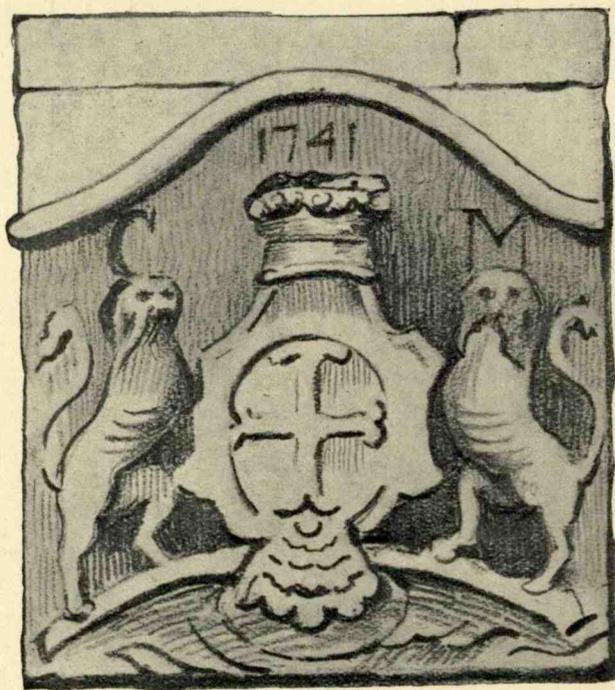


KEYSTONE, STAND HOUSE, AINTREE



PANEL AT THE DEER-HOUSE, STAND HOUSE

SOME ARMORIAL HOUSE-TABLETS IN LANCASHIRE

*Drawn by W. F. Price, with Notes by J. Paul
Rylands, F.S.A., and the Artist*

THE illustration of fifty examples of house-tablets in Mr. Price's work, "Inscribed and Dated Stones on some old Lancashire Houses,"¹ excited a good deal of local interest, although these tablets, with two exceptions, were not armorial, and for the most part related to persons of yeoman rank. It has been suggested that a series of drawings of local house-tablets displaying armorial bearings would be of even more interest, and might be issued from time to time in the volumes of the Historic Society; accordingly, as a first instalment, the accompanying six drawings have been made by Mr. Price.

Commencing within a radius of a few miles from Liverpool, the locality of the first four illustrations may be found to the north of the city, in the flat tract of country around Aintree and Altcar; the world-wide fame of these two places might entitle this district to be termed the Sportsman's Corner of Lancashire.

The tablets shown in Figs. 1 and 2 are both at Stand House, Netherton. Stand House is situated one mile to the west of Aintree Station; the house itself presents no features of interest, has prob-

¹ "Inscribed and Dated Stones on some old Lancashire Houses," drawn and lithographed by William Frederick Price. Privately printed 1901. Liverpool: Gilbert G. Walmsley, printer, 50 Lord Street. Small 4to. Preface i-iii. 50 plates.

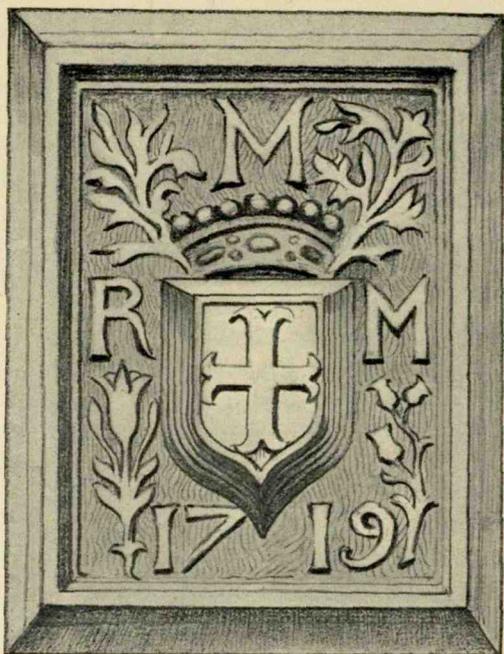
ably been altered from time to time, and is now used as a farm-house. It was the residence of the Molyneux family until their removal to Croxteth Hall in the eighteenth century. Fig. 1 represents the keystone of the arched door of the barn; the shield and cross are cut in relief, and the initials and date, CM 1740, are incised. The stone is somewhat weathered and damaged.

Fig. 2 is a carved panel inserted in the stonework on the north side of a building at Stand House known as "the deer-house." The deer-house is built of yellow sandstone, and, owing to the soft nature of the stone, the panel is very much weathered; the shield and supporters are in relief, and the initials and date, CM 1741, are incised.

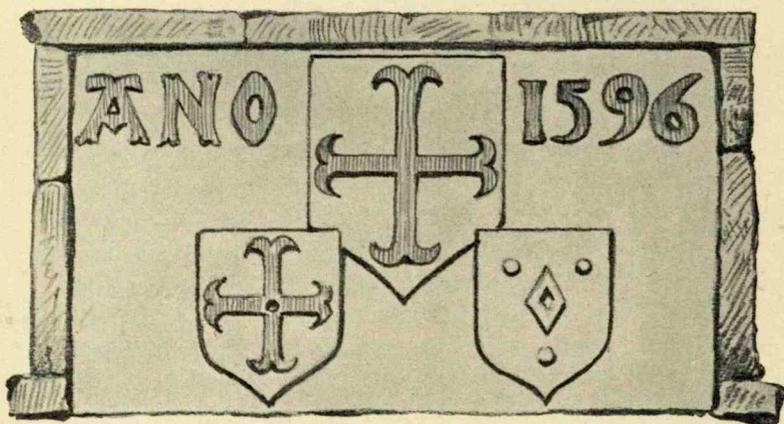
These stones both display the armorial bearings of Caryll, sixth Viscount Molyneux of Maryborough, who succeeded to the title in 1738 on the death of his brother, died unmarried, and was buried at Sefton Church, 13th November 1745.

Fig. 3 may be found on the front of a farm-house of quite modern appearance, about half a mile north-west of Aintree Station. The house faces the road and racecourse, and in the Ordnance Survey Maps is dignified by the appellation "Hall."

This stone panel, carved in high relief, is still in a good state of preservation. The initials $\overset{M}{RM}$ stand for Richard, fifth Viscount Molyneux, who succeeded to the peerage on the death of his father in 1718, died without male issue, and was buried at Sefton Church, 15th December 1738, aged 60. He had married, in or about 1705, Mary, daughter of Francis, Lord Brudenell, but their only son, William, died in 1706; their daughter, Mary, became the wife first of Thomas Clifton of Lytham, and secondly of William Anderton of Euxton. The



PANEL, FARM-HOUSE, AINTREE



PANEL, GOORE HOUSES, ALTCAR

Hon. Richard Molyneux was one of the English Catholic Nonjurors of 1715 who refused to take the oaths to George II. ; he then had a house at Much Woolton.

The next illustration, Fig. 4, is at Goore Houses, in Altcar, a mile and a half north-west from Maghull Station. Goore Houses are a group of isolated farmsteads on the eastern border of the great plain of fertile meadow lands, through which the little river Alt finds its way to the sea.

The house into which this panel has been inserted has probably undergone some re-building ; it is built or faced with brick, and stands upon a stone plinth, has no architectural features of interest, and is now used as a farm-house. The panel is formed of a solid slab of stone, with a brick weather moulding ; the carving is in relief, and the stone has been painted cream colour, with the lettering, date, and crosses dark red. It is dated 1596, and has an unusual heraldic display of three shields. The larger one, which is above the other two, bears the plain cross-moline of the family of Molyneux of Sefton, and is probably intended to represent the landlord and lessor. The other two shields, which are side by side, we may assume to be those of the lessee and his wife. They show (1) the arms of Molyneux, with a lozenge-shaped piercing in the centre of the cross-moline, and (2) the well-known coat of Osbaldeston of Osbaldeston.

It is not easy to give an exact explanation of these three shields, but Mr. R. D. Radcliffe has kindly supplied the following note concerning the Molyneux and Osbaldeston alliances :—

Sir William Molyneux, of Sefton, Knight, fought at Flodden, and died in 1548. He married, as his second wife, Elizabeth, daughter and heiress of Cuthbert Clifton, by whom he had (among others) a son, Thomas, who married Cecily, one of the

daughters of Sir Alexander Osbaldeston, of Osbaldeston, Knight, who died in 1543. Her half-brother, John Osbaldeston, born 1507, died 1575-76, paid through his tenant, the widow of Laurence Baron, rent for "the half of Edge" in Sefton, and rent for a tenement in Netherton also, to Sir Richard Molyneux.

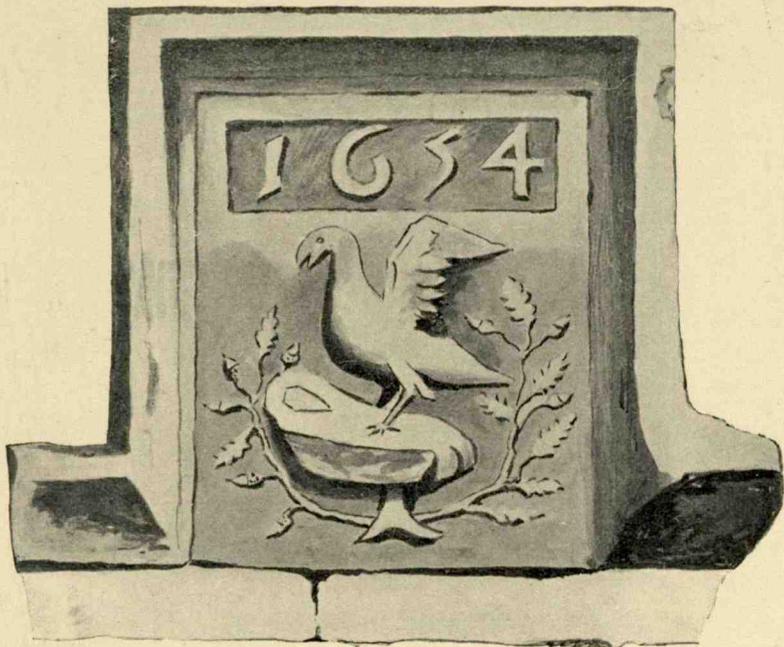
Cecily's sister-in-law, Eleanor, wife of her brother, Richard Osbaldeston, was living in Sefton in 1599. Eleanor's son, Edward Osbaldeston, married Margaret, daughter of John Molyneux, of Little Crosby, who was the third son of Sir Richard Molyneux, who died in 1568.

Another panel on the barn of this farm at Goore Houses is figured in "Inscribed and Dated Stones," page 34; this displays the Molyneux cross (not on a shield), accompanied by the initials $\begin{matrix} A \\ TA \end{matrix}$ of some tenant and the date 1741.

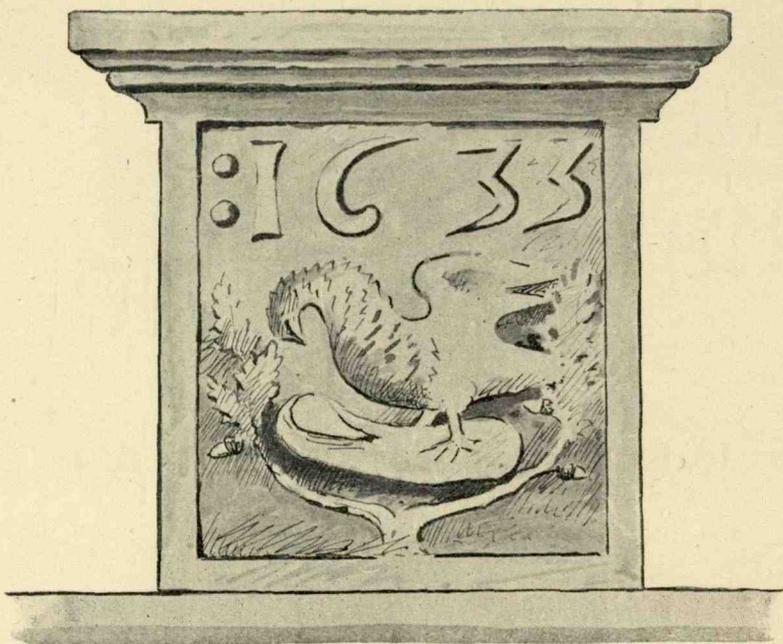
In Figs. 5 and 6 we have representations of the Eagle and Child, a cognisance of the House of Stanley, and the branches and leaves of a tree in each case show that the carving is intended to allude to the well-known legend of Oskatel de Lathom.

Fig. 5 is over the door of the west wing of Holland House, situated half a mile to the north of the village of Upholland in the parish of Wigan. Upholland is a quaint hill-side village, with steep and crooked streets; its beautiful Priory Church is about to be "restored" to celebrate the sixth centenary of the foundation of the Priory.

Holland House is approached through an avenue of trees—the house has been modernised—and externally is of no interest apart from the traces it bears in heraldic tablets and old spout-heads of its former owners or tenants. At the time this



PANEL, WEST END, HOLLAND HOUSE, UPHOLLAND



PANEL, DERBY HOUSE, UPHOLLAND

sketch was taken an old inhabitant of the village stated that he remembered a long stone terrace in front of the house on the south side. This has long since been removed. Some old ball finials were lying about, along with the remains of an arched stone doorway, probably a portion of the old entrance porch.

The panel, Fig. 5, was set up in the lifetime of Charles, eighth Earl of Derby, and is dated 1654. There is another and older panel, with shield, crest, helm and mantling, in the east wing of Holland House, dated 1619, but it has suffered so much from damage and weather that it is difficult to make out the details of the carving with certainty. The arms are evidently intended for those of the Holme family, who had been settled in Upholland since 1605, but they are incorrectly represented, and it is clear they were carved by some one who had no knowledge of heraldry. Instead of displaying Barry of eight and a canton charged with a chaplet, there are two thin bars, and on a canton four crosses patée 2 and 2. The crest, which should be a lion's head erased, ensigned with a cap of maintenance, appears as a demi-animal, with one paw, which looks like a badly-formed griffin. In the interior of Holland House there is a fine oak-panelled room, the panelling now painted white, and at the back of the house an old leaden spout-head marked $\begin{matrix} H \\ E M \\ 1707 \end{matrix}$. These initials probably refer to Edward Holme and his wife, who was a daughter of Walter Hastings, a direct descendant of Francis Hastings, K.G., Earl of Huntingdon. Their son Hugh married Ann Bankes of Winstanley in 1731 (see *Lanc. and Chesh. Hist. and Gen. Notes*, vol. ii. page 207).

Over the lintel of the back-door may be seen the initials I.A., which perhaps relate to one of the

Ashurst family, and on the south side of the house there is another leaden spout-head bearing the letters and date $\begin{matrix} B \\ R C \\ 1747 \end{matrix}$. These may relate to some tenant or possibly to one of the Bootle family.

Fig. 6 represents a panel on an old stone-built house, on the north side of the churchyard of Upholland, locally known as "Derby House," and perhaps formerly used for the Court's Leet of the Earl of Derby. The carving is considerably weathered. This panel, dated 1633, was set up in the lifetime of James Stanley, seventh Earl of Derby, known as "the Martyr Earl," who was beheaded at Bolton in 1651.

At the back of "Derby House" there is another panel showing the Legs of Man, another cognisance of the Stanleys, with the initials $\begin{matrix} L \\ S \end{matrix}$, R.C. 1C. and the date 1633; this is figured and described in "Inscribed and Dated Stones," page 50.

Close to Pimbo Lane Station and about a mile from the village of Upholland there is an old house known as "the Balcony." It is built of stone, and is approached through a pair of fine gate-piers with ball finials. The house is entered from a square porch, over which is a stone panel of the Eagle and Child. No date is visible, and the panel is much weathered.