, or chapel, lately built and known as Hindley New Chapel, with the houses, barns, stables thereon, unto

Thomas Sargent, of Ince,	Yeoman.
Roger Rycroft, Westhoughton,	Yeoman.
Abell Aldred, Westhoughton,	Naylor.
George Leigh, Westhoughton,	Naylor.
Lambert Sale, do.,	Chapman.
John Laithwait, do.,	Husbandman.
William Hilton, Hindley,	Yeoman.
Peter Fletcher, do.,	Tanner.
Peter Astley, do.,	Yeoman.
James Green, Abram,	do.
John Walmesley, } Wigan,	Gentleman.
the younger, }	
George Marsh, Westhoughton,	Yeoman.
as Trustees.	

On the 26th of February, 1725, a second Trust Deed was executed.

* A congregation may have been formed to which Mr. Bradshaw might minister in a temporary place of meeting.

The surviving Trustees were :—

Thomas Sargent,	Ince,	Yeoman.
Roger Ryecroft,	Westhoughton,	do.
John Laithwaite,	do.,	Husbandman.
Peter Fletcher,	Hindley,	Tanner.
James Green,	Abram,	Yeoman.
John Walmesley,	Wigan,	Gentleman.
George Marsh,	Westhoughton,	Yeoman.

The new Trustees were :—

John Parr,	Hindley,	Gentleman.
John Sargent,	do.,	Yeoman.
William Hilton,	do.,	do.
Thomas Sale,	Westhoughton,	Chapman.
Ralph Leigh,	do.,	Yeoman.

The third Trust Deed bears date the 8th of August, 1744.

The surviving Trustees were :—

Roger Ryecroft,	Westhoughton,	Yeoman.
James Green,	Abram,	do.
Thomas Sale,	Westhoughton,	Chapman.
William Hilton,	Hindley,	Yeoman.
Ralph Leigh,	do.,	do.
John Sargent,	Ince,	Husbandman.

The new Trustees were :—

William Milligan,	Wigan,	Chapman.
George Leigh,	Westhoughton,	Yeoman.
John Naylor,	Abram,	Husbandman.
Robert Leigh,	Westhoughton,	Yeoman.
George Lyon,	Hindley,	do.
Peter Parr,	Westleigh,	do.

The fourth Trust Deed bears date September 30th, 1763.

The surviving Trustees were :—

Thomas Sale,	Westhoughton,	Chapman.
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John Naylor,	Abram,	Husbandman.
George Lyon,	Hindley,	Yeoman.
Peter Parr,	Westleigh,	do.
George Leigh,	Bolton,	Chapman.

The new Trustees were :—

James Leyland,	Abram,	Yeoman.
Benjamin Aspinall,	Westhoughton,	Chapman.
Simon Sale,	Ince,	Yeoman.
Edmund Laithwait,	Hindley,	do.
Joseph Hatton,	do.	Chapman.
Richard Harrison,	Wigan,	Farmer.
Richard Sale,	Westhoughton,	Yeoman.
Henry Gaskell,	Hindley,	Chapman.
William Gordon,	Wigan,	do.
James Hilton,	Hindley,	Yeoman.

The fifth Trust Deed bears date December 2nd, 1785.

The surviving Trustees were :—

George Lyon,	Hindley,	Yeoman.
Edmund Laithwate,	do.,	Weaver.
Joseph Hatton,	Westhoughton,	Chapman.
Henry Gaskell,	{ Late of Hind- ley, now of Warrington, }	Warehouseman.
William Gordon,	Wigan,	Chapman.

The new Trustees were :—

Peter Gaskell,	Hindley,	Yeoman.
John Leyland,	} do.,	Chapman.
the elder,		
John Leyland,	} do.,	Yeoman.
the younger,		
John Lyon,	do.,	Weaver.
John Harrison,	Westhoughton,	Husbandman.
Richard Harrison,	Hindley,	do.
Edmund Manley,	Hindley,	Husbandman.
Peter Rosbotham,	do.,	Weaver.

Thomas Horridge,	Hindley,	Weaver.
James Marsh,	Aspull,	Husbandman.
Joseph Cundliffe,	Hindley,	Weaver.
Robert Horridge,	do.,	do.
Thomas Horridge, } the younger, }	do.,	do.
William Greenough,	Aspull,	Weaver.
James Greenough,	do.,	do.
Jonathan Pendlebury,	do.,	do.
Robert Rosbotham,	Hindley,	do.
John Laithwaite,	do.,	Yeoman.

The sixth Trust Deed bears date December 25th, 1812.

The surviving Trustees were :—

Peter Gaskell,	Hindley,	Yeoman.
Richard Harrison,	do.,	Husbandman.
Edmund Manley,	do.,	Yeoman.
Robert Horridge,	do.,	Weaver.
William Greenough,	Aspull,	do.
Jonathan Pendlebury,	do.,	do.
John Laithwaite,	Hindley,]	Yeoman.

The new Trustees were :—

Richard Barlow,	Hindley,	Yeoman.
Thomas Gaskell,	do.,	Husbandman.
Peter Gaskell, } the younger, }	do.,	do.
William Leyland,	do.,	{ Cotton Manufacturer.
Roger Eckersley,	do.,	Farmer.
James Manley,	do.,	Husbandman.
John Dorning,	do.,	Farmer.
James Lowe,	do.,	Wheelwright.
James Whittle,	Ince,	Yeoman.
Robert Longworth,	Aspull,	Farmer.
Hugh Gaskell,	Wigan,	Yeoman.
Henry Butterworth,	Hindley,	Farmer.
George Knowles,	do.	do.

Samuel Lyon,	Hindley,	Weaver.
George Lyon,	do.	do.

The seventh and last Trust Deed bears date June 2nd,
1862.

The only surviving Trustee was

Thomas Gaskell,	Hindley,	Gentleman.
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The new Trustees appointed were :—

Samuel Lyon,	Westhoughton,	Weaver.
Abraham Hurst,	} Hindley,	Farmer.
the elder,		
Abraham Hurst,	} do.	do.
the younger,		
William Harrison,	} do.	do.
the elder,		
Thomas Harrison,	do.	do.
Joseph Barwise,	Wigan,	Druggist.
John Holme,	Ince,	Weaver.
David Shaw,	{ Park Lane, }	Lock and Hinge Maker.
	{ near Wigan, }	

An endorsement was made on this deed on the 24th of December, 1862, in consequence of some of the property of the Trust having been omitted in the Recital of the property in the body of the deed; and in order to supply the omission, further endorsement was made on the 31st of October, 1867, appointing seven additional Trustees.

They were :—

John Jones,	Ince,	Colliery Clerk.
Robert Pearson,	Hindley,	do.
William Hotchkiss,	Ince,	Colliery Manager
Josiah Gaskell,	Park Lane,	Lock Manufacturer.
Richard Harwood,	Bolton,	Esquire.
Joseph Gerrard,	do.,	Solicitor.
Frank Taylor,	do.,	Cotton Spinner.

DATE OF INSTITUTION.	MINISTERS.	CAUSE OF VACANCY.
Minister in 1717	James Brownlow	
1746	Joseph Bourne	Died, 1765
Minister in 1777 & '78	William Davenport* ...	Resigned, 1788
1779	Jonathan Hodgkinson..	Died, 1812
—	Abraham Manley	Resigned, 1818
1819	James Kay.....	Resigned, 1821
1822	John Ragland	Resigned, 1861 or 2
1862 or 3	George Hoade	Died, 1868
1868	Adam Rushton	

As already stated, Mr. Richard Crook gave an acre and a half of land, in 1717, with the chapel and other

* Differences sprung up in 1777 between Mr. Davenport and either the whole or a part of his congregation. The occasion of the dispute is not stated, but a tradition has been handed down that it arose from an attempt made by Mr. Davenport to carry the endowment to the Presbyterian Chapel in Wigan. Be that as it may, the quarrel grew serious. Mr. Davenport received an anonymous letter signed A B C, "informing him that if he did not immediately leave the chapel he then held in Hindley, some very serious and disagreeable consequences would soon ensue, it being the intention of some part of his congregation speedily to execute them; and that nothing but a direct resignation on his part would avert the stroke; and telling him that a wise man would endeavour to keep himself secure, and a good shepherd would strive to for the love of his sheep, and that a word is sufficient to the wise."

On the night of the preceding 4th of September, Mr. Davenport was "assaulted, battered, and wounded" on his return from Wigan to Hindley, by some, as it was supposed, of his opponents. The quarrel was thus brought to a crisis, and it was ultimately agreed to refer the case to arbitration. Accordingly, Robert Taylor, of Bolton-le-Moors, gentleman, the Rev. Richard Godwin, of Gataker, minister, and the Rev. John Hughes, of Bury, minister, were appointed arbitrators in the dispute; who, after careful inquiry, gave their decision in writing on the 1st of June, 1788, which was that Mr. Davenport should resign his office on the 1st of the following July, and that the trustees should pay him the sum of £31 19s. 9d. This decision was not to prejudice his claim to proceed by action-at-law against the writer of the letter, or the authors of the assault. The Rev. Wm. Davenport, Joseph Hatton, of Westhoughton, chapman, Wm. Gordon, of Wigan, chapman, Robert Cockran, of Wigan, shopkeeper, and Hugh Gaskell, of Wigan, chapman, by the desire of the said Wm. Davenport, of the one part, and George Lyon, Edmund Laitlwaite, and James Leyland, of the other part, bound themselves by deed, dated the 4th of March, 1778, in a penalty of £100, to abide by the decision of the arbitrators. A clause in the award provided that the Rev. Philip Holland, of Bolton, should perform duty for two years from the 1st of April on every other Sunday.

buildings thereon. The estate on which the Parsonage now stands, called "Bethell's Tenement," was purchased by the Trustees in 1724, probably from funds arising from gifts or bequests, although there is no record of any such being made. In 1753 a Mrs. Alice Lawton, by her will, dated the 8th of January in that year, bequeathed £20 to the Trustees, the interest of which was to be appropriated to the support of the minister. The Lancashire and Yorkshire Railway passed through Bethell's Tenement, and the money received in compensation for the land they occupy was invested in the purchase of a small farm in Boggart House Lane, and a plot of land near to the Red Lion Inn. Since then the mines have been leased, under the land near the chapel and in Boggart House Lane, and several plots of land let for building purposes, so that the endowment has increased considerably in value.

The accounts for the year 1786-7, a copy of which I possess, show that the income received by the minister, the Rev. Jonathan Hodgkinson, amounted in that year to £29 19s. 1d.

*Copy of the Accounts of the Trustees, for the year
1786—7.*

1786.		£	s.	d.
Oct. 30.	Recd. George Wellington's Interest	0	10	0
Nov. 26.	„ Ralph Lyon's Half-years' Rent	1	11	6
Dec. 22.	„ Richard Fairclough's do.	1	10	0
„ 25.	„ Edward Fearnley's do.	2	10	0
„ „	„ Edward Ramsdell's.....	1	12	0
„ „	„ Edmund Laithwaite's.....	6	6	8
„ 31.	„ Rodger Mason's Legacy for 2 years	1	0	0
		<hr/>		
		£15	0	2
		<hr/>		

Received the above by me,

J. Hodgkinson.

		£	s.	d.
1787.				
May 23.	Recd. Ralph Lyon sd. Half-year's rent. Leys and Repairs was 9/	1	2	6
" "	" Edward Fearnley sd. Half-year's rent. Allowed in part for a Stamp, 3 1 ...	2	6	11
" 28.	" Rd. Fairclough sd. Half-year's rent. Leys was 8 5	1	1	7
" 30.	" Mr. Mort, Interest	1	0	0
June 17.	" Edmund Ramsdel's sd. do. rent.....			
	Leys was 8 5; Repairs, 7	1	9	0
" "	" Edmund Laithwaite's sd. Half-year's rent; do. in part, 4 10 6; in full, 1 15 5; 33 Sunday's Board, at 12 per, 1 13 0; Leys was 3 15 10; Repairs, 18 7.....	7	18	11
		<hr/>		
		£14	18	11
		15	0	2
		<hr/>		
Recd. the above by me,		£29	19	1
J. Hodgkinson.		<hr/>		

The Rev. Jonathan Hodgkinson and his family were well known and much esteemed by various members of my own family, and I have in consequence heard him and them often spoken of. He was a man of great amiability, and earned the love not only of the members of his own religious body, but of the entire neighbourhood. For some years after his appointment he kept a boarding-school at Birket Bank, two miles distant

from Hindley, and used to ride on horseback on the Sunday to officiate, with his wife on a pillion behind him. "Now Bess," he would say to his mare as he rode along, "a little faster, Bess," and touch her at the same time gently with his whip. "A righteous man," Solomon says, "regardeth the life of his beast."

At this time there was no suitable residence for the minister belonging to the chapel. By much exertion Mr. Hodgkinson succeeded in obtaining funds, by subscription, for erecting a Parsonage-house, to which he removed as soon as it was ready for his reception. But he did not long enjoy it. After a short illness his end came, and he had to exchange it for the house appointed for all living. The Trustees of the chapel, in consideration of his exertions in building the house, very properly gave his widow a life interest in it, and she lived there until her death, many years after. I remember her well, and her only daughter, who became the wife of her cousin, Mr. Thomas Hibbert. The masters in her father's school afforded Miss Hodgkinson, when growing up, many advantages, and she was led to enter upon branches of study seldom pursued by ladies. Her acquisitions, however, sat well upon her. Of her it may be said, as was said of a distinguished French lady, that "to the graces peculiar to her own sex she added the accomplishments which are the ornaments of ours."* Sprightly in manner and conversation, and in her early days abounding in animal spirits, no society in the neighbourhood was more coveted than hers. Her mother was also a woman of great worth, and out of a not very liberal income the two contrived to bestow in charity as much as many people who had five times their means. On the death of Mrs. Hodgkinson Mrs. Hibbert removed with her family to Liverpool.

Three tablets adorn the chapel—two, the inscriptions on which next follow, are placed on the western wall,

* *Mademoiselle de Joncourt.* (See Pascal's Letters.)

and the last, in memory of the Rev. George Hoade, on the northern wall :—

SACRED
to the Memory of the
REV^d. JOSEPH BOURN,
Minister to this Society
Nineteen Years.
He died Feby. 17th, 1765,
Aged 52 Years.

SACRED to the **MEMORY**
of the **REV^d. JONATHAN HODGKINSON,** of **BURKITT BANK,**
near **WIGAN,** and Minister of the Congregation assembling in
this Chapel during a space of 33 Years.

His mild, frank, and unassuming manners endeared him to the society of his family and friends, and he discharged the duties of a Christian teacher with unaffected seriousness, simplicity, and candour.

From an early period of his life he devoted a considerable portion of his time to the education of Youth, and in this honourable employment, his assiduity and knowledge united with a temper distinguished by forbearance and lenity, rendered his exertions peculiarly successful.

His surviving pupils remembering with gratitude the days which they passed under his faithful and judicious care, have erected this Tablet as a testimony of affectionate esteem for their
INSTRUCTOR and FRIEND.

He died 13th July, 1812.

Aged 68 years.

In Memory of
THE REV^d. GEORGE HOADE,
FOR SIX YEARS MINISTER OF THIS CHAPEL,
WHO DEPARTED THIS LIFE FEBRUARY 14TH, 1868,
AGED 51 YEARS.

The Chapel is now in the possession of the Unitarians.

ST. PAUL'S INDEPENDENT CHAPEL.

St. Paul's Chapel was built by subscription in the year 1815, at a cost of over £700, on land given by the late Mr. John Aspinall.

A few persons supporting the doctrines and form of Church government, for which this building was provided, met about three years previously in a thatched cottage, since pulled down, adjoining the Lord Nelson Inn, who were ministered to by the Rev. William Roby, of Manchester. After a time their place of meeting was removed to a workshop belonging to Mr. William Livesey at the Three Lane Ends, and later on to a room over a warehouse in Mill Lane, then occupied by a Mr. Joseph Bullough. The Rev. Mr. Steele, of Wigan, ministered to the congregation which assembled in this room.

The members increasing, a permanent place of worship was thought desirable, and the present building was consequently erected.

The first Trust Deed of the chapel is dated the 1st of April, 1814, and the Trustees appointed therein were:—

John Aspinall,	Hindley,	Chapman.
Thomas Leyland,	do.,	Weaver.
William Livsey,	do.,	Joiner.
James Pierpoint,	do.,	Weaver.
John Sergeant,	do.,	do.
Richard Molyneux,	do.,	do.
John Bleasdale,	do.,	Coal Merchant.
Simon Marsh,	do.,	Weaver.
Richard Hodgkinson,	do.,	do.
James Mort,	do.,	do.
Peter Appleton,	do.,	Dyer.
Archibald Stuart,	Wigan,	Linen Merchant.
Roger Atkinson,	do.,	Printer.
Peter Latham,	do.,	Cabinet Maker.
Aaron Stock,	do.,	Cotton Manufacturer.
James Glover,	do.,	Weaver.
Samuel Aspul,	do.,	Cooper.
Robert Brown,	Prescott,	Linen Manufacturer.

The chapel was opened on the 12th day of September, 1815, when the services were conducted by the Rev. Dr. Raffles, of Liverpool, and the Revs. Samuel Bradley and William Roby, of Manchester.

The Trustees having become reduced to four, new Trustees were appointed by a Deed dated April 23rd, 1855.

The names of the surviving Trustees were—John Bleasdale, Richard Hodgkinson, Roger Atkinson, and Robert Brown.

The new Trustees were ten in number—

George Ormrod,	Hindley,	Corn Merchant.
Elisha Gregory,	do.,	Shopkeeper.
William Livsey,	do.,	do.
Thomas Downall,	do.,	Gentleman.
Ralph Rigby,	do.,	Shopkeeper.
William Marsh,	do.,	Delf Master.
William Grundy,	do.,	Loomer.
Thomas Heys,	do.,	Weaver.
James Rigby,	do.,	Bookseller.
James Lowe, sen.,	do.,	Shopkeeper.

DATE OF INSTITUTION.	MINISTERS.	CAUSE OF VACANCY.
1815	— Brown, of Prescot ... Daniel Atkin of Warrington, and others	_____
1822	William Turner (the } first settled minister) }	Resigned, 1831
1832	William Howe	Resigned, 1838
1839	John Jones.....	Resigned, 1841
	Vacancy	
1846	William Craig	Resigned, 1849
	Vacancy	
1857	Robert Berry.....	Resigned, 1861
	Vacancy	
1865	Fenton Smith	Resigned, 1868
1869	Henry Banks.....	_____

BRIDGE CROFT INDEPENDENT CHAPEL.

About the year 1830 differences arose in the congregation of St. Paul's Chapel between the Rev. William Turner, the then minister, and the majority of the congregation, which ended in Mr. Turner's resignation. His friends opened a temporary building for him to minister in in the Bridge Croft, near to Borsden Bridge. Here he performed divine service until 1838, when the present chapel was built, at a cost of £454 13s. 1½d.

Mr. Turner officiated to this congregation with an unobtrusive perseverance, which won for him general respect, from 1831 to 1862, when age and infirmities compelled him to resign. Since his resignation there has been no settled pastor, with the exception of the Rev. William Scott, who held the office from August, 1867, until December, 1868.

The chapel, in September, 1838, was vested in the following Trustees:—

The Rev. William Turner,	Hindley.
James Jolley,	do.
Samuel Ormrod,	do.
Oliver Ormrod,	do.
George Ormrod,	do.
James Ormrod,	do.
William Kearsley,	do.
Edward Kearsley,	do.
Robert Elliott,	do.
Thomas Cook,	Wigan.
James Monks,	do.
James Platt,	Hindley.
John Platt,	do.
John Bethell,	do.
John Anderton,	do.
Thomas Green,	do.
William Robinson,	do.
James Parr,	do.

THE WESLEYAN METHODIST CHAPEL, FREDERICK STREET,

Was built in the year 1851; the cost, with the adjoining schools, was £950. The chapel affords accommodation for nearly 300 persons, and the schools are about as large as the chapel. The congregation has never had a resident minister. The land on which the chapel and schools are built was purchased in 1846, and vested in the following Trustees:—

The Rev. Thos. Adams, Wesleyan Minister, Wigan.
 Joseph Meek, J.P., Wigan.
 William Altham, Wigan.
 William Brown, Wigan.
 Thomas Taylor, Standish,
 Richard Christopher, Ince.
 William Melling, senr., Ince.
 William Melling, jun., Ince.
 George Royle, Hindley.
 William Meadows, Hindley.
 Thomas Ashton, Wigan.
 William Whyte, Tranmere, Birkenhead.
 Thomas Howarth, Wigan.
 William Yeomans, (Scholes,) Wigan.
 John Toft, (Lamberhead Green,) Pemberton.

THE EBENEZER PARTICULAR BAPTIST CHAPEL, MILL LANE.

Like most buildings for public worship, the funds for this chapel were raised by subscription. It was built in 1854 on leasehold land, owned by the late Mr. Peter Bradshaw, at a cost of £750. It has accommodation for 150 worshippers. The schools adjoining the back of the chapel contain room for 80 or 90 scholars. Mr. Bradshaw died in 1857 without having conveyed the property to trustees, an omission followed by litigation, which lasted until 1871.

THE WESLEYAN METHODIST CHAPEL, Walthew Lane,

Platt Bridge, built in 1869-70, cost £1,165, and contains 260 sittings.

THE UNITED METHODIST FREE CHURCH, Hindley Green (known as Brunswick Chapel), built in 1855, cost £475, and contains 300 sittings.

THE UNITED METHODIST FREE CHURCH, Hindley Green, built in 1866, estimated cost £300, and contains 200 sittings.

THE PRIMITIVE METHODISTS, Woodford Street, Castle Hill, built in 1856, cost £210, and contains 200 sittings.

THE PRIMITIVE METHODISTS, Platt Bridge, built in 1854, cost originally £100, but has since been considerably enlarged, and contains 200 sittings.

INDEPENDENT METHODISTS, Lowe Green, built in 1867, cost £220, and contains 200 sittings.

HINDLEY AND ABRAM GRAMMAR SCHOOL.

A stone in front of the old school-house, at Lowe Green, records that—

“This School was built by the gift of Mrs. Mary Abram, Widow, whose soul I trust triumpheth now among the just. Anno Domini 1632.”

The documents in the possession of the Trustees of the school do not, however, verify the record of Mrs. Abram being the foundress. The credit of being the first to take any steps to attain so desirable an object is unquestionably due to her, inasmuch as she gave the sum of £92 to Miles Gerrard, of Ince, Esq., towards the founding of a school for the children of Hindley and Abram. The land, the most valuable portion of the school property, was the gift of Abraham Langton, Esq., of Lowe. Even the money given by Mrs. Abram was insufficient for the building, as subscriptions were subsequently made by the inhabitants of Hindley for the purpose. These facts are obtained from an agreement entered into, on the 23rd April, 1632, by Abraham Langton, of Hindley, Esq., and Adam Aspull, Richard Currie, and Richard Seddon, of Hindley, and Roger Culchoth, Richard Ashton, Richard Urmston, and Henrie Lithgoe, of Abram.

The document from which I quote relates further that the sum left by Mrs. Abram came into the possession of Philip, father of Abraham Langton, who had promised to give half an acre of land to set the school-house upon; that the said Philip had bought timber and slate for erecting the school, but, because the building went not forward, he sold them again; that Abraham Langton covenants with the above-named persons to hand over the money in his possession to Roger Culchoth and Richard Green, and that, instead of the half acre promised by his father, he would give one whole large acre of the Common either of Hindley or Lowe Green.

It thus appears that the site was not selected arbi-

trarily by any of the chief donors, but that it was probably fixed upon afterwards by the inhabitants of the neighbourhood as being at the time central and convenient.

A Decree of the Commissioners for Pious Uses of the County of Lancaster, dated at Bolton-le-Moors on the 25th September, 1632, after referring to the bequest of Mrs. Mary Abram, states that "the inhabitants of Hindley and Abram have several times assented and laid divers sums of money for the erecting of a school there, but some of them have since refused to pay their share, or load materials, and do other works towards that fabric as the rest of the inhabitants have done, and (after several entreaties of their neighbours and admonitions of the Commissioners of pious uses) have obstinately refused to contribute and do as the rest of their neighbours, alleging either that they have no children now to be taught, or that they care not for that benefit hereafter. It is now, therefore, ordered by us, the said Commissioners, that so many of the inhabitants of the said townships as shall peremptorily continue in that obstinacy, and will not contribute, load, or carry, and do such other acts as their neighbours, for and towards the building up of the said school, shall from henceforth be debarred from having their children and posterity (dwelling in their now habitation) taught freely in the said school, and, as a note of their unworthiness, shall have their names set up in the said school apprising the cause." The list of these delinquents has not, unfortunately, come down to us.

Other official records containing information relating to the school are :—

The Decree of an Inquisition, dated the 3rd Sept., 1656, taken at Prescott, in the County of Lancaster, on the 26th of August (the preceding month), by the Commissioners for Pious Uses.

A Decree of the Court of Chancery for the County Palatine of Lancaster, dated the 5th of June, 1657; and

A Decree of the same court, dated the 22nd of Oct., in the same year.

The three documents bear reference to the same facts. They set forth that Robert Hindley, of Hindley, gentleman, had a debt of £20 due to him by Thomas Ince, of Ince, gentleman, for which he held his bond, and that he would give the said debt to the free school at Hindley; but Mr. Ince refusing to pay, £10 was accepted by Mr. Langton, and other inhabitants of Hindley, in satisfaction of the full amount, rather than proceed to law.

They further inform us that Abraham Langton, of Lowe, and Abraham Lance, of Abram, gentleman, had each of them the sum of £50 in his possession belonging to the school, being in the whole £100; that Ann Aspull was owing £15 for the fine of an acre of land for 21 years; that according to a mutual agreement made by the inhabitants of Hindley and Abram, they appoint:

Robert Hindley, (before-mentioned),	} of Hindley, Yeomen.
Matthew Green,	
William Peterson,	
and John Seddon, the younger,	
John Chadock and	} of Abram, do.
John Smethurst,	

to be Feoffees. In these persons the property of the school was to be vested. That when four of their number die the two surviving Feoffees shall appoint others in their room, within two months next after the death of the last of the four deceased, who shall be possessed of the same powers. That within six months after the date of the Inquisition (September 3rd, 1656) the Feoffees shall take into their hands and custody all moneys belonging to the school, and shall invest it in lands of inheritance.*

* On February 2nd, 1690, the school land was leased to Henry Sale, of Hindley, tailor, for the term of 21 years, at a rental of 50 shillings. The lease was signed by Philip Langton and not by the Trustees, although they had then been appointed many years. Appended to the lease is the following memorandum: "That before

A Release given by Philip Langton, Esq., dated January 15th, 1682, to Mary Collier, widow, acknowledges the receipt of £10 left by her late husband, Randle Collier.

155 years ago the endowment was £10 6s. 6d. yearly, as appears from a memorandum among the school papers, of which the following is a copy :—

“ An account given of the yearly profits arising to the Lowe Schoole, in Hindley, from lands and moneys at interest, &c.

“ As foll., this 5th April, 1718 :—

“ In Mr. Langton's hands, £135	£6 15 00
“ From the Schoole lands	2 00 00
“ Mrs. Duckenfield's gift.....	1 00 00
“ Mr. Crook's gift	0 11 6

In all.....£10 6 6”

A small augmentation to the school funds was made in 1783 by Mr. James Eckersley. The codicil to the will securing it is in these words :—

“ I, James Eckersley, of Hindley, Chapman, do make this codicil to my last will and testament. As I bear a very good will to the School of Hindley, of which I am a Trustee, in order to augment its income, I bequeath out of my personal estate to Holt Leigh, Esq., the principal Trustee thereof, the sum of ten pounds, to be by him invested or applied in such manner as he shall think most proper for the benefit of the Schoolmaster of the said School for the time being, for ever, in hopes that my said co-Trustee, Holt Leigh, Esq., will be pleased to make an augmentation to this my bequest, and promote a subscription for the further benefit of

the sealing and delivering of these presents it was agreed by the parties above-said that the town of Hindley shall maintain or keep up a little gate for the scholars to pass through, and shall repair the great gate at present, but for the future Henry Sale shall repair it, and Henry Sale shall have all the ashes burnt on the premises to be spent thereon.”

the said School, which stands in need thereof.—Witness my hand, 3rd August, 1783.

“ JAMES ECKERSLEY.

“ Witnesses present,

“ R.A. PETERS,

“ THOS. MATHER.”

The Trustees next in order, of which we have any record, after those named in the Decree of the Commissioners for Pious Uses, dated 26th August, 1656, and in the Decrees of the Court of Chancery of the County Palatine of Lancaster, dated respectively June 5th, 1657, and October 22nd, 1657, were appointed on December 14th, 1747. Their names were :—

William Pugh, of Lowe (nephew and devisee of Edward Langton, Esq., of Lowe).

John Southworth, and } both of Hindley, Yeomen.
James Eckersley, }

Holt Leigh, Gentleman (son of Alexander Leigh), of Wigan.

John Chadock, and } both of Abram, Yeomen.
John Leyland, }

John Leyland survived all his colleagues, and on the 17th November, 1785, a new Trust Deed was executed, and the following persons were joined with him in the trust :—

Robert Holt Leigh, of Wigan, Esquire.

John Green, of Lowton, Gentleman.

Peter Ditchfield, of Hindley, Fustian Manufacturer.

Charles Worsley, of Abram, Fustian Manufacturer, and Ralph Peters, of Platt Bridge, Esquire.

Of this body Sir Robert Holt Leigh was the last survivor, and he died on the 21st January, 1843, without appointing successors.

The earliest master whose name has been preserved was Thomas Mort, who presided over the school in 1746. From a letter of his extant, dated Sept. 18th, 1746, addressed to Mr. John Southworth, he complains of injury resulting to the property of the school, in consequence of trustees not being appointed. This want

was remedied, as I have stated, in the following year 1747. From existing memoranda, Thomas Mort appears to have been active in promoting subscriptions for the building of a "bay," as it was called, to the school, which was probably that part formerly used as the master's house.

In 1774 Mr. Richard Guest, of Standish, was appointed master, who was followed in 1782 by Mr. Enoch Clarke. The next master was a Mr. Forshaw, and the next after him Mr. John Clough, who resigned in 1829, and was the last master who taught at the old school.

The vacancy caused by his resignation was filled by Mr. Matthews, who was allowed to hold the school in the Sunday School of All Saints' Church, Chapel Green. He died in May, 1834. Sir Robert Holt Leigh, the only surviving trustee, then permitted the school to remain until May, 1842, eight years, without a master, when he appointed a young man named John Pollard, who held it little more than four years. Pollard resigned in November, 1846, and the school again fell into abeyance, there being then no trustees living, and no person having any authority or control over the estate. Things continued in this deplorable state until 1851, when the attention of the late Lord Kingsdown, then Mr. Pemberton Leigh, Sir Robert Holt Leigh's representative, was called to it, and in the following year he was the means of having new trustees appointed. The gentlemen he selected for the office were:—

The Right Honourable Francis Earl of Ellesmere.

The Rev. Edward Hill, Hindley, Clerk.

The Rev. John Dixon, Abram, Clerk.

Richard Pennington, Hindley, Cotton Spinner.

John Leyland, Hindley, Gentleman.

Thomas Gaskell, Hindley, Gentleman.

James Eckersley, Wigan, Cotton Spinner.

Richard Tickle, Abram, Yeoman.

The efforts of the new Trustees were first directed to secure the property of the school, which was in a fair

way of being dissipated. Upon that being effected after the expenditure of much time and labour, they took steps to erect a new school, the old one being considered unfit for the purpose ; and the present site was selected as being in a more central position, and more accessible to the inhabitants of Hindley and Abram generally than that of the old school. The building of the new school was commenced in 1855, and completed in the spring of the following year. The cost of the school and master's house (including the site) was £1,301 17s. 2½d., of which £602 1s. 0½d. was raised by subscription, the remainder being liquidated ultimately from the proceeds of the mines under the old school lands.

The appointment of the new Trustees forms an important epoch in the history of the school, which from that time has assumed the character of a new foundation. A scheme was issued by the Court of Chancery for its government in June, 1854.

The first master appointed under the new system was the Rev. J. C. Airey, who opened the school in temporary premises, provided by the Trustees, opposite the end of Platt Lane, on the 2nd of October, 1854. The new school was opened on Monday the 31st of March, 1856, and, Mr. Airey having resigned, Mr. Joseph Hallas, the present master, was appointed in his place, and commenced his duties after the midsummer vacation in the same year.

The Earl of Ellesmere, the Rev. Edward Hill, and Mr. James Eckersley having died, and Mr. Tickle having become disqualified, the four following gentlemen were appointed in their place, on the 21st day of January, 1860 :—

The Rev. Peter Jones,
 Alfred Pennington, Esq.,
 Nathaniel Eckersley, Esq., and
 Henry Jackson Whitley, Esq.

Mr. Alfred Pennington has since died, and Mr. Whitley has resigned.

The school seems to have been called originally the Free Grammar School of Hindley ; afterwards the Lowe

School, from its situation at Lowe Green, and in 1861 the Trustees gave it the name of the Hindley and Abram Grammar School.

The property of the Trustees consists now (December 31st, 1873) of:—

	Yearly Income.
The new school and master's house (the latter occupied rent free by the master) ...	£0 0 0
Small croft or field in front of the school ...	2 10 0
An acre and a-half of land (situate at Lowe Green, Hindley) of the large Cheshire measure, on which stands the old school and master's house	16 0 0
A wayleave, for a term of years, for a coal tramway over this land	5 0 0
The mines underneath are leased to the Duke of Bridgewater's Trustees, and produce at the present time £100 per annum. They are applied in accordance with a scheme issued by the Court of Chancery in June, 1854, and are now nearly exhausted.	
A rent charge on lands in Mobberley, Cheshire, devised by Mrs. Frances Duckinfield	1 0 0
A rent charge on lands in Alston and Whittingham, Lancashire, devised by Thomas Crook	1 0 0
A sum of £400 lent on the security of their bond to the Mersey Docks and Harbour Board	17 0 0
A like sum of £400 lent on the security of their bond to the Mersey Docks and Harbour Board	17 0 0
A sum of £267 7s. 7d. consolidated £3 per cent annuities, and a sum of £278 3s. 3d. also consolidated £3 per cent annuities, which produced in 1873 net dividends	16 2 5
Cash balance of general account, Dec. 31st, 1873, in the hands of the Wigan District Bank...£138	2 4

Do. in the hands of the Acting Trustee	£18 3 5
Total balance general account	156 5 9
Cash balance Repair Fund account, deposited with the Wigan District Bank ...	0 6 6
Do., Thomas Gaskell's legacy account, do.	54 12 9
Do., Mine account, do. ...	464 14 8

MRS. FRANCES DUCKINFIELD'S CHARITY.

Mrs. Frances Duckinfield, otherwise Croston, of Bickershaw, widow, late wife of Robert Duckinfield, of Duckinfield, in the county of Chester, Esq., by deed dated the 29th of September, 1662, conveyed four closes of land situate in Mobberley, in Cheshire, called the Smithy Field, the Kiln Croft, and the two Cow Heys, containing 14 acres to—

Richard Hilton, of Westleigh,
Robert Hampson, of Hindley, Yeoman,
John Battersby, of Westleigh, Schoolmaster,
Adam Richardson, of Abram, Yeoman,
Mathew Astley, of Hindley, Yeoman,
James Kay, of Hindley, Cooper,
Henry Hilton, of Hindley, Husbandman, and
Robert Sweetlove, of Hindley, Husbandman,

in trust for the following purposes:—That 50s. be given yearly to the minister of Hindley Chapel, £4 to the poor of Hindley and Abram, and 20s. to the master of the Hindley Free School, and the rest to the heirs of Ann Atkinson, daughter of Thomas Atkinson, of Cockefoster, of Middlesex, by Elizabeth, one of the daughters of the said Mrs. Frances Duckinfield. The gift of 50s. to the minister of Hindley Chapel was contingent on a pew or other accommodation being provided for Mrs. Duckinfield's family, her heirs and assigns, in

Hindley Chapel; and in the event of this not being had, the sum was to be bestowed on the worthy and orderly poor of Hindley and Abram.

A Lease and Release, dated December 18th and 19th, 1781, conveys the estate by the surviving Trustees, Robert Thomasson and James Green, to eleven additional Trustees, viz. :—

Henry Thomasson.	James Green.
Jonathan Thomasson. (1)	Hugh Stirrup.
James Eckersley.	James Leyland.
Jonathan Thomasson. (2)	John Leyland.
William Blundell.	Charles Worsley.
John Green.	

In 1804 the only survivors of this body were Henry Thomasson, Jonathan Thomasson (2), and Charles Worsley, who on the 24th of March in that year enlarged their number to ten by appointing—

James Lever, of Hindley, Gentleman.

James Mackie, of Lowton, Cotton Merchant.

Nicholas Marsh, of Westhoughton, Cotton Manufacturer.

James Bevan, of Lowton, Esquire.

Edward Ackers, of Newton-in-Makerfield, Surgeon.

Robert Bolton, of Wigan, Brassfounder.

Peter Arrowsmith, of Astley, Cotton Manufacturer.

The next Trust Deed is dated April 2nd, 1830. The existing Trustees were then—

James Mackie,	Hindley,	Yeoman.
and		
Nicholas Marsh,	do.,	do.

The new Trustees were :—

Henry Battersby,	Hindley,	Cotton Spinner.
Charles Battersby,	do.,	do.
Richard Pennington,	do.,	do.
John Aspinall, jun.,	do.,	Surgeon.
Thomas Gaskell,	do.,	Yeoman.
Peter Marsh,	do.,	Tea Dealer
John Marsh,	do.,	Linen Draper.

Samuel Banks,	Abram,	Farmer.
Adam Chadwick,	London,	Esquire.
John Whitley, jun.,	{Ashton-in- Makerfield,}	do.
John Jolley,	Abram,	Schoolmaster.

An order of the Charity Commissioners, dated February 18th, 1870, recites that—

Thomas Gaskell, of Hindley, Esquire ;
 Peter Marsh, of Southport, Tea Dealer ; and
 Richard Pennington, of Westfield House, Rugby, Esq.,
 wish to retire from the trust ; that the sole surviving
 and continuing Trustee is Samuel Banks, of Abram,
 Farmer, and appoints the following persons as new
 Trustees :—

John Leyland, of	Hindley,	Gentleman.
Richard Pennington, jun., do.,		Cotton Spinner.
Edward Grime,	do.,	Shopkeeper.
William Livsey,	do.,	do.
William Marsh,	do.,	Flag Merchant.
William Lyon,	do.,	Land Agent.
James Banks,	Abram,	Shopkeeper.
Charles Peter Ackers,	do.,	Gentleman.

MR. THOMAS CROOK'S CHARITY.

Thomas Crook, by his will, dated July 9th, 1688, devised a rent-charge of £20 per annum on land in Alston and Whittingham, in the County of Lancaster, for the poor of Preston ; St. Olave Jewry, London ; Abram, in the Parish of Wigan ; Mawdesley, in the Parish of Croston ; Walton-le-Dale, in the Parish of Blackburn ; for the Schoolmasters of Mawdesley, Walton-le-Dale, and Hindley ; and for the Ministers of Walton-le-Dale, Hindley, and Westhoughton. Of the £20, the Incumbent of All Saints' Church, Hindley, receives £1 per annum, and the Trustees of the Hindley and Abram Grammar School also £1.

LINEN CLOTH CHARITY.

Randle Collier founded this charity by a bequest in his will, dated September 8th, 1682, of £50, the interest of which was to be given in linen cloth every New-year's day to the poor of the township. His wife, Mary Collier, in her will, dated September 12th, 1684, also left £20 for the same purpose. The charity was afterwards enlarged by a gift of £20 from Robert Cooper, and of £10 from Edward Green. These various benefactions amount to £100, which accumulations from time to time have further increased to £137 2s. 9d. With this sum the Trustees of the Chapel purchased £151 6s. in three per cent consols, and receive dividends thereon amounting to £4 10s. 9½d., which sum is distributed in the manner described to the poor on every New-year's day.

The interest on £10 of the £50 bequeathed by Randle Collier was given to the Trustees, for their trouble in dispensing the charity; but they never claim it, and the entire proceeds go to the poor.

The proportion received by Hindley of the £4 given to the poor of Hindley and Abram by Mrs. Frances Duckinfield is £2 8s., and this sum has for a long period been given in linen cloth with the above charity.

MR. RICHARD MATHER'S CHARITY

Dates from the 29th of April, 1852. On that day Mr. Mather conveyed to

John Leyland, gentleman,
 Thomas Winward, warper,
 William Mather, shopkeeper,
 James Eatock, bookkeeper,
 Richard Mather, the younger, shoemaker, all of
 Hindley;
 John Pollard, printer, and
 William Pollard, collier, of Wigan; and
 Richard Tickle, of Abram, yeoman,

in trust for purposes specified hereafter, certain freehold property, situate in Hindley, comprising a room erected over a gateway in Chapel Lane, with the adjoining cottage on the north side, four cottages in the Wigan road, and a chief or ground rent near thereto, the gross yearly income of which amounted to £22 11s. 11½d. The deed of gift directs that the room over the gateway, in Chapel Lane, shall be used for a school for the teaching of infant children, and the adjoining cottage for the residence of the teachers. The balance of the income of the residue of the property, after deducting the expenses of repairs and collection, is divided into three portions, one of which is appropriated to the providing of the necessaries of the school, such as fire, cleaning, and books; another to the payment of teachers' salaries; and the third is expended in bread, and distributed among the poor of the neighbourhood.*

Mr. Thomas Winward, Mr. William Mather, and Mr. William Pollard, having died, and Mr. John Pollard having become disqualified, Mr. Richard Pennington, junior, Mr. Edward Grime, Mr. Thomas Atherton, and Mr. William Marsh were, by an order of the Charity Commissioners, dated October 18th, 1867, appointed in their place.

MR. THOMAS WINWARD'S CHARITY.

Mr. Thomas Winward, of Hindley, in his will, dated the eleventh day of June, 1860, bequeathed the sum of £40 to the Wardens of St. Peter's Church, when elected, the interest of which is to be distributed in bread to poor persons attending the church.

The sum of £42 2s. 9d., £3 per cent consolidated annuities, was purchased on the 29th of July, 1868, by the executors of Mr. Winward, with the legacy be-

* The bread is now given on the last Saturday in every month in the Infant Schoolroom.

queathed by him, and was vested in "The Official Trustees of Charitable Funds," pursuant to the provisions of the Charitable Trusts Amendment Act, 1855.

LAPSED CHARITIES.

The Commissioners appointed by the Crown to inquire into the state of the various charities in the kingdom, visited Wigan in the year 1828, and made a report on the charities of the parish, which was subsequently published, and to which I am indebted for the following particulars.

All the charities of Hindley of any value have been fortunately preserved. None have been lost except in the unimportant instances I am about to refer to.

MR. JOHN GUEST'S CHARITY.

In the report to which I have alluded, it is stated that "John Guest, by his will, bearing date 28th September, 1653, gave to the Ministers of the Parish Church of Wigan, and six other places, the yearly sum of £3 15s. each, charged upon his lands in Abram, to be bestowed in linen cloth on 45 of the poorest people within each parish, such as the said respective ministers should conceive to stand in the greatest need of the same.

"£3 10s. was received at the time of the commission as a rent-charge from a farm, called Bolton House, in Abram, which, from 1824 to that time, had been divided as follows :—

	s.	d.
"To the poor of Wigan	7	0
do. do. Billinge	14	0
do. do. Haigh	7	0
do. do. Abram	14	0
do. do. Winstanley	14	0
do. do. Pemberton.....	14	0
	<hr/>	
	£3	10 0"
	<hr/>	

"The other townships in the Parish [Hindley forming one of the number] formerly received a small portion of the charity, but this practice was eventually discontinued, probably on account of the smallness of the sum to be divided."

MR. EDWARD HOLT'S CHARITY.

"Edward Holt, by his will, bearing date 7th October, 1704, bequeathed £150 to James Holt and nine others of the town or parish of Wigan, upon trust, to put forth the same at interest, or to lay it in purchasing lands or a rent-charge, and to lay out the yearly produce thereof in oat bread, or any other sort of bread, as they should think most meet; and he directed that they should cause such bread to be distributed to such poor people as for the time being should inhabit and dwell within Wigan, and also within the townships of Haigh, Aspull, Ince, Pemberton, Hindley, Abram, and Winstanley, as the said Trustees or the major part of them should direct and appoint; the same bread to be distributed in the Parish Church of Wigan, in the manner following: (that is to say) 22 penny loaves every Sunday, viz.: one Sunday to the poor of Wigan, and the other Sunday to the poor of Haigh, Aspull, Ince, Pemberton, Hindley, Abram, and Winstanley, and so on alternately."

"In 1774 the principal sum of £150 was laid out on the Wigan Workhouse, and the interest has since been paid out of the Poores Rate." A few pounds were received by the Incumbent of Hindley from this charity for the poor of the township twelve or fourteen years ago, since which no claim has been made* by the township, and I am told that, as the bread ought to be distributed in the parish church of Wigan, any such claim would not now be allowed.

* Excepting in this instance no benefit has been derived to Hindley from the "Lapsed Charities" for a long period.

MR. EDMUND MOLYNEUX'S CHARITY.

"Edmund Molyneux, citizen of London, by his will, bearing date 8th October, 1613, devised all his lands, consisting of 53a. 2r. 33p., at Canewden, in Essex, which were £20 by the year rent, to be bestowed in penny bread, and given to the ancientest and poorest people at Wigan and at Holland, every Sunday throughout the year for ever, viz., at Wigan to 60, and at Holland to 30, of such poor people every Sunday, to each one penny loaf; and the remaining 10s. he gave to the Churchwardens for their pains at both the churches, equally to be divided; and if the Churchwardens should not perform this his gift according to his will, he directed that the land and the rent thereof should go to the use of a free school to be kept at Holland."

The share appropriated by Wigan "is made up in fourpenny loaves, and given away by the Churchwardens to the poor of such parts of the parish as attend Wigan Church, according to a list made out by the Churchwardens, upon the recommendation of any of the more respectable inhabitants. Whenever any extraordinary expenses are incurred the quantity of bread is accordingly reduced."

MR. EDWARD RICHARDSON'S CHARITY.

"Under the name of Richardson's Charity, a distribution takes place annually, on the feast of the Ascension, of five loads of oatmeal, each load weighing 240lbs. Three loads are given to the poor of the township of Ince, one to the poor of Abram, and the other to the poor of Hindley. The meal is provided by Mr. Cowley, of Widnes, the owner of an estate in Ince, formerly the property of Edward Richardson, who, we are informed, directed by his will that this distribution should be made for 50 years from the time of his death.

“In the parliamentary returns of 1786 the year 1784 is given as the date of this benefaction.”

The 50 years appointed for the distribution of the charity expired in 1836.

RECOLLECTIONS.

I am proposing to occupy the remaining pages with some notice of the principal people of the village in my younger days, and of the customs then prevalent, or which existed as I have been told in the preceding generation.

Before the introduction of manufactures and the opening of collieries, the village has been described as being what we may easily conceive it to have been—secluded and pleasant. The inhabitants were all known to each other; they were sociable, and an interchange of visits fostered a friendly feeling between the different classes.

The first factory was erected, as I have already stated, by Mr. Richard Battersby, at the Lowe Mill, which up to that time had been a corn mill, moved by water power. Mr. Battersby was an enterprising and prosperous man, and when he died, in 1806, bequeathed a handsome property to his children, who did not, however, with their patrimony inherit their father's prosperity. For some time afterwards they lived where their family had lived for several generations, at the Lowe Mill; but their property wasted away, and first one, and then another, removed or died, so that there is not one of them now left in the neighbourhood.

The example set by Mr. Battersby in factory building was speedily followed by the late Mr. John Pennington. This gentleman removed from an adjoining township to live on an estate his family owned about the year 1796. His was one of those master-spirits who leave their impress on after-generations. To him, and others like him, the cotton trade is indebted for its present

colossal proportions. Though very much older, he honoured me with his friendship; and, perhaps, no one out of his own family circle had better opportunities, from long and frequent intercourse, of appreciating his talents. He was endowed with a mind of extraordinary power. I never conversed with him without being struck with the quickness of his perceptions and the sagacity of his observations. Whatever station of life he had been born in he would have distinguished himself, and would have risen to the foremost rank. As it was, from a moderate independence, he became the possessor of considerable wealth. At the outset of his career he employed only a few handloom weavers. As time went on these gradually increased in number. Subsequently he erected a spinning factory, afterwards one for power-looms of still larger size, and up to the time when he left the neighbourhood his works were continually increasing. In the spring of 1836 he removed to Liverpool, and the remainder of his life was spent there as a merchant, the works at Hindley falling under the management of his sons. Tall and powerfully made, and endowed with a vigorous constitution, he was enabled to get through an immense amount of work. The expression of his countenance was generally stern, but in social intercourse it softened and almost entirely disappeared. Like many other clever men, he played and much enjoyed whist, but he always loved to win. If the game went against him he became moody, and roused all his energies to turn the luck. It was no pleasant thing to be his partner on such occasions. Every move was watched with lynx-eyed attention, and a false step was commented on with unsparing severity. He died in August, 1850, at the advanced age of 82.

Another of the worthies of Hindley in those days was Mr. Edward Kearsley, a gentleman who resided on a property he owned in the village. Ivy Cottage—the name by which his residence was known—was the perfection of order, not a blade of grass being allowed to

grow out of its proper place. The efforts he made to maintain his house, grounds, and property generally in this condition were ably seconded by George Mort, a faithful servant, who had a taste as fastidious as his master's. But Mr. Kearsley had higher claims to respect than a mere love of order. As a husband, a father, and a neighbour, he set an example which it would be well for society if it were oftener imitated. Regular himself in his attendance at church, he saw that his children and servants attended likewise, and his religion was not put on one day in the week—it was every day the same.

Trouble fell upon him in his latter years, and after selling his property in Hindley, he went to live for a little while in Jersey; he then removed to Lytham, where, somewhat suddenly, when scarcely past the noon of life, he was taken away. In his death his friends mourned the loss of a true and loyal gentleman.

Mr. Peter Ditchfield was another of our leading men. All his family, which consisted of three sons and four daughters, are now dead. The two younger sons died first; the old gentleman himself followed next; then, with an interval of a year or two only between each, his four daughters. The remaining son resided elsewhere, and survived many years the other members of his family.

Among all the inhabitants of the village there was none better known than Richard Mather. Born in Crow Lane, Newton, in 1777, on an estate held in lease by his father from the Legh family, he became a resident in 1786 when nine years of age, at which time his father removed to Hindley in order to keep the Cross Keys public-house. This inn had then the most commodious stabling in the village, and was much frequented in consequence by travellers. Richard acted for some time as ostler boy, and received in that capacity many gratuities from travellers, every penny of which he

carefully hoarded. In this way he amassed as much as £20. One Jonathan Thomason, a well-known man in the neighbourhood in his day, and a constant frequenter of his father's house, took care of his money, and encouraged him in his economy. A love of saving became thus a second nature, and clung to him to the very end of his life.

An older brother followed the trade of plumber and glazier, and in process of time Richard became his apprentice. Four years from the commencement of his apprenticeship his brother gave up the business, when Richard continued it on his own account. After following it for 22 or 23 years his health became impaired, and his doctor attributing the cause to his occupation, advised him to retire. The advice he acted upon, as the savings he had accumulated were more than sufficient for his maintenance. The severe economy he practised in his early years was continued after it became unnecessary, and a good bargain gave him intense pleasure even to the last. I have heard him tell a story of a speculation he made in glass, years before, with a good deal of unction. The probability of the Government of the day laying a tax on this commodity had been canvassed in the papers, and Richard had, therefore, thought it prudent to increase his stock much beyond his ordinary requirements. Early one morning he took up a newspaper, and saw that the tax had at last been resolved upon by Government, whereupon he set off at once without breakfast to the glass works at St. Helens, although he had made other arrangements for the day, gave an order for a considerable quantity, got the invoice, and saw a portion of it despatched home. Newspapers were not then read with the regularity they are at the present day, or the glass manufacturer would have been aware of the increased value the proposed tax had given to his wares. A builder named Fairclough got into his debt in the way of trade, to the extent of £130, and Richard having difficulty in getting the money, he determined to build

a number of cottages, and by employing Fairclough in the building to recover the debt. This first led him to invest his money in cottage property, of which ultimately he became a considerable owner. When about five-and-twenty years of age he was persuaded to engage himself as a Sunday school teacher, although he had heretofore been a thoughtless liver, and a few years afterwards he became impressed with the truths of religion. From this period he took great interest in Sunday schools, and for a quarter of a century was a persevering and unwearied teacher in the schools connected with what was then called the Parochial Chapel. In conjunction with his fellow-teachers, he used to have a meeting of the scholars on the evening of Christmas Day, when the children recited short dialogues, hymns, or chapters of the Bible. Members of the congregation were invited to attend, and no one could have pleased him better than by forming one of the audience. At an early period in the history of infant schools he was the means of establishing one in the village, and ever afterwards took the warmest interest in its success. Surrounded by a number of young children, teaching them a verse of some sweet Christian hymn, he was at the summit of his ambition, and I verily believe would not have changed places with an emperor. Much credit is due to him for the invention of a machine for teaching children letters, numerals, spelling, and reading, and even sums in arithmetic. Although a similar instrument was used in ancient times in practical reckoning, and is said to be so still in China and elsewhere, the description he has given of its construction shows that he was but little indebted to extraneous aid. Playing one day with a child of his nephew's, there happened to be a tobacco pipe lying near, which he took up to amuse it with, and by a sort of accident formed a rude little block of wood, through which he bored a hole and ran it along the pipe. He next inscribed a letter on the block, and succeeded in teaching it to the child. Other letters were then tried, and with so much success that it

induced him to try the principle on a larger scale. The first instrument he made was a frame of wood, not unlike the frame of a swing looking-glass, with square iron rods running horizontally, on which were threaded small square wooden blocks, having a letter of the alphabet inscribed on one of the sides. Accidentally making the hole of one of the blocks too large, it swung round when placed on the wire. Hence he saw the advantage of having the rods round instead of square, as he could have a different letter painted on each side of the block. Thus, little by little, with the suggestion of one friend or another, but principally by his own ingenuity, he constructed a very useful and complete machine. This was about the year 1837. It attracted considerable attention in the neighbourhood, and some of his friends recommended him to take out a patent for the invention, which however he declined to do. For a long number of years it was his custom to hold prayer-meetings every Sunday evening, when he would read a portion of the Church prayers, a chapter in the Bible, and a sermon, sometimes chosen from a published collection, and sometimes one of his own composition. These were held first at his house, but ultimately at one of his cottages, which he kept untenanted for the purpose; and as the attendance grew larger he was induced, in 1851, to build a room over a gateway for the express purpose, and large enough to contain a hundred people.

About this time—1851—he received an unexpected addition to his property from a distant family connection. His grandfather and a person named Rawlinson married two sisters, and from Rawlinson there descended a Mr. William Ainsworth, who acquired considerable property, which he bequeathed at his death among certain of his relations, to be divided when the youngest of them came of age. The testator excluded the four nearest of kin, of whom Richard was one; but he omitted to provide for the disposition of the accumulations of his estate, which, when the youngest

interested in the property attained his majority, amounted to nearly £20,000; and the question was then raised, whether the legatees or the next of kin were entitled to the money. The Court of Chancery was appealed to, and decided in favour of the latter, and Richard received for his share upwards of £4,000. It was a curious result, that the very parties who were excluded by the will should receive so considerable a sum, and be put in actual possession of the money before those to whom the estate was devised could receive their portion. It affords a striking illustration of the truth of the proverb, "Man proposes but God disposes." This addition to his means led him to determine to devote some portion of his goods to charitable purposes, which eventually took the form of a deed of gift of freehold property of about £500 in value to certain trustees, the object of which, under the head of Mather's Charity, I have already stated.

Mr. Thomas Gaskell was the last survivor of the past generation who took any part in public affairs. He lived to reach his 87th year, and died as recently as 1870. Of the old yeomen, a class once common, and now almost extinct, he was an excellent representative. The house which witnessed his birth witnessed also his death, and he never lived in any other, through life—

"Content to breathe his native air
In his own ground."

The same fields his father cultivated he cultivated also; and if it be patriotism—as it has been said it is—to make two blades of grass grow where one grew before, Mr. Gaskell could have laid a claim to that virtue. The patrimony he inherited he brought into a high state of cultivation, and extended its bounds farther and farther, here a field and there a field. Throughout life he was a constant worshipper at the Presbyterian Chapel, of which he was the principal supporter. At one time or other he filled most of the

public offices of the township, and served as trustee and executor to a great number of people, with unimpeached integrity.

In addition to those I have passed in review, there were others well worthy of a place in the annals of the village, discreet, keepers-at-home, who took no part in public affairs. There were the families of the Eckersleys, the Southworths, the Thomassons, the Seddons, the Barlows, the Martlews, the Sumners. There were Mrs. and Miss Clarke, Mrs. and Miss Heyes, and the Misses Green.

The Hargreaves family, long resident at Hart Common, were constant attendants at the Chapel, and took a warm interest in all that concerned the prosperity of the township.

The characters of many of our old friends who now rest from their labours, may be studied with advantage. Though being dead, they yet speak by their quiet, unostentatious, and virtuous lives. Burns, in one of his letters to his friend, James Hamilton, says: "Among some distressful emergencies that I have experienced in life, I ever laid down this as my foundation of comfort, that he who has lived the life of an honest man has by no means lived in vain."

It remains for me now only to glance at some of the usages which were once common, and are so no longer.

The neighbourhood has been long known to be rich in coal deposits, and the upper seams were being worked long before the time I am speaking of. Factories existed, as I have more than once stated, seventy years ago, but they were fewer in number and smaller in size than the existing factories, and the number of people engaged in both occupations was comparatively small. The great bulk of the labouring class was employed either in hand-loom weaving or in agriculture. Cottages had all weaving-shops attached to them, some with space sufficient for two looms only, others for five or six. Taking all things into consideration, I question if the quality of modern cottages is better. Modern cottages are higher over head, and some possess lobbies and parlours—conveniences totally unknown in the days I am referring to; but they are more huddled together, and have less breathing room outside. Most of the old cottages were either detached or semi-detached, and, excepting in rare instances, possessed their small garden plots.

Hand-loom weaving gave employment to entire families. The mother, with one of the younger children, wound bobbins, the father and the elder sons and daughters wove the coarser or finer calicoes, or fustians, according to their skill and ability. It is much to be regretted that the exigencies of trade, caused by the development of machinery, transferred this branch of industry to factories, as a father had the whole of his children working under his own roof, and under his own eye. Not only did the system lead to the parental authority being held in greater respect, but young people were exposed by it to fewer temptations.

A few years anterior to the time under consideration spinning was also carried on in cottages: cloth was thus spun, woven, and worn under the same roof. This cloth was of great durability, and continued in

use in a family for one purpose or another for an entire generation.

Oatmeal formed the principal article of food of the operative class, and bread made of it, called "jannock," was commonly eaten. Families consumed only a single wheaten loaf in the week, bought by way of change or delicacy for the Sunday's meals. Few cottagers' houses possessed articles of mahogany furniture. An oak chest, a couch, an eight-days' clock inherited from a former generation, with rush-bottomed chairs and deal tables, were the ordinary articles of furniture.

A man still living told me an anecdote which curiously illustrates the sarcastic allusions of our old dramatists to shining shoes. He was a grown man (he said) before he ever had his shoes blacked, the universal custom among people of his class being to rub them with grease. One day he took a fancy to wear blacked shoes, and turned out from his home, proud at his unusual smartness. He lived in the Close Lanes, and he had not proceeded far towards the village before he began to have qualms of conscience as to whether he was really doing what was quite right. The misgivings grew upon him as he proceeded, and he became so heartily ashamed of his effeminacy that he daubed his shoes carefully over with mud, and was thus enabled to go on with head erect and a satisfied spirit.

The houses of the middle class were seldom or never entered by a lobby. The front door opened into the ordinary living room of the family, and this room led into the parlour, which was sometimes boarded and carpeted, but was oftener of bare stone. The latter apartment was only used on visits or family festivals. The ladies of these days did not possess the variety in dress their descendants think so essential. They were content with a single silk gown, which often lasted their entire lives. Chintz prints were generally worn, but even they were too valuable for everyday wear, as they cost from five to seven shillings the yard. The colours of these chintzes were so well fixed, and the

cloth so durable, that after they had done service in the gown they were cut up and used in patchwork for quilts. I have seen several quilts made in this way, and have been surprised both at the strength of the cloth and the brightness of the colours.

The general mode of travelling was on horseback, and a lady would ride on a pillion behind her husband to church and market. The pillion had generally a covering of strong cotton velvet, quilted, and trimmed with fringe made for the special purpose, and presented a neat and tasteful appearance.

Christmas was then, as now, a festive season. Visits were interchanged, at which cards were the favourite amusement, intermixed, however, among the younger people, with blindman's buff, hunt the slipper, puss in the corner, and such like games. The holidays of Shrovetide, Easter, and Whitsuntide have diminished in importance, Shrovetide more, perhaps, than the others. Paste-egging was, and remains still, a popular amusement in Passion Week. Two kinds of paste-eggers were common—the white and the black. The white paid their visits in the day, as well as the night. They were decorated with ribbons, and acted a sort of drama, in which one Boldslasher was the hero, who fought and was slain; and there was a learned doctor, who, in travels to distant lands, had discovered a medicine that would bring back the dead to life. This he applied to the dead Boldslasher, who instantly rose up to life again. Our Lord's resurrection is evidently commemorated in this drama, which is probably a relic of the old mystery plays the Church of Rome was wont to represent at this season prior to the Reformation. The black paste-eggers made their calls in the evening after dark. They were simply mummers, masked, or with blackened faces, and dressed as hideously as they could devise. One in each band was surmounted with a stuffed horse's head, and was covered with a horse-cloth, the representative, doubtless, of the ancient hobby-horse. The custom of lifting on Easter Monday

and Tuesday, supposed to commemorate the lifting of Christ from the cross, was common, but is now almost abandoned. Rushbearing and morrice-dancing have long since disappeared. A May-pole used to stand on a green near the present Lord Nelson public-house. A thatched house adjoining the present inn, pulled down in 1846, was the old public-house, and bore the sign of the Swan, of which seventy years ago one Oliver Halton was the landlord. Before the passing of the "Beer Act," or at least up to a short period previous to its passing, there were only nine public-houses in the township, viz., "The Bird i'th' Hand," "The Red Lion," "The Lord Nelson," "The Cross Keys," "The Bull," "The Hand and Banner," "The Swan," and "Brown Cow," Hindley Green, and "The King William," Platt Bridge.

Mourning coaches were never used at funerals. If the distance was short between the home of the departed and the place of burial, the body was carried on a bier, the mourners following on foot. If the distance was considerable, a hearse conveyed the body, which was attended by relatives and friends on horseback.

A pretty custom, now confined to the lower classes, and which even from them is ~~now~~ departing, formerly prevailed at all funerals. Sprigs of evergreen, chiefly consisting of rosemary, lavender, or box, were handed round to the funeral guests. These were carried by them to church, and thrown upon the coffin after it was lowered in the grave, as emblems of immortality, and tokens of their faith in the Resurrection.

One more story and I have done.

The authorities of the township used to walk the bounds, as it was called—that is, they perambulated every now and then the boundary line of the township, in order to keep alive in the minds of the inhabitants its exact and precise limits. It was easy enough to inform the adult where the line was drawn, but they had the rising generation to teach as well, maps, be it remembered, being then scarce, and they hit upon a

notable expedient. They caught some lad they happened to meet, and carried him to any place where the boundary was not clearly defined, and gave him a good thrashing, thinking it would be a means of fixing the spot in his memory ever afterwards.

I have now brought my chronicle to a close. If it serves to preserve any fact relating to the township or any name worthy of being remembered, the object with which it was undertaken will be attained.