SIR ROGER BRADSHAIGH'S LETTER-BOOK.

IN the collection of Mr. William Farrer at Hall Garth there is a manuscript volume of much interest concerning the internal history of Lancashire in the period immediately following the Restoration of Charles II., viz. from 1660 to 1676. It was formerly in the possession of Sir Thomas Phillipps, and is a small folio of 468 pages in a modern binding of blue morocco, lettered on the back "Military History of Lancashire, 1660–1676: Bradshaigh MS."[1] The book contains copies of various documents addressed to Sir Roger Bradshaigh of Haigh near Wigan in his capacity as one of the Deputy Lieutenants of the county, and a few other letters and papers. Sir Roger no doubt had them copied out for reference, and the order is (roughly) chronological. Many are formal merely, as the copy of the commission to the Earl of Derby as Lord Lieutenant and the like, but others throw light on the disturbed conditions which accompanied the restoration of Monarchy and led to the Revolution of 1688. Sir Roger was made a knight in 1660

[1] Mr. Robert Gladstone, jun., has pointed out that a century ago it was owned by Matthew Gregson, the Liverpool antiquary (see the *Imperial Magazine*, 1819, col. 328), who cites it, somewhat inaccurately, in his *Portfolio of Fragments* (2nd ed., p. 170*, 3rd ed., p. 159) under the title of "the Lord Lieutenant's Book." Gregson's errors misled the late E. W. Cox; *Trans. Hist. Soc.*, xlii. 195 *sqq.*

and a baronet in 1679; he represented the county in Parliament from 1660 until 1678, and was an active public man and zealous Royalist. He died in 1684.

I. Defence.

One of the first duties imposed on the Deputy Lieutenants was the raising and equipment of an effective militia or trained-band force, to be used in case of any appearance of sedition or insurrection such as might naturally be apprehended after the Civil War period. Foot soldiers to the number of 1800 were to be raised. From various notices it appears that a landowner with £500 a year was obliged to provide a horseman fully equipped; those with smaller incomes were joined together to make similar provision. This plan led to inquiry into the value of estates and to various complaints and excuses, of which the following are specimens:[1]—

The Names of such as are to Appear at Preston Dec. 15, 1662, to be Charged towards Fynding of Horse.

Darby Hundred.

Thomas Ashton of Penkett, Esq.
Thomas Tayler of Sanky.
Mris. Elizabeth Alcocke.
John Case, gent.
John Tetlow of Banke (?).
Mr. Mollineux of the Wood.
Mr. Mayle of Mayle-Clent.
Richard Lathom of Allerton, Esq., or his Agent.
Thomas Bootle of Mellinge, gent.
Mr. Henry Gerrard of Bamfarlonge.
The heires of Lathom of Mosborrow.

[1] The volume is in the handwriting of several different clerks or copyists. The spelling, but not the punctuation, has been followed in the present extracts, though it is that of the clerk and not of the original documents.

Mr. Robert Walthew of Pemberton.
Richard Mollineux of Hawkley, gent.
Mr. Vernam of Shakerley.
The heires of John Aspinwall } of Toxtoth Parke, gent.
The heires of John Fox }
Thomas Ashurst of Ashurst, Esq.
Nicholas Fezakerley of Spella House, gent.
Mr. Mercer of the Edge Layne.
Mr. Sorrocould of the Eay Bridge.
Tho. Blackeborne of Orford, gent.
John Launders of Ashton.
James Brettergh.
John Brotherton of Hays.

The above were probably gentlemen who had been overlooked at the first assessment or who had complained of being overburdened. The following orders were made at Preston in December, *1662*, respecting them :—

Mr. Mollinexe of Wood stands charged with one horse.
Robert Mercer of Edge Lane } to contribute
John Tetlocke of Bancke } proportionally
Mr. Bootle of Melling } to the same.
Dr. Sherlocke—one.
Mrs. Joane Owen—two; Mr. Cuthbert Ogles contributing for £250 per annum and Mr. Henry Ogles £100 per annum.
Sir Henry Slayter—one; the estate of Thomas Gerard of Ince contributing a moiety.
William Bancks, Esq.—one; Piers Leigh, Esq., contributing a third part.
Mrs. Alcoke—one; Richard Latham, Esq., contributing for £100 per annum; Mrs. Latham of Mosborrow, £140; and Nicholas Phizakerley of Spella House, £120.
Robert Whalthew—one; Richard Mollineuxe of Hawkley contributing for £130 per annum; Mr. Henry Gerrard of Bamferlonge, £100; and Mr. James Sorrocould of Ashton, £100.
Thomas Ashurst, Esq.—one; Thomas Blackeborne of Orford contributing for £150 per annum; John Landers and his son, £150.
Peter Stanley of Moore Hall—one; the heirs of Peter Legay of Childwell contributing for £200; James Halsall of Harlton, £100; and the heirs of Edward Aspinwall of Toxtaff Parke, £100.
Thomas Culcheth of Culcheth, Esq.—one; Mr. Vernam of Shakerley contributing for £100 per annum.

Three inquiries into the values of estates have been preserved :—

A Perticuler of the Estate of Clayton [le Woods].

	£	s.	d.
The Demeanes of Clayton per ann. . . .	130	0	0
The Reserved Rents and Cheefe Rents in Clayton, Whitle, and elsewhere in Leyland Hundred .	30	0	0
The Rent of the Milston quarry	13	6	8
The Tythes of Clayton	20	0	0
The Demeanes of Bardsey	40	0	0
The Tythes of Bardsey	13	0	0
Rents of Assize at Bardsey	17	0	0
Totall	263	6	8

A Perticuler of the Estate of Rufforth.

An Account of the Estate of John Molyneux and Thomas Hesketh of Rufforth, Esqrs., Given in by William Willson there Steward the 16th of December (1662).

	£	s.	d.
The rents of the Tenements and Cottages belonging to John Molyneux and Thomas Hesketh, Esqrs., per annum	221	16	0
The Demeanes of John Molyneux and Tho. Hesketh, Esqrs., per annum	515	0	0
	736	16	0
Paid out of the afforesaid Estate to Mrs. Hesketh per annum	50	0	0
In assessments, Taxes and Payments . . .	30	0	0
To the King's Chauntrys and Cheefe Rents per an.	9	5	0
Totall	89	5	0
which being deducted out the remaynder is	647	11	0

A PERTICULER OF MR. STARKY OF HUNTRED'S ESTATE TO BEE CONSIDERED OF.

	£	s.	d.
Huntreds Demeane per ann.	100	0	0
Rents in Simonstone	23	5	0
Rents in Padiham	25	8	8
Rents in Haptons	16	0	0
Rents in Hayhouse	3	0	0
Rents in Burnley	0	7	2
Rents in Thornley	38	0	0
Kempnough	45	3	8
Cleaworth	44	14	0
Rents in Salford	16	0	0
Rents in Kierseley	4	0	0
	315	18	6

Out of this is to be paid the King's Rent and all assessments, hearth moneys and other taxes.

Complaints and excuses were numerous :—

HON'ED SIR,—I think my selfe much wronged by one Holinhurst that is under your Command, whoe I here Rideth my light horse, but by what authority I know not. He never had my Consent, and my servant at Clayton hath beene ever against it as well as I. I hope, Sir, if I find a sufficient Ryder I may have the oppertunity of him my selfe, & humbly desire that you will please to accept of an other in his place. Hee hath mutch abused both my horse by ill usage and mee in his ill language and a servant of myne by striking of him; all which I shall make good unto you when I come into the Country. I pray, Sir, if my horse be disabled through his ill usage for a tyme to doe service, let him be spared for a little tyme till he can be recovered; & I shall bee as Ready as any both to provide a sufficient man and horse for his Majestis service, and at my Comming downe will Referr all things to you, and ever remaine, Sir, your humble servant, JAMES ANDERTON.

LONDON, *March 12th* (1660).

These, for Sir ROGER BRADSHAIGH, Knt.,
at Haigh, with my service.

SIR,—I receaved your sommons for Twoo light Horses to bee att Preston on Tuisday next; But I have had the misfortune of haveing my Arme out of Joynte, soe I ame forced to send Two

Horses for Doctor Richmond to Leverpoole to come to me. Soe I desire you to Excuse my not sendinge att this Tyme and I shall not fayle to send the next tyme. This beinge all from, Sir, your assured freind, MORLEY & MOUNTEAGLE.

March 6th, 1668.

These, for Sir ROGER BRADSHAIGH, Knt.,
att his House at Haigh: Present.

HON'ED SIR,—I am sorry you should have soe ill an opinion of mee (whom in your last you seeme to respect above my merit) as to thinke I would charge you with injustice. The truth is there was a mistake in you which occasioned that misapprehension of mee and my servant Roger Parr; for neither hee nor I did ever conceive that by the riding of my Troope Horse he should be freed from Paying the Leys and taxes which are due to his Majestie according to the proportion of his Estate —the which he ever hath and constantly doth pay as they become due—but that which I apprehend to have beene injurious in this matter is that hee should bee fined for not appeareing at the Muster to serve as a foote souldier when hee is Ready to serve as a Trooper whensoever he is caled on. This I shall humbly desire you will take so far into your consideration, if not to take of the Fine, yet at least to Retain your former good [opinion] of him who shall ever endeavour to approve himselfe your obliged freind & servt., EDW. MORTON.

SEPHTON, *May 27th* (69).

These, for his Honored Freind, Sir ROGER
BRADSHAIGH, Knt., at his House,
Haigh, These present.

DEARE PLAYFELLOW,—I would not have had the bouldness to have sent over Horse if this had not come too; but I supose you will not impuit the Fault to mee, haveing now Partners that will not bee willing to send an able Horse except it bee by spetiall order. Wherefore upon your dislicke I desire theire may bee an order ready against the next Randevouze to send in one that may be sufficient, and I shall bee very ready to obay it as to my owne perticuler. So wishing you may find good Wine and Ayle att Preston theise dayes to keepe could out, I am, Sir, your Playfull servant, ROBERT DALTON.

THURNHAM, *December the 28th*, 1671.

For Sir ROGER BRADSHAIGH, Knight, at his
House att Haigh, present These.[1]

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[1] Sir Roger's clerk has decorated his copy of this "playful" letter with sketches of three heads, each with a pipe in the mouth.

A copy of my Lord the Earle of DEVONSHIRE'S Command to Mr. SORROWCOULD concerning his tenants of Goulborne.

To acquaint Sir Roger Bradshaigh & some other of the Dept. Lievts. that I am very sensible of the wronge donne to my Mother's Tenants in Goulborne, they beinge charged with Militia Foote & my Mother with part of a horse for the same Estate; & noe Estate is to be Charged Double. And if they will not Redress it, give the Tenants notice not to pay any more. And if they be Distrayn'd Lett them Replevy and try the suit, & I shall beare them out in it. W. DEVONSHIRE.

This is a True Coppy of the Orriginall.
Examined by James Sorocould.

Lord Devonshire's stiff protest led to the Deputy Lieutenants seeking Counsel's opinions, four being given. While tenants at a rack-rent might be excused, those who held leases for lives were apparently regarded as landowners, and therefore liable in proportion with other landowners.

The money for the militia was raised by a weekly levy throughout the county.

The following "True Survey of the Castle of Leverpoole" was probably compiled in connection with the military defence of the county, but the date and circumstances are not recorded :—

Leverpoole Castle: on the east side the wall is 38 yards; north side, the wall is 36 yards; west side, the wall is 35 yards; and south side, the wall is 37 yards.

A True and Perfect Account what parts of the Castle of Leverpoole is Dismolisht according to an Order.[1]

The Gate-house, being the strongest parte of the castle, is pulled downe five yards in height.

One breach consisting of eighteene yards, and not a yard and halfe in height left standing, on the north side of the castle.

One other breach consisting of fourteene yards, not foure foote in height left standinge, on the west side of the said castle.

[1] Presumably the Parliamentary Order of 4th July 1659; *Commons Journals*, vii. 704 *sqq*.

One other breach consistinge of nyne yards and one foote, in place whereof are built a slight pare of staires for the useage of two upper roomes, on the north [south] syde of the said castle.

One other breach consistinge of seaven yeards and one foote, and not foure foote high, on the south side of the said castle.

Betwixt which two breaches to the intir [entire] wall is built a horse mill which in breadth is not above eight yeards, and that pulled downe must likewise distroy the horse mill.

On the east syde of the said castle is built to the wall a slight timber buildinge for lodging roomes and stables.

Two small towers about tenne foote square apeece, being much out of repayre.

One little dwellinge house, built by Birch, adioyninge to the walle on the west side of the said castle.

In 1672 the press-gang was at work to obtain men for the Navy in view of the war with Holland. It appears from the subjoined return that 169 men had been seized in the county, and 65 Lancashire men had been pressed in other places; also that there were 418 other seamen available, of whom 200 were abroad.

AN ACCOUNT OF SEAMEN PREST AND OF SHIPS, MEN, AND TUNNES OF VESSELLS IN THIS COUNTY, MAY 20 (72).

Seamen Prest within the County of Lancaster.

In Derby Hund.

Prest by the Prestmasters & formerly sent	61
Prest by the Captaines	28
Now Prest at Liverpoole Ready to goe	13
Prest abroade	65

In Amounderness Hund.

Prest formerly	9
Now Prest.	24

Loynsdall.

Prest formerly	14
Now Prest.	20
	234

Totall Prest in this county by the Prest-maisters and Captaines	169
Totall Tuns	3123
Men besides Maisters	418
Whereof there is now abroade	200
Remaines at home, of which some are Boyes and some old and unfitt for service . .	218

The following are the names of those pressed in West Derby Hundred. It will be noticed that both "boys" and "old" are included :—

Formby [14].
Phillip Norres, aged 56.
Henry Formby, 64.
Richard Rydinge, 63.
John Rymer, 65.
John Rymer, 40.
Richard Sutton, 35.
William Bushell, 53.
Richard Williamson, 20.
Thomas Warton, 21.
James Formby, 23.
Thomas Rymer, 35.
Richard Dobb, 22.
John Longton, 27.
Thomas Birchall, 23.

Crosby [5].
Gilbert Marsh, aged 19.
Thomas Widow, 18.
Peter Jumpe, 24.
Thomas Rymer, sen., 45.
Corneliam Blundell, 22.

Ince Blundell [7].
Robert Tompson, aged 65.
Tho. Tomlinson, 30.
Tho. Formby, 25.
William Meadowes, 25.
Richard Blevin, 60.
James Rymer, 50.
Hugh Brickell, 52.

Downholland [1].
James Leevesley, aged 30.

Alker [2].
Henry Gilbertson, aged 60.
Richard Louelady, 40.

Leverpoole [49].
Wm. Robinson, aged 20.
Michaell Guyle, 18.
Richard Erby, 24.
Richard Marsh, 24.
James Rymer, 18
Gilbert Gumpe, 17.
Nehemi. Wainewright, 16.
John Parker, 16.
John Foster, 20.
Joseph Tarleton, 18.
Edw. Tarlton, 18.
Peter Dawson, 30.
John Lancellet, 26.
Oliver Stones, 30.
John Harrison, 20.
John Boates, 30.
Henry Goore, 22.
Thomas Collon, 20.
Richard Mercer, 30.
John Davis, 25.
And. Pares, 30.
William Richardson, 40.
William Williamson, 50.
Thomas Linaker, 60.
Richard Robinson, 16.
Jo. Eve, 35.
William Sands, 28.
Richard Eve, 20.
Wm. Jumpe, 55.

Wm. Shurlaker, 23.
Edw. Right, 22.
Edw. Dobb, 21.
Mich. Barker, 63.
Ben. Charnocke, 65.
Rich. Edgker, 20.
Sam. Semome, 20.
Rich. Earleton, 40.
Jo. Sincoke, 16.
Chrofer. Robinson, 20.
James Rothwell, 24.
William Widowe, 30.
Thomas Tyrer, 30.
Thomas Jumpe, 16.
Richard Barnes, 20.
John Earleton, 17.
Thomas Edge, 24.
John Bradley, 21.
Edward Higginson, 20.
Robert Burt, 35.

II. Sedition.

As above stated, one of the objects in view in forming and training the militia was the suppression of disturbances. These were anticipated from two sections of the community, often closely allied in sympathy, namely, the old Cromwellian soldiers and political admirers of the subverted republic, and the minor religious bodies usually classed together as "the fanatics," a term which seems to include Anabaptists, Quakers, and Fifth Monarchy men. The zealous Royalists like Sir Roger Bradshaigh were suspicious and eager to check any tendency to open disaffection. A rumour from Chorley about some rising in 1660–61 at once led to inquiry:—

Worshipfull Sir,—In obedience to your command by your letter I shall relate what I heard concerning the Passages therein mencioned, which was as followeth:

Uppon St. Stephen's day I comeinge from Euxton Burghe, beinge on horsebacke, meeteinge with Will. Melling of Hartwood greene (who hath beene as great sufferer for his Majesti as anie in Lancashire of his degree & quality), hee came out of his owne feilds into the laine to mee. And beinge antient familiar aquaintance, espetially in suferinge, hee demanded me what newes; and I haveinge litle to relate to him, he tould mee that he was affraid theire would bee some riseinge. I askinge him the reason why hee should thinke soe, he tould me that his servant John Smith, whoe liveth in the lower part of his & taketh parte of his tenement upon racke rent, came in one night about a weeke before and tould him and his Family that hee had heard two men talke-

inge such words that if it were knowne they deserved to be imprisoned. And beeinge questioned by the said Will. Mellinge what theire discourse was, hee said that hee the said John Smith beinge on the one side hedge and they on the other in the night tyme, the one of them asked the other what they did about meeting & raysing of soldiers in the Towne.[1] To which his fellow replyed, "They can raise none, but theire will bee a Hundred souldiers raised in this Towne with Armes upon dayes Warninge, and those which will not rise wee will hange them att their owne dooers;" (and speakinge to his fellowe hee said, "If thou arise not with us uppon an houres warninge wee will hange thee too"). This was Will. Mellinge his relacion to mee, which I have truly Imparted to your worshipp, and desire that in regard I have hitherto lived peaceably that my duty to his Majesties Cause maie not nowe bringe me trouble, for Will. Mellinge will upon examinacion disclose as much as I have writtne if not more. And soe wishinge I may bee esteemed his Majestie's true subject and your worship's humble servant, ROBERT BALDWINE.

CHORLEY, 29*th Jan.* (60).

To the Rt. Wor'll Sir ROGER BRADSHAIGH, Kt., at Haigh.

FOR WILL. CROSS OF MY TROOPE.

Whereas I am credibly inform'd that one John Smith, of Hartwood Greene neare Chorley, hath heard some susputious word tendinge to a riseinge in Armes in and Aboute Chorley, theise are to Command you to bringe me the said John Smith that according to his duty and Aleageance to his Majestie and his service hee may reveale what hee knoweth concerninge the buisiness aforesaid. Given under my hand at Haigh the 29th day of January (1660). ROGER BRADSHAIGH.

The Presbyterians were mostly Royalists, and had actively forwarded the King's restoration; but they were naturally aggrieved when the anticipated religious accommodation was denied them, and some wild talk went on just before the "Black Bartholomew" (August 24), when the Act of Uniformity was to be enforced. As the Presbyterians and Independents were very strong in South-east Lancashire, Margaret Smith's hot words, or the

[1] This probably refers to the militia.

informer's report of them, gained much more attention than they deserved, as the subsequent proceedings reveal:—

Inform. capt. apud HAIGH coram ROGERO BRADSHAIGH, Milit. 25° June (1662).

Saturday, June the 21th (1662).

Thomas Gorton of Aspull, laborer, saith that hee heard Margrett Smith of Westhoughton, widow (upon discourse of the Act of Uniformity), say that rather than they Ministers (meaning Presbits) would conforme they would resist; and if they weare forced to conforme there would be a ryseinge, of her knowledge. And being asked how that could bee and who shold head them, shee sayd, "My Lord Booth, Coll. Rawsthorne & Major Harrison;" and that though wee thought the Militia soe sure to us, yet that most of all the Traynd Bands in Salford Hundred would bee of there syde.

Sunday, June the 22th.

The said Thomas Gorton came to me againe, and said hee had againe spoken to the said Margrett Smith that day at Blackrod and would have knowne something more of her Concerning that business, pretendinge that hee would take theire part. Shee said shee could tell him noe more that day, for the messenger that was to bring them Intelligence would not bee there till late; but afterwards shee would tell him more.

Tuesday, June the 24th.

The said Thomas Gorton came to mee againe, & and said that the same woman tould him (Robert Browne of Aspull being in a private place and heard her & alsoe did testify it before mee) that shee being that day at Hindley Chapell did see one John Leech deliver severall letters to Mr. Tildesley, Parson of Deane Church; & being asked what they were, shee sayd "Tending towards a ryseinge," & allsoe tould him that the messenger came the Sunday at night before to Blackerode about the same buisiness & sett up his horse at James Gregorys in Aspull; and said that the Quakers and Presbs would Joyne together. And being asked what party or who they would ryse against, shee said "Against the Parliament, because they made the act against their Religion;" and said alsoe that Mr. Woods of Ashton, Mr. Astley of Blackrod, Mr. Welch of Chorley, Mr. Tildesley of Deane would goe into Scotland & many more Parsons that would not conforme. And being againe asked who would head the Party shee said that shee

had a letter of it that my Lord Booth, Coll. Rawsthorne and Major Harrison and one behind Preston which she could not Remember the name of. But the said Thomas Gorton nameing Major Robinson to her, shee said shee thought that it was hee; and said that the Riseing would bee before Boulton Fayre (or within a moneth), and that one Ralph Ellison of Hindley was listed but under who shee knew not; and forther said that all the 4 Preachers before named weare to Preach all of one day the next weeke at Chowbent & after that would goe into Scotland. And being asked whether they would ryse against the Kinge or noe, shee sayd "Noe, but they would have the Queene Downe"; and sayd againe that those in Salford Hundred (meaning the Militia Souldiers) would bee for them.

July 7th.

James Barton of Blackerod informed & sayth that hee heard Thomas Fenton, a youth that liveth upon Chorley Moore, say that hee knew of a greate deale of Armes hid at Duxbury and that hee was at the hiding of them himselfe.

Sir Roger Bradshaigh had written to Mr. Holt of Castleton and received letters in reply, of which he gives the following summary:—

"It is Mr. Holt's opinion that I ought to take the Information upon Oath & that I may sertify it to the Councell without any other Justice to Joyne with mee."

Sir Roger had also written the following letter to the Clerk of the Council (Sir Edward Nicholas). Having sealed it up he sent it to Lord Derby to deliver, apparently without informing him of the contents, and received a gentle reprimand for so doing. This was the letter to Sir E. Nicholas:—

Most Honoured Sir,—In pursuance of my bounden duty to his Majestie I humbly sertify that the first part of the information enclosed I took upon Saturday at night last, but in prosecution of a further discovery in the same business I delayd my duty in sertifying the same till this day[1]; which I most humbly begg pardon for. I must confess the Information in generall depends upon a woman who is a Constant resorter to those frequent Excersiyses of pretended Godliness which is used in most

[1] Apparently Tuesday, 24th June.

private Chapells in this County and which without speedy care taken by the Bushops will be the meanes to Compleat the designe of our enemys. As for my Lord Booth, Coll. Rawsthorne, and Major Harrison (mentioned in the information) I can say little: For the first hee is the best knowne to his Majesty & his Councell; and for Coll. Rasthorne I humbly take leave to say hee hath beene reputed a well wisher to his Majesty's restauration ever since hee deserted the first Warr; but since the information hath brought his name in question I have but done my duty to returne it, and leave that and the consideration of the rest to the resolution of the King and Councell. Upon which I shall with all Loyall duty expect their Commands, and in the meane tyme endeavor a further and more materiall discovery, which shall bee most faythfully performed to the utmost power of his Majestis most dutyfull and Loyall subject and your humble servant,

ROGER BRADSHAIGH.

Lord Derby wrote as follows :—

SIR ROGER BRADSHAIGH,—Mr. Secretary Nicholas haveing read your informations advised mee to acquaint my Deputy Leivtenants of Lancashire therewith, which accordingly I have done, and to you that he conceaves you will doe well to binde over to the sizes those that are guilty. What further you know I hope you will acquainte my Dept. Leivtenants therewith. And hereafter you neede not be soe shie as to conceale the arguments of such letters as you make mee the messenger, if not to send them mee with a flying seale, which will be more mannerly and truly as discreete. However, I thank you for your zeale you express to his Majesty's service, which I doe conjecture might bee the occasion of the irregularitie. This is all from your affte. freind,

C. DERBY.

DERBY HOUSE, 3*d of July* (1662).

For Sir ROGER BRADSHAIGH, at
Haigh in Lanc.

SIR ROGER BRADSHAIGH,—Haveing yesterday received a letter from my Lord of Derby with your informations to Secretary Nicholas, I am comanded therein to enquire further of you concerning them, & willingly would I have your opinion of it to mee. As I would not trouble the Contry with needless feares, soe would I upon the least well grounded suspition secure the Peace of the County. Therefore, I pray, obleige mee so far as to send mee by this my servant what more you knowe concerning this & dispatch my servant away. And I shall give further

notice to my Bretherne in this imployment & remaine your affectionate freind and servant,

W. SPENCER.

July 9th (1662).
ASHTON [LANCASTER].

For his very much esteemed freind Sir
ROGER BRADSHAIGH, at Haigh.

Sir Roger seems to have given early notice of the informations to Colonel Rawstorne, who replied at length :—

SIR,—I receaved yours, and least that too great a preiudice rest uppon your thoughts against mee and that I should seeme to slight your freindly reprehention, I shall trouble you with this (which otherwayes I would have omitted) beecause sensible of the misconstructions that are incident (untill I had the opportunitye of waiting of you), remitting it unto your Candid interpretation. I knowe not what informations may be geven you and theirefore cannot returne any other then a generall answer, which is this : As to the frequent meetings of persons not conformable to the Government of our Church I am no way privy to nor acquainted with them more then you or any one else may be, and that is by report; for there was no Preaching at Chowbent these manie Months but upon Sundays, nor elsewhere that I was present at but at Leigh, at the monthly exercise or Lecture which hath continued sixtye yeares and upwards and I hope may doe by the favour and indulgence of our Bishop as of his predecessors formerly (conformable men preaching); and I may repayre thither at such tymes (I presume) with out offence to any that affect religious practises. And whether such as I then heard were non-conformable or no I cannot determine, because I conceive I may not properly terme them soe untill they bee thereof Convicted, our lawes condemning no one before they bee heard or that a verdict hath Passed against them. But I leave that to your better iudgment, and shall say no more least that you Judge mee to favour them to much; which indeed I doe not att all (quatenus non-conformists) but shall bee readye and willing to exert that power Given us for prevention of unlawfull meetings or punishment of such offenders, provided wee goe regularly to worke and first prove them to be soe, and then proceede as the Lawe enjoyne. For 'tis possible diverse may conforme when putt to itt or it might be soe alledged if wee proceede otherways. And it is to bee well considered what power wee have as yet by the last Act, or by those before, untill the day limited be over; for the words are that the severall good Lawes and Statutes of this Realm which have beene formerly made and are now in force for

the uniformitie of prayer, &c., shall bee applyed, practised and put in use for the punishing of all offences contrary to the said Lawes with relation to the booke afforesaid and no other; and how farr it may extend I submit it, Concluding our Cessions to bee a fitt tyme (sith 'tis now soe neare) to agree mutually to ioyne all in one way of proceeding, that soe wee may discharge our dutys and remaine unanimus. And in the meane tyme beleive it (whatever may bee suggested to the contrary) I am an obedient and dutifull sonne of the Church of England and shall assert it to the world as I have occation. Which with my thanks to you for all your respects, and tender of mine with my service both to your selfe and good lady, begging your pardon for this prolixitie, I remaine your affectionate freind to serve you, L. RAWSTHORNE.

ATHERTON, *July* 1 (1662).

For my Truly Hon'rd freind Sir ROGER BRADSHAIGH at Haigh, his House, These present.

SIR,—Our Cessions and the meeting at Manchester are one and the same tyme; how that can bee amended you best knowe.

An order was issued for the arrest of one Robert Hough, but the name is not mentioned again in the Letter-Book :—

Comit. Lanc.

Whereas I am credibly inform'd upon Oath that Robert Hough of Boulton in the afforesaid County, Laborer, hath spoken severall Treasonable & seditious words against his Majesty and tendinge to the breach of his Majestis peace of his Leige People of his Kingdome of England, These are therefore in his Majestis name straightly to charge and command you that imediatly upon receipt hereof you Apprehend and take into safe Custody the body of the sayd Robert Hough and him safly bringe before mee and other his Majestis Justices of Peace at the house of Thomas Sumners in Preston upon Tuisday next, being the 8th of this instant July, by ten of the Clocke; that there hee may answer to such things as by the said Justices on his Majestis behalfe will bee obiected against him. Fayle not herein as you will answer the Contrary at your utmost perill. Given under my hand and seale at Haigh, July 7th (1662).

ROGER BRADSHAIGH.

To all the Maiors, sheriffes, balifes, & Constables & all other his Majestis officers, & espetially to the Constables of Boultons in the Moores.

Other rumours of Nonconformist discontent reached Sir Roger about the same time, as in the following, the first of which he describes as "Part of a letter sent from my Brother Lawyer":—

My dear Sir Roger,—Haveing returned Information of some designe Intended to bee sett on Foote by your Boulteners upon St. Margretts day I conversed yesterday with Major Byrom, Mr. Justice Mosseley and Capt. Houme, All Loyall persons, and will bee Active in theire severall stations; And have alsoe Promissed to carry on the Counter Plott with reservdness.

But to confirme that discovery which hath beene made to you Mr. Justice Mossley desyred to have you accquainted with this Passage. It seemes that Parson Piggott [1] not longe agoe was with him and tould him that hee had it from a Parson (who had very good Intelligence) that there was a most desperate designe now on foote which was to bee Acted by the Blackeburne men and Boulteners. This seemes to agree with the other story, and it hath occasion'd the sendinge of this Messenger at this tyme. Men cannot bee too sollitious for their owne and theire Country's safety, espetially at this instant when there is nothinge but an Alerum sounded from the Pulpitts. I shall thinke it Convenyent that P. Piggott were sent to To produce his Author and to have him examin'd upon Oath; which you may doe very conveniently if you goe to Preston on Tuisday, where there will bee a Generall meetinge of the Commissioners for Charging Officers.

R. P. [2]

Noble Sir,—If a strict and speedy Order bee not taken with the factious Party aboute Leigh, Eccles, Deane, &c., I freely beeleave that neither you nor any of the King's Subjects can sleepe securely. I have sufficient ground for what I write and had thought to have acquainted you more at Large. Pardon my boldness, I humbly begg, and use your one discretion.—Sir, yours if accepted, Johnathan Gelybrand.

July the 7th, 1662.

Right Worshipfull,—My pen shold not have assumed the Boldness of writeing to your selfe but that I feared the miscarriage hereof if directed to my Brother (being sent by John Cadman now upon his jorney towards London). Sir, the occasion is as Followeth. Yesterday there came into Serjeant Bostock's house in this Towne one James Bolton & Lowde

[1] Rector of Brindle and Vicar of Rochdale.
[2] Probably one of the Penningtons.

both of Blackeborne hundred; and after some discourse Boulton addressed himselfe to serjeant Bostocke with these (or such like) expressions (vizt.): "Well now, I am one that come to Preston to buy Corne, but All the Presbiterians and Independants about Manchester Joyne together and within this six Weekes you shall see mee in Preston with Horse and Armes amongst many others in the like equipage. And for this Towne of Preston you are All Cavaliers and must bee sequestred againe." And for Lowde hee asked the serjeant what Mr. Cole[1] was, and afterwards said, "Let him bee of what perswasion hee will, hee is an honest man and is engaged in this business."

Sir, this is the substance of what I remember of the 2 severall informacions given by the said Serjeant Bostocke to Mr. Maior & Mr. Rigby This day. Upon which Mr. Rigby hath sent forth his Warrants by Abell Mosse of this Towne (of whom my Brother can Inform your Worship) to apprehend the blads, and wee hope to see them here this night. If not, they will bee brought to morrow to the Justices at Ormskirke Sessions, whither Mr. Rigby is already gone to waite on them. Sir, I thought my selfe in some measure obleiged to give your worshippfull this short & sharp narrative of this transaction, and humbly begg you will indulge mee that respect as not to comunicate the contents too publickly (being onely knowne to some 4 or 5 persons here). This oppertunity of sending hath prevented my coming to Wigan to morrow, which otherwise I had resolved to doe upon this very account. The rest is the humble service of, Sir, your most humble & devoted servant,

THO. HODGKINSON.

13° *Julij*, 1662.
For the Rt. Worsp'll Sir ROGER
BRADSHAIGH, at Haigh,
These present.

The Deputy Lieutenants residing in the northern end of the county thus replied to Sir Roger's representations :—

LEIGHTON, 15° *July*, 1662.

SIR ROGER,—Wee have upon your Letter and Information meete this day, being the fifteenth instant, at Leighton, where wee did consult of a Generall meeting to bee at Preston upon the 22th of this instant; and in the meane tyme desire your vigilance and care in those your parts to prevent all future dangers which may Accrew by the Presbiterians or other factions

[1] Vicar of Preston. He resigned in 1662, but soon afterwards conformed.

which tends to the disturbance of the peace and quiet of the Kingdome and the subvertion of his Majesties present Governement; and with all to give strict Charge and Comand to the persons most concerned in this buisiness, vizt., Thomas Gorton, Margrett Smith, Jon. Leech, Mr. Tildesley, Parson of Deane Church, James Gregory of Aspull, Ralph Elison of Hindley, and Robert Browne, to bee at our next Generall meeteing at Preston aforesaid in theire owne proper persons to bee examined before us and proceeded against as wee in our opinions shall thinke fitt. Alsoe wee have writt to Mr. Holt to continue the forces that are on foote now in those parts, till further order from us, according to the last order.—Sir, your affectionate freinds & servants,

W. SPENCER.
GEORGE MIDDLETON.
ROBT. BINDLOSS.

For Sir ROGER BRADSHAIGH at Haigh.

Sir, wee desire you to meete us at Preston.

Rumours of the matter meantime reached Lord Delamere, one of those named by the informers, and he sent the following dignified letter to Sir Roger Bradshaigh :—

SIR,—I am informed that your selfe & some other Justices of the Peace in your Countey have had things in Examination Concerninge divers persons—Amongst others, my selfe. I should have hoped from you that Neighbourly good office to have heard from you before soe Generall a Report had beene spread Abroade; But faylinge of such A Civill Advertisement I have sent these to desire from you a Copie of all such Examinations, As beinge Resolv'd to Vindicate my Actions & to make use of all Lawfull Meanes to make Examples of all such bold & impudent detractors whomsoever they bee that have beene the Contrivers of this Rumer.—I am, Sir, your servant, DELAMER.

DUNHAM MASSIE, *July 11th* (1662).

These, for Sir ROGER BRADSHAIGH.

When a formal investigation was made by the magistrates, the charges turned out to be baseless, as is shown in the subjoined record of the examination of witnesses.

Informations taken at Manchester in the County afforesaid the seavententh day of July, Anno R.R. Caroli Scdi. Anglie, &c. Decimo quarto, before Sir ROGER BRADSHAIGH, Knt., Sir RALPH ASHTON, Knt. & Bart., ROB. HOLTE, LEONARD EGERTON, JOHN LEGHTBOUNE, NICHOLAS MOSSLEY, and JOHN HARTLEY, Esqrs.

Anne Taylor, wife of Thomas Taylor of Westhoughton in the County afforesaid, laborer, Informeth upon oath that about a fortnight since Margret Smith of Westhoughton in the County aforesaid, widdow, left word with her this Informer that shee must tell Thomas Gorton of Westhoughton aforesaid that the business concerning Chesshire did not prevayle for that the other party & shee were disapoynted. And this informer further sayth that upon Tuisday was seavennight the said Thomas Gorton desired her this informer to tell the said Margrett from him that hee would desire shee would discover soe much before the Com^rs^ then sittinge at Preston as shee had done to him, and as much more as shee knew; and that if shee was not willinge to discover it before them, that shee would discover it before the said Sir Roger Bradshaigh when the said Sir Roger should bee by him selfe, for the said Gorton said that as much as the said Margrett had tould unto him hee had sworne unto before. And this informer further saith that the said Gorton further said to this informer That if the said Margrett Smith would swear the truth and nothinge but the truth, the said Sir Roger Bradshaigh would take her to his Hall at Haigh & shee should never need mayntenance nor never need to turne her wheele about. And this informer goeing afterwards to the said Margrett Smith & tellinge her what the said Gorton had said, shee the said Margrett said shee would not speake to him the said Gorton.

ANNE O TAYLER
her marke.

James Laithwayte, one of the Constables of Westhoughton in the County afforesaid, Fustianman, Informeth upon oath That upon Tuisday was seavennight hee this informer, goeing with the said Margret Smith to the Com^rs^ then sitting att Preston (haveing before apprehended the said Margrett by virtue of a Warrant to him directed from the said Sir Roger Bradshaigh) the said Margret tould this informer that the said Thomas Gorton came to her & offered her severall Rewards to speake such things as hee would have her to speake. And this informer afterwards Inquireinge of the said Gorton whether hee had offered such Rewards to the said Margret as afforesaid, hee the said Gorton

said to him this informer hee had offered her any Reward hee could to say what hee would have her to say, pretending hee was one of theire party. JAMES LAYTHWAITE.

John Grimshaw of Aspull in the County afforesaid, husbandman, Informeth upon oath that upon Saturday was seavenight this informer cominge to the dwellinge house of Ellizabeth Rensley, widdow, in Aspull afforesaid, hee mett there the said Thomas Gorton, who Inquired of this Informer whether hee heard anythinge of the Riseinge that was to bee by the Presbiteriance. Whereunto this informer Replyed hee did not. And the said Gorton afterwards said that this informer did know, but this Informer said further that he did not. And the said Gorton further Inquired of him this Informer where hee heard not Major Harrison say something of it. And this Informer Replyd hee neither heard the said Major Harrison nor noe one els say anythinge of [it]. And this Informer further saith that at the tyme that this Informer was in the said Kersley's house the said Gorton said to the said Elizabeth Kersley (the said Elizabeth then Complayning that the thymes were heard), "If you will reveale that that you know, [you] may weare a Gowne." To which the said Elizabeth Replyed she knew nothinge. And the said Gorton further said to the said Elizabeth that shee beinge in the Company that shee was every day, shee could not but heare and know somethinge. JOHN **HH** GRIMSHAW.
his marke.

Capt. coram nobis

RALPH ASSHTON,
ROGER BRADSHAIGH, JO. LIGHTBOUNE,
ROBTE. HOLTE, NICH. MOSLEY,
LEO. EGERTON, JO. HARTLEY.

At Preston, July 23th, 1662.

The Examination of JOHN LEECH before Mr. SPENCER, Sir ROBERT BINDLOSS, Mr. HOLTE, and Mr. PRESTON.

That whereas hee is accused that hee delivered Letters to Mr. Tildsley, Minister of Deane Church, att a meeting at Hinley Chappell the 24th of June, hee denies that hee delivered any Letters to him att all or spoke to him that day.

JOHN LEECH.

The Examination of RALPH ELLISON.

That whereas hee is accused that hee was at the meeting at Hinley Chappell the 24th of June, and that hee should be Listed

in relacion to an Insurrection, hee confest that hee was there that day but denyes that hee knew of any Insurrection or that hee was listed. RALPH **A** ELLISON
his marke.

Taken before us
W. SPENCER, ROBT. BINDLOSS,
THOMAS PRESTON, ROBTE. HOLTE.

Sir Roger Bradshaigh could scarcely have imagined that he had gained much reputation by listening thus credulously to an informer's tale.

In the following October some other rumours of disaffection came abroad,[1] the Privy Council (31st October 1662) ordering a search and seizure of arms in the custody of "any suspected person." In November a letter was "found in Preston" warning people of "a Papist plot," but probably was not taken seriously, the authorities having a different class in view.

An Order made at Preston, December 15 (1662), for THOMAS BORDMAN of Boulton, to give a list of such Officers and Souldiers as were under his Command in the Rebellion.

Thursday, 18th of December, 1662.

PRESTON in Com. Lanc. sist.

Theise are to command and require you upon sight hereof to deliver to Capt. Thomas Greenhalgh in writeing a true and perfect list contayninge the Christian names and Sir names and Places of habitation of all and everie the officers and souldiers in this County under your Command in the late Rebellious tymes. And this you are not in any wise to omitt. Fayle not herein at your Perills. Given under my hand and seale this day and yeare first above writne. C. DERBY.

For Capt. BORDMAN, a Capt.
in the late tymes of Rebellion.

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[1] Pepys writes in London under date 26th October (Lord's Day): "All this day soldiers going up and down the town, there being an alarm and many Quakers and other clapped up: but I believe without any reason; only they say in Dorsetshire there hath been some rising discovered."

SIR,—You are to seize and secure for his Maiesty's service all Armes and Amunition which you shall Fynd in the custody of any officer or Souldier late under the Comaund of Captaine Boardman and Captaine Medowcroft, inhabiting in the County Palatine of Lancaster, and for soe doeing this shall bee your warrant. And I doe hearby Comaund all Maiors, Baliffs, Constables, Churchwardens and other officers to be assistant unto you in the execution of the premises. Given under my hand and seale the 18th day of December, 1662. C. DERBY.

To Captain THOMAS GREENHALGH.

A general search for arms was ordered in November 1663, and Captain Collier sent in a list of those he had found :—

A List of such Armes the which I have found in the Custody of such Persons as followeth :

At Hamblett Houlcroft's—one ould sword.

At Thomas Bradshaigh's—5 swords, one dagger, 2 musketts, one snap hanch locke for a fouling peece, 4 falkes spares, one walch hooke and one halfe Picke.

At Edward Unsworth's—one muskett barrell of Brass, one pare of Houlsters, 7 shutes and 3 Backes of Armes.

At Thomas Shawe's—2 musket rests.

At Thomas Barrowe's—one ould headpeece and one halberd, one fouleing Peece, one sword, 3 horsemens Pistolls (one wanting a locke), one muskitt rest, one dagger. Tho. Barrowe's Peece not his one, and sword borrowed of one Greene, an Honest Man.

At Thomas Mather's—one Musket.

At Widdow Wild's—one pare of Pistolls with Houlsters.

At John Sterrop's—one Musket and one ould Sword.

Per me, JAMES COLLIAR.

At Capt. Collier's request left in his hands till his Lordship's pleasure bee knowne.

In October 1663 an order had been issued to dismiss the militia squadrons and "reserve them for more dangerous alarums than those we have had"; but in the next month Colonel Birch was required to give security at York, and some persons were arrested at Manchester. It appears that the Duke of Buckingham had heard some report that

300 were to rise in Lancashire and Cheshire under Birch.

In March 1663–64 certain anonymous letters were received by Mr. Mosley of Manchester, making accusations against the Presbyterians of Lancashire and the West Riding. One of the letters contained what appears to have been a Nonconformist memorial, complaining of the prevalent crimes, superstitions, Popery, &c. The Deputy Lieutenants of the county considered the letters, but attached little importance to them, because honourable names like that of Lord Delamere were mixed up with more dubious ones in the charges. The Yorkshire authorities regarded the letters more seriously. The following is the list of those alleged to be "chiefest engagers" in Lancashire and Cheshire :—

Cheshire: the Lord Dallamoore and one Eaton his chaplaine, Coll. Duckenfeild, Coll. Venables, Coll. Croxton, Leivt. Smith, Mr. Cretles; Mr. Henry Bradshaw and Mr. Johnes, both about Malpas. Mr. Eaton [and] Mr. Brurton [are] both professing Preachers of the race of Presbitry and Independency, who (Simeon and Levy-like) where Bretherne in Cruelty and Rebellion one. Hugh Gandish.

Lancashire: Coll. West, Coll. Birtch, Coll. Sawrey, Major Wiggans, Major Porter, Major Edge, Mr. Greenwood and a Pothecary in Lancaster, Mr. Jolly, Mr. Yates, Mr. Newcum, Mr. Anger, Mr. Harrison, Mr. Birtch, Mr. Johns, all pretending Levie's callinge to the office of Ministers; Mr. Edward Gathorne, Mr. Thomas Birtch; Mr. Ditchfield and Sergeant Will. Booth, both liveing in Warrington.

These are all the names I knowe given in to strengthen the conspirators from those two countys.

Some further names were included in the second letter :—

Cheshire: Will. Barret and Thomas Partington, both elders of the Independence under Mr. Samwell Eaton; Leivt. Bancroft and Will. Browne.

Lancashire: Major Robinson, Capt. James Heaworth neare Chorley, Mr. Sharples. Some say Sir Richard Houghton of Houghton Tower & Doctor Fyffe was Privie to it but

unwilling to engage in action; but that the Lady Sarah Houghton, Mr. Samuell Eaton's cheefest disciple, did engage to suply them with a sum of moneys is assuredly reported.

The following letter shows what trifling matters seemed suspicious in that disturbed time :—

Sir,—Caling at Warrington & upon enquiry I understand the Phanatickes have their Frequent meetings here. Harvy of the "Eagle and Child" had a silver Trumpett brought unto him within these 3 days by Gerrard Ford of Wigan, the Pewterer, whom you may Please to send for and make further enquiry.[1] These things I could not but make knowne unto you, as alsoe to returne my thankefullnesse to your selfe & my good sister for your Noble enterteynement. With my service to all the noble Company I parted from yesterday, I rest

Your affectionate Brother[2] & servant,

Geffry Shakerley.

Warrington, *Mar. 5th* (1663).

To Sir Roger Bradshaigh, Kt., Haigh.

The occasion for the following search in Manchester is not recorded. The persons named occur in the *Court Leet Records;* John Leeds and Richard Ellor had houses in Market Street Lane and Ralph Ridgeway in St. Mary's Gate :—

Theise are to will and require you upon sight hereof to search for and seize all Armes and Amunition which you find in the custodie or possession of John Leeds, Richard Ellor, Ralph Ridgway of Manchester, and Henry Taylor of New Barne in the aforesaid County, the said persons beeinge judged Dangerus to the peace of this Kingdome. And all such Armes and Amunition as you find in the possessions of the aforesaid persons or any of them you are to secure for his Majestie's service, And returne a speedy account thereof unto mee. And for soe doeinge this shall bee to you a sufficient discharge. Given under my [hand] and seale the 5th day of August, Anno Domini 1664.

C. Derby.

To Major John Byrom and the
Constables of Manchester.

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[1] Sir Roger Bradshaigh made inquiry, adding in a note : "Gerrard Ford confesseth to have delivered the Trumpet, & that he received it Publiquely of one Taylor in Stafford and delivered it Publiquely."

[2] Shakerley and Bradshaigh married sisters, viz. Katherine and Elizabeth, daughters of William Pennington of Muncaster.

The Conventicle Act of 1664 and the Five Mile Act late in the following year excited fresh discontent among the Nonconformists, and some plot seems to have been formed in Lancashire, Cheshire, and Yorkshire. In August 1665 the militia was ordered to be in readiness; ammunition in the hands of dealers [1] in the northern part of the county was seized, and the following persons, several of them being ministers, were to be searched for arms :—

In Preston—
Richard Banistre,
Thomas Gradell.

In Euxton—
John Pincocke,
Mickell Taylor,
James Sharock,
John Roscoe of Runshe Moore [Runshaw].

In Ecleston—
Nicholas Rigby of Harrocke,
Ralph Greene of Tinngreave,
Widdow Parr.

In Leyland—
William Atherton,
Henry Beardsworth,
Widdow Banistre of Goulding [Golden] Hill.

In Chorley—
Alexander Brears of Eves Lane,
Thomas Wareing of Yerrow Bridge,
James Rosckow,
Will. Ecleston of Charnock Richard,
Richard Sheardley of Farrington,
Tho. Moodie of Heapey,
John Ballif of Adlington.
Will. Crooke of Copull.
John Low of Duxbury.
Edward Parr of Mawdsley,
Widow Cooper of Charnock Richard,
Richard Locksome of Ulnes Walton.
Will. Walton of Longton,
Adam Mather of Wrightington.
Mr. Baldwin, a Minister at Chisnall,
John Hurst of Arley in Blackrode,
Will. Parr, by Cowley Hill nere Billing;
Henry Ogles of Whiston.

In Wigan Parish—
Henry Topping,
Mr. Jolly of Wigan,
Elizabeth Deane,
the house of Peter Watson;
and Mrs. Williamson, liveing in Hindley.

[1] 205 lbs. were seized in shops in Amounderness in September. Early in the next year inquiry was made about a barrel of powder brought to Rochdale, it being suspected that it was to pass into the hands of some disaffected man.

Loynsdale—
Jon. Lawson of Lancaster,
Jon. Greenewood of same,
Robt. Widder of [Over] Kellet, senior,
Cro'fer Procter of Lancaster,
Tho. Hopkin of Yelland,
—— Hathornethwaite of Priest Hutton,
John Preston of Ellel Grange,
Tho. Atkinson of Cartmell,
Tho. Leper of Caponwre,
Rob. Hubberstie of Yelland,
Will. Lampitt of Furness,
Jon. Sawrey of Plumpton,
Gabriell Camelford of Staveley.

Blackburn Hundred—
Tho. Jolly of Hignell [Ightenhill] Park,
Tho. Sumerts of Pe[n]dlton,
Robt. Whiteker of Healey in Burnley,
Jon. Buley of Osweldtwisley,
Jon. Waddington of Altom by Coll. Nowell.

Salford Hundred—
one Major Smith.

Amounderness Hundred—
Rowland Gascall,
Ric. Kinge of Preston,
Henry Chorley of same,
Jon. March of Elston.

A particuler of persons fitt to be secured [arrested]:

Vizt. Mr. Tildesley late of Deane Church,
Mr. Heywood late of Ormschurch,
Mr. Naylor of Hindley,
Mr. Wright [and] Mr. Gregg liveing in Windle or Raynford,
Mr. Harrison of the Fyld,
Mr. Bradshaw of Hindley. All these above named are nonconformists secluded, pretended Ministers and such as frequently hould Conventicles, giveing the people oportunytys of meetinge to hatch mischeife.
Alsoe Ditchfeild of Warington,
Willoby of Horwich,
John Mascy of Warrington, late servant to the late Traytor Lockyor. Blood. Newton.

A copy of my Orders to my Quarter Mr. to secure some persons upon Order from the Dept. Leivtenants at Lancaster, Aug. 26th, 1665.

You are hereby required forthwith upon receipt hereof to take with you the persons herewith sent to your assistance and to search for & secure the bodys of Rowland Gascall, Marshiall in the late tymes of rebellion, Rich. King of Preston, Henry Chorley of the same towne, and John Marsh of Elston; and to search very diligently both their persons and houses for Armes, Amuni-

tion, seditious papers and pamphlets; and them Forthwith to convey to Lancaster, theare to attend the pleasure of Will. Spencer, Esqr., vicecom. Lanc., Sir Robert Bindloss, Bart., Thomas Preston and Richard Kirkby, Esqrs., Dept. Leivtenants; and that you fayle not in your endeavour to be with them at Lancaster to-morrow at night. Given under my hand this 30th of August, 1665. ROGER BRADSHAIGH.

For Quarter Mr. HODSCKINSON
or in his absence to Corporall WILL. DARLINGTON.

A similar order was made on September 4 for a search at the house of [Thomas] Jolly, "late a pretended minister at Altom"; he was to be secured and taken to the sheriff. Ewan Price, one of those arrested as a "person of Phanaticke principalls," was in the anonymous letters to Mr. Mosley stated to be a go-between among the disaffected Nonconformists. He wrote as follows to the Mayor of Wigan:—

HONRD S^{R},—Though as I am a Cristian I acknowledg it my duty in silence to make my Complants & requests knowne to my God, to whom vengence belongeth and [who] will shortly repay fury to his adversarys & plead the cause & intrest of his Sonn's kingdome & have mercy upon his aflicted people; yet as a man & a lawfull inheritor of the lawes of England, being a peaceable, true subject therein, I hould it my duty to Cry out of wronge, when Tyranny overcomes mee, to my superiors and if I bee not heard bee it unto them. S^{r}, within your libertys I have beene this weeke detayned from my lawfull vocac̄on to my great prejudice, greife & vexac̄on; and not onely soe, but in a Cruell way retayned as prisoner without forme of Law or justice, nay conterary to the express lawes of England, whereof I humbly require Justice & to knowe by what Authority you doe thus keepe mee in your officers hands. This oppression cryes to Heaven for vengence & on earth for equity to enter, that the oppressed may bee sett free and there bee no more smitteinge with the fists of Wickednesse.

S^{r}, Hopeinge you will consider your way & lett the captive goe free.

From your unlawfull prisoner, from my prison chamber in Wigan, Sepr 2th, 1665. EWAN PRICE.

These
For MATHEW MARKLAND, }
Mayor of Wigan, present. }

Much more important persons were actually under arrest, as appears by the following extracts from orders made by the Deputy Lieutenants on 16th September 1665 :—

That Major Jones now inhabiting in Leverpoole, being a person notoriously disaffected to his Majesty's Government, doe give security for his appearance at the next General Sesstions of Assizes at Lancaster and in the meane tyme to bee of the good behaviour;

That Thomas Crompton and Mickell Brisckoe of Toxteth Parke and John Tempest of Leverpoole, and that all other persons taken or [who] shall heareafter bee taken or secured by virtue of any warrant from the Dept. Lievtenants, bee proceeded against, according as the Dept. Leivetenants shall thinke fitt;

That [Thomas] Jolly, Robert Whitecar of Heady, [Jonathan] Wadington of Altam, and Will. Baly of Acrington bee secured soe soone as they can bee found by Leivt. Cockshutte;

Major Jones of Leverpoole, John Ditchfeild of Warrington, Thomas Crompton, A nonconformist Minister of Toxteth Parke, Mickell Brisckoe of the same Towne, John Tempest of Leverpoole, late prisoners, are released upon single security for the good behaviour and to appeare;

That one Side Bothom's house in Salford bee searcht for Armes;

That the 140 Armes, in the Custody of one Major Birch, bee seized by Major Byrom, and attend my Lord's Pleasure;

That George Andrews' house in Manchester, and Thomas Sydbothome's house in Salford bee searcht for Armes by Major Byrom.

In October, however, it was thought safe to dismiss the militia, no disturbance whatever having been noticed. The Lord Lieutenant's order was received at Lancaster at five o'clock at night on 7th October :—

GENTLEMEN,—I receaved yours late last night, & since the face of affayres lookes with an Indifferent good prospect you may imediately upon Receipt hereof dismisse both the horse and foote, leaveinge one Company to Continue in duty according to the orders made lately at Ormskirke. I thought fitt to secure Major Robinson at that nicke of tyme, supposeinge him to bee the most dangerous person in our County; but seeinge there is noe appearance of any disturbance you may (if you thinke fitt) set him

at liberty. I leave the buisinesse wholy to your discretions and rest, Gentlemen, your very affectionate freind, C. DERBY.

NORTHWICH, *Octo. 6th* [1665].

To the Hon'ble Sir ROGER BRADSHAIGH, Kt.,
& Coll. RICHARD KIRKBY,
att Lancaster.

The following letter gives an account of the Deputy Lieutenants' proceedings in Cheshire, "when the Plot should have beene, September, 1665":—

DEARE BROTHER,—Our Deputy Leivtenants met at Northwich Monday last, where they had Capt. Needeham's and Sir Phi. Eggerton's Troopes for 2 weekes successively. We have many prisoners Comitted, as Coll. Duckenfeild, Capt. Carter, Benjamine Croxton, Doct. Harrison, Mr. Trevis, Major Bullen, Major Jolly, Mr. Kirke, Mr. Wilson, and diverse others. More are expected in this day & to-morrow. Security hath and will bee taken for many not yet brought in for theire peacable Living. Coll. Croxton was secured by particuler order from the Generall, but by reason of his present infirmity (being taken with a palsey & not able to stirr) hee is to continue at home upon good secureity. There are 3 more tradesmen of this Citty—by name Robinson, Williams & Moores—by speciall order from the Generall in this Castle for haveing sent for from London for 4 barrells of the best pistole powder at 4 *li.* the barrell & halfe a hundred weight of match; which soe soone as [they] come to this Towne I shall seize & secure, as is done already with what can be found in this Citty.

I wish your newes of another victory at sea may proove true, but I have little cause to beleeve it as yet, for wee heare not the least of it from any other parts but yours. Sir, you shall bee sure to comunicate of all occurrances that shall hapen in these partes & desire the like from you. With myne & my wive's & Children's dearest respects & service to your selfe, Dearest Lady and the Vergin Countesse and our Cozens, I rest assuredly your Constant Loving Brother all tymes & upon all condicions,

GOEFFERY SHAKERLEY.

CHESTER CASTLE, *8th Sept.*, 1665.

In the next year, by way of variety, a "Popish Plot" seems to have been suspected,[1] hence the following search:—

[1] Henry Newcome mentions a rumour of the kind under date 9th July, 1666; *Autobiog.* (Chetham Soc.), 159.

A copy of my Lord of Derby's Order by which NED TILDESLEY and Sir THOMAS PRESTON was to bee searcht for Armes, August the 8th, 1666.

Whereas I am commanded by his Majestie to disarme all such persons as are observd to keepe horses or Armes above their ranke, you are therefore hereby commanded to make search within this County Pallatine of Lancaster with [which] persons are armed above their ranke and qualitie and give me notice thereof, and to secure them for his Majestie's service. And in the execution of this warrant I doe hereby command all officers and souldiers (and all other persons within this County) to be aiding and assisting to you herein. This shall bee your warrant. Given under my hand and seale the 28th of July (1666).

C. DERBY.

To Lievt. NEWTON in the
County of Lancaster.

I would have you to apply yourselfe to some of my Deputy Leivtenants as are next and adjacent to those persons that are armed and horsed above theire ranke for their advice and direction in the execution of this warrant; whom I therefore here desire to be aydinge to you accordingly.

You are to make search at the house or houses of Sir Thomas Preston and Mr. Tyldesley of Lodge.

A true Copy examined by us 8th of August (1666).
WILL. RICHARDSON. ADAM SMITH.

After that time there is little notice of sedition, though a suspiciously large order for nine dozen saddles brought a man named Mercer into trouble in 1674; he was discharged after inquiries lasting about two months.

III. NONCONFORMITY.

As will have been seen, the Nonconformists were those suspected when any disaffection appeared; but as time went on and more severe Acts were passed, it is the religious rather than the political side of the matter that becomes prominent. There was seldom in Lancashire any resolute persecution

of Nonconformists on religious grounds from the Restoration down to the Revolution, both the magistrates and the conforming clergy appearing to have been of tolerant spirit; but there were exceptions, and Sir Roger Bradshaigh was hostile to Nonconformity, though the following letter (preserved among Lord Kenyon's deeds) shows that his hostility was largely political:—

3rd March 1669/70.

Yours came to my hands in the House of Comons at the same time that wee weare nearly upon the debate for the second reading of the Bill against Conventicles, and for the Comittment of it, my contriman (Black Birch) having newly excused the meetings of such concientious people, as living farre from the other church, theire chappells not beeing provided; and particularly instanced the severall chappells in Manchester parish, and further added, that theare could not bee one instance produced that any such meetings had produced any insurrection or that any treason, scismne, or other contrivance or disturbance to the government had beene theare hatcht. This made my modestye mooved to speake, and such instances, as I had formerly observed and in my memorye had retained, I layd open to the House, with the necessitie for a Bill of restraynt, and what ways to meete with their subtle evations. And theise I affirmed to carry the reputation of Presbyterians in our contry. This made the House look upon my contriman as sufficiently contradicted in his possitive affirmation. It was three of the clock ere wee got the question; but [it] was at last committed and is at this present under consideration of the Committee now sitting by mee; indeed the bill will bee much more rigid then formerly and wee must be furnisht with more instances to induce the passing of it when it comes into the House. Soe I would desyre you, that you would gather mee what instances you can of insolencys, of scisme, of dangerous words spoken, or any other thing that hath happnd, since the Act of Oblivion, worthy taking notice of, to object against them, and I shall not fayle to urge them when tyme servse. In the meanetime, I pray, let the further examination of the business at Gorton Chapell bee taken; and send me word what you know of the chapell called Birch Chapell, and of their meetings. You shall not need to be named in anything. This I desyre may be done as soone as may bee, before the Bill come back to the House.[1]

[1] Kenyon MSS. (*Hist. MSS. Com. Rep.* xiv., App. iv.), 83.

As accusers seek a sympathetic ear, Sir Roger probably received, from his known attitude, a large share of the reports circulated to the discredit of Nonconformists, and therefore his Letter-Book may give an exaggerated notion of current hostility to them. One of his early acts was an order to the constables of Aspull to arrest Quakers, but this may have been due to the suspicions of disloyalty then generally entertained concerning the Society of Friends :—

Wheras I am sertainly informd that there are frequent meeteings of Quakers and other nonconformall persons within your Towne, & particulerly this day at James Gregoryse, Theise are (in pursuance of his Majestie's late Proclamation for prohibiting of such meetings) to require you to seize all such persons as you shall find soe conveid together and them to bringe before the next Justice of Peace to give such satisfaction as the said proclamation requireth or else to suffer accordingly. Of this you are not to fayle, as it is your Duty and will answer it to the Contrary. Given under my hand this 17th of Feb. (1660).

ROGER BRADSHAIGH.

To the Constables of Aspull
Theise.

The Rector of Warrington became a Nonconformist in 1662, and after his ejection from the benefice continued to minister in the town and district. His brother Nonconformist, Henry Newcome of Manchester, records under Friday, 10th January 1662–3, that "Mr. Yates and several good people of Warrington [were] carried to prison yesterday."[1] The reason is not given, but was probably some religious meeting or "conventicle" on the preceding Sunday. Sir Roger Bradshaigh has preserved the following notes of statements made by the prisoners :—

Richard Nicholls (examined) denyeth all.

Parson Yates of Warrington denyeth that he was at Soncky Bridges or any wheare out of Towne the fifth of Jan. instant

[1] *Newcome's Diary* (Chetham Soc.), 152.

(1662), or that hee suspecteth any one to have soe much malice against him as to informe any thing but truth concerning him.

Richard Worrall deposeth to the same effect.

John Naylor denyeth all and that hee was out of Warrington any way upon the 5th instant.

Robert Tuchet deposeth to the same effect.

Richard Nicholas denyeth that he knoweth George Barrow, the informer.

Yates doth deny the same.

Mr. Yates was kept in prison for some time,[1] but though he afterwards told "the whole story of his imprisonment" to his friend Newcome, the latter did not record it for us.[2] Warrington continued to have many resolute Nonconformists among its inhabitants. Peter Legh of Bruch, in August 1665,[3] caused the arrest of a number who had met for worship in a "conventicle" in Woolston, near him, and sent one who had been captured and the names of the rest to his uncle, Sir Henry Sclater.

HONORED SIR,—I had this morning intimation of a Conventicle of my Neighbouring Phanatickes [and] imediately upon it sent the Constable of Polton, with Serjeant Wilson & two other Souldiers, to apprehend them. Which accordingly they have done, haveing tooke the names of all the Persons that had residence nigh mee. They brought hither one that denyed to give his name or perfect residence, which among them was their speaker & hath soe confessed. I have sent him by the constables & so recommend him to your Prudence and juditiall care, with the names of the Rest. With my humble duty to my Honored Lady, to Deare Cossens service, I rest your most affect. Nephew and servant, PEERS LEIGH.

BRICH, *August 27th*, 64.
For Sir HENRY SLAYTER, Knight,
my Honored Unckle,
These are with service.

Hugh Haslope, Warrington.

John Seadon of Burton Wood; Threatned to Rescue if taken without Warrant under hand and seale.

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[1] He was still in prison on 4th February—*Newcome's Diary*, 157.

[2] *Ibid.*, 179 (20th April).

[3] The MS., as will be seen, twice gives the year as 1664, but from the consequent proceedings it appears that 1665 was the true date, the 27th August then falling on a Sunday.

John Barrow of Poulton.
Ralph Earlom of Poulton.
Thomas Holland.
Tho. Holland wife.
John Sadon wife.
Marg. Spruse.
Elis. Pruse.
Another Woman who I knowe not.
Another Woman who I knowe not.
One Smale Boy whom I knowe not.
The number being, with the Speaker,
13.

The names of the Persons taken in a Conventickle in Wouston, August 27th, 1664, and brought to mee by Serjeant Wilson and Two Souldiers with the Constable of Poulton.
PEERS LEEGH.

In the margin: John Wilson, sergent, aprdd Roger Yeats, Constable; Mathew Bushell, Churchwarden; Umph. Wright, all of Poulton.

A conviction followed:—

Md.—That the thirtieth day of September Anno Re. dñi Caroli Scd. nunc Angl. &c. Hugh Haslropp of Warrington in the County of Lancaster, Apothecary, Ralph Earlom of Powlton in the said County, Linen webster, and Jane Murey of Warrington abovesaid, widow, beinge all brought before us Sir Roger Bradshaigh, Kt., and Mathew Markland, now Maior of Wigan, two of his Majesti's Justices of Peace for the said County of Lancaster; and did confess that they together with severall other Persons were upon the twenty-seaventh of August last past mett together at the House of Richard Davice in Powlton in the [said] County under Pretence of Religious worshipp; and that the same was allsoe proved by the oathes of Richard Yates and John Wilson; and [they] are thereof convict before us, Sir Roger Bradshaigh and Mathew Markland, as witness our hands and seales the day and yeare first writtne.

ROGER BRADSHAIGH.
MATHEW MARKLAND.

The information of ROGER GATES, constable of Wooston-cume-Powlton . . . 29th of September . . .

Who upon his oath informeth and saith that upon the 27th of August last past Hugh Haselopp of Warrington in the said County of Lanc., Apothecary, Jane Murrey of Warrington, wid.,

Ralph Earlom of Powlton aforesaid, Linnen webster, John Seddon of Burtonwood, Husbandman, John Barrow of Poulton, Linen webster, and Thomas Holland of Budworth in the County of Chester, Husbandman, weare all of them assembled together at the house of Richard Davice in Wooston afforesaid under Pretence of Religious Worshipp, being above the number of five beside the family of him the said Richard Davice, and contrary to the forme of the statut in that case made and provided against Conventiclers. ROGER GATE.

John Willson of Warrington in the said County of Lanc. upon his oath Informeth and saith as the abovesaid Roger Yates hath informed, havinge hearde the same reade. JOHN WILLSON.

Capt. coram
ROGER BRADSHAIGH,
MATHEW MARKLAND.

Hugh Haslop, Ralph Earlom, and Widow Murrey all confest.

The arrest of some others was ordered, as appears by the following writ and letter from Serjeant John Wilson or Williamson :—

Lanc.—Whereas John Sedan of your Towne upon the 29th of September last was by information upon Oath of Credible persons convicted (and Record hereof made before mee Roger Bradshaigh of Haigh in the Countie afforesaid, Knight, and Mathew Markland, late Maior of Wigan, Two of his Majestis Justices of Peace for the said County) For that hee the said John Sedan together with severall other persons above the number of Five weare upon the 27th of August last Past mett together att the House of Richard Davis in Poulton in the said County under pretence of Religious Worshipe, contrary to the Statute in that case made and Provided: Theise are therefore in his Majestis name straightly to charge & command you that you attach the Body of the said John Sedan and bring him before his Majestis Justices of the Peace at the Generall Sessions of the Peace to be Houlden at Wigan upon Thursday the ninth Instant, then & there to be proceeded against according to Law. And hereof Fayle not as you will answer the contrary at your perills. Given under my hand & seale the 4th of October Anno R. R. Carol. scdi. Angl. &c. xvii. Annoq; Dom̃i 1665.

ROGER BRADSHAIGH.

These
For the Constables of Bortonwood
present.

A Copy of JOHN WILLIAMSON's (Serjeant) his letter concerning Two Phanactiques about Warrington.

WARRINGTON, *7th* [*Oct.*] 1665.

HONORED SIR,—The Persons you mention in yours (vizt.) Mr. Tomlinson & Cudbert Hand both of them live in the House Commonly called Capt. Cubane's house att a place called Causey Bridges in Burton Wood. Both of them are said to bee Phanatiques. The one (vizt. Mr. Tomlinson) hath beene convicted & was taken by mee att a meeting amongst the Anabaptists; Collonell Kirkby convicted him. Sir, I have unwarily given one of the Warrants out to the Constables of Poulton, but I doupt it wanteth your hand and seale as this inclosed doth; therefore I thought good to send it you againe. I would send to the other Constables about the other Warrants & so, craveing pardon for my bouldness, subscribe myselfe—Your servant whilest I am,

JOHN WILLSON.

For the ever Hon'ed Knight
Sir ROGER BRADSHAIGH
at his House att Haigh
present.

If Sir Roger Bradshaigh was forward in this work other of the more prominent gentry of the county were indifferent or hostile. Sir Richard Hoghton sent in a protest against the attacks on Thomas Jolly, who according to the Five Mile Act would have to depart to some place more than five miles from his old incumbency of Altham :—

SIR,—Hearing there was an intention to commit Mr. Jolly for not bringing sureties for his good behaviour, I conceive his case (all circumstances considered) is without a precedent; and therefore I thought good to give you notice of it, supposing it will sound somewhat harshly, especially considering that he hath already given you bond of £300 and there is an act newly come forth which will shortly commence and is likely to banish him out of the country. And therefore I desire you to exercise your clemency towards him in the mean time, and cease prosecuting him while he is removing his family. This is my own voluntary request. I do not move you in this business at Mr. Jolly's desire, but with respect to yourself as well as to him; which is all at present from, Sir—Your assured loving Friend,

RIC. HOGHTON.

HOGHTON, *Dec. 7th*, 1665.

The state of Warrington continued to trouble Sir Roger, and he sent the following hasty letter, with various informations, to his fellow-justices in September 1666. He points out one main cause of the failure of the attempts to suppress Nonconformity, viz. that the people there were against the persecution, and elected constables who gave warning to the threatened persons instead of trying to capture them in the act of transgression:—

GENTLEMEN,—In my way to London (upon the 18th instant) at Warington I mett with severall informations of conventicls frequently held in that Towne but nine [none] punctually prov'd, the Constables of this Towne beinge Generally Ellected of the same stampe as by the informations of one Thomas Hall one of the Constables owne confession upon oath may apeare. Which I take to be soe cleare that hee was knoweinge of the Fact and neglective in his duty that I thought fitt to bind him to the good behaviour and before you, wishinge you to take speciall notice of the examinations soe as to lay a particuler marke upon him to deterr other Constables from the like neglect. Soe begging your pardon for this troble, being urged to it by my duty to his Majestie, I rest—Your most faithfull servant,

ROGER BRADSHAIGH.

WARINGTON, *September 18th*, 1666.

For the Hon'ble his Ma'tis Justices
of Peace at the Sessions at
Wigan. These with all service.

A Copy of Examinations taken at Warington September the 18th 1666 concerninge a Conventicle.

The Information of JOHN WILLSON of Warrington in the County of Lancaster, taken before mee Sir ROGER BRADSHAIGH, Kt., the 18th day of Septr. Annoq; Dom. 1666.

John Willson beinge sworne Informeth upon oath and saith that upon Sunday last, beinge the 16th of this present September, Leivt. John Grimsditch came to the house of the said John Willsons And called of him the said Willson and desired him to assist him to take upp A conventickle which was in the House of Richard Nicholls, Chanlor. Whereupon wee went to the House of Thomas Hall, Constable, and informed him that there was a Conventickle in the house of Richard Nicholls afforesaid. And the said Constable desired that he might goe

himselve & that wee would stay att his house till he came backe. When hee came backe he said he had spoken to the said Nicholls, whoe promised him that the people that were in his house should depart, and that they were goeinge away when hee came from thence. And this Informer further canot say.

JOHN WILSON.

The Information of JOHN GRIMSDITCH of Warrington in the County of Lancaster, gent., taken upon oath before Sir ROGER BRADSHAIGH, Kt., one of his Majestis Justice of Peace within the said County.

Whoe upon his oath saith in all things as the before named John Wilson hath said in the before Written Information, haveing Read and well understood the same.

JOHN GRIMSDITCH.

Thomas Hall of Warrington in the County of Lancaster, grocer, Constable of the said Towne, sworne & examined deposeth & saith that upon Sunday last, being the 16th of this instant month of September, Leivtenant John Grimsditch and Serjeant John Willson came to this examinante and tould him that there was a Conventicle att the House of one Richard Nicholls of Warrington, and required this examinante to goe alonge with them to take up the Conventiclers. Whereupon this examinante desired that hee himselfe might goe to the house of the said Richard Nicholls. Which accordingly hee did; and knocking at the doer Richard Nicholls came to the doer to this examinante. Upon which this examinante desired the said Richard Nicholls that if there were any persons more then his famylies in his House that hee would give notice to them to remoove & begone; or words to that effect.

THOMAS HALL.

Lanc.—Md. qd. xviij° die Septembris Ano xviij° Car. Scd. RR. Joh. [Tho.] Hall de Warrington in Com. pred., Grocer, ven. coram Roger Bradshaigh, mil., un. Justic. pacis in Com. pred. et cogn. se deber. dic. dño Regi in xl^{li}; Ricus. Werall de Warrington, mercer, xx^{li}; Matheus Pege de Warrington, Butcher, xx^{li}.

The Condition.—To be of good behaviour & to appeare next sessions to answer what shall be objected.

Capt. coram me
ROGER BRADSHAIGH.

The conventicles seem to have gone on as before, as appears by—

The information of Leivt. JOHN GRIMSDITCH, taken at Haigh April the 15th [1667] before Sir ROGER BRADSHAIGH of Haigh in the County of Lancaster, Kt., one of his Majesties Justices of Peace of the same County.

The said John Grimsditch upon his oath sayth that upon Sunday the 14th instant, this informer seeing severall persons goeing into the house of one Richard Nicholls of Warrington, Chandlor (a place where Conventicles and unlawfull meetings are usually held), and suspecting the like occation and haveinge an Order for apprehending of persons soe mett, accquainted the Constable of the said Towne with the same, requireing him to give his assistance for the apprehending of the said persons. And accordingly repayreinge to the House and demanding enterance, or to know who was theare and upon what occation, the said Richard Nicholls came to the inside of the dore; and the said John Grimsditch acquainting him with his warrants, the said Richard Nicholls said he neither cared for him nor his Warrant unlesse a Justice of Peace weare theare present, and denyde to open the door or declare who was in his house; though this informer saw above twelve persons goe into the said house, as he veryly beleves, and further sayth not.

JOHN GRIMSDITCH.

The boldness and comparative impunity of the Nonconformist assemblies in Lancashire was afterwards brought to the notice of the King's Ministers —possibly by Sir Roger Bradshaigh himself—and Lord Arlington accordingly wrote to Lord Derby as Lord Lieutenant, ordering him to take action:

MY LORD,—Whereas his Matie hath received severall complants that in the County of Lancaster, whereof you are Lord Leivtenant, there are held frequent & scandalous meetings upon pretence of Religious worshipp conterary to the Law and publique peace, his Matie hath commanded me to signify his pleasure hereby unto you that you make strickt enquiry of the truth of such Complants; and if you shall find that such meetings are held within your Leivtenancy, which either by theire excess in number or manor of behaviour may endanger the Publique peace, give scandell, or affront the Publique established goverment of the Church, that in such cases you give Orders to put

the Lawes in Execution for the suppressing of such meeteings and to proceed according to Law against the preacher and such others as shall appeare to be the principall offenders herein.—My Lord, I am, Your Lordshipp's most obedient Humble servant, ARLINGTON.

May 27th, 1669.

Lord Derby, who, so far as can be gathered, was indifferent to the whole business and possibly hostile to any interference,[1] addressed this not very urgent letter to Sir R. Bradshaigh :—

SIR,—Had you not beene in Yorkeshire when I was last at Wigan (which was upon Wednesday) I had desired your company there to have comunicated to you the enclosed, being a copy of what I receaved from my Lord Arlington this weeke.—I am, Sir, your affectionat freind and servant, C. DERBY.

KNOWSLEY, *June 8th.*

For Sir ROGER BRADSHAIGH at
Haigh, These.

In all the above it would seem that Sir Roger Bradshaigh was acting on his own initiative. In particular there is no sign that any of the Established clergy took part in the acts of persecution, either by public or private denunciation. Nothing more appears in the Letter-Book until after the withdrawal of the temporary Indulgence of 1672. That act of relief led, among other things, to the return to Warrington of the old rector, Mr. Yates, and the formation of an openly avowed Nonconformist congregation. This appears to have given umbrage to the then rector, the Rev. Joseph Ward, and the following documents relating to the fortunes of the Dissenters after 1673 show, among

[1] "On one occasion when his neighbour, Sir Roger Bradshaigh, complained to him of the conventicles which were held as near his residence as St. Helens, the earl [of Derby] replied that if he was compelled to enforce the laws against the Presbyterians, he must with equal severity enforce them against the Papists, whom Sir Roger protected"; Halley, *Lancashire Puritanism* (1872), 405.

other things, that he became an active co-operator with Sir Roger. The various papers will speak for themselves, but it may be pointed out that the petition of the Nonconformists acknowledges the reluctance which the justices had so far shown to interfere with them :—

[The CLERK OF THE PEACE to Sir R. BRADSHAIGH concerning Conventicles at Warrington.]

HONORED SIR ROGER,—I receaved but your letter for the inclosed on Satturday night & writ the inclosed on Munday to have sent you sooner, but my oppertunity of sending it fayled mee. I intreat, Sir, if Mercer[1] write any thing matteryall in answer you'll be pleased I may see a Copy of it.

Sir, the Bearer hath beene with mee for the Warrants about the Conventicklers at Warrington, which I have sent you by him. Hee tells mee the man who is Fyned as owner of the Barne was but a Poore man & is since his conviccion dead. Sir, as hee was a poore man you might assesse & Impose his Fine amongst the other that weare present soe as none of them exceed £10 ; & this Warrant goeing out as of the 20th of January, his being dead need not be taken notice off.

He therefore (the Bearer) desires me propose to you that that £20 which is for the owner of the Barne may be by Reason of his Poverty (for the conventicle of the 18th of Jan.) imposed upon—

Thomas Rizley of Woolston cum Poulton, gen.	£5
This Gentleman (as the Bearer tells) is one that saith they will not desist.	
Joshua Abraham, Grocer	5
Samuell Leech, Woollen Draper	5
These 2 gave security to the owner of the Barne to save him harmless.	
Richard Richardson, Ironmonger	2 10s.
This is a Rich man & the Clerke at the Barne.	
Richard Radcliffe, Innkeeper	2 10s.
He frequented the Barne all the while he was constable.	

For the Conventickle [of] the 28th December—

John Marsh of Bolton	£5
This is a young Attorney, son to the old Post Mr. of Preston.	

[1] See the account of the saddles above.

Henry Higginbotham of Salford	£5
A young Rich man; his Father an ould sequestrator.	
Richard Richardson (their Clerke)	2 10s.
Richard Radcliffe, Inkeeper	2 10s.
Robert Holbrooke of Orford	2 10s.
& John Dunbabin of Great Sanky	2 10s.

Sir,—If you thinke fitt thease be thus put in I shall, if I receive such Direccion, make the Warrants aneu & send them & draw up the Reccord accordingly. Sir, I have beene twice a litle way on horse backe but am yet very ill able to go without helpe.—Sir, your humble servant, ROGER KENYON.

PEELE, *Feb. 13th*, 1672.[1]

For the Right Worp'll Sir ROGER BRADSHAIGH at Haigh, These present.

[The RECTOR OF WARRINGTON to Sir R. BRADSHAIGH.]

HONORED SIR,—Leivtenant Grimsditch brought the Warrants to distraine upon our Conventiclers' goods sign'd & seal'd by your self, Mr. Houghton, & Mr. Banister. These Two Constables are Ready and Willinge to Execute them according to order, But inasmuch as there be Two of there Brethern that hide themselves, to Prevent (as they thinke) them selves from beinge concern'd, It is theire Humble Request to your Worship That they may have a Warrant to cause them to come out to ther assistance or to direct them to some Course which they may be assisted. Sir, The Insolencie of the dissenters is such that they Threaten highly and much contemne all the Authority that lyes in any or all Justices of Peace, so that, Sir, without some speedy Course they will bee growne to that Height that it will prove Dangerous and difficulte to suppress them. Wherefore, I pray, favour us so farr as in tyme to grant us your Ayd & direction, whereby you will doe both God his Church and our Countrey Respectable service, and oblige all honest hearts and him to pray for you who is, Honored Sir, your most affect. freind & very humble servant, JOSEPH WARD.

Feb. 22nd, 1673.

For the Right Worp'll Sir ROGER BRADSHAIGH, Knt., at his House att Haigh, These present.

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[1] An error for 1673, *i.e.* 1673-4.

[Sir ROGER'S Answer.]

CASTLETON, *Feb. 24th*, 1673.

SIR,—Beeinge heare with Mr. Holt when I rec'd yours I acquainted him therewith, & it is both our Admiracions that soe much Insolence should yet Remaine after soe much Clemency, especially by a person of so much Judgment & Moderation as I took Mr. Peake to be. But one may Geus the Rest by it. It is not proper to send a Warrant for the Two absconded Constables till you who Procured the Warrant have brought it to them or left it at their houses; which they doe not Execute it with the other then you may take it againe & deliver it to These two who are to Execute it at theire Perills, and the other Two Constables may bee prosecuted for their Neglect by an Indictment at the next Sessions. And These Constables are to make a returne what distress they have taken & what the cannot Come at without breakeing open of doores, & then have a Warrant for that. In the meane tyme take notice of everie Conviticle that hath beene since, that wee may Run them up to the 2nd, 3rd, or 4th offence & consequently to the utmost Penalty of the Law; which I am sure the Lawe will Justifye both the Justices, Informers & Constables in the Execution of. But pray alsoe take notice of that part of the Act to goe to the Constables, Churchwarden or Overseer of the Poore, when you can truly Informe them of a Conviticle; & then if the doe not take notice of it & come to the next Justice for a Warrant against them, they Runn another penalty. In the meane tyme by this Post I shall Write to Coll. Kirkby, &c., and [have] this obstinate Insolence of theirs presented to the House of Commons, who no doubt will owne that noe Licence Can Protect them; and I doe not doubt but (if they continue soe peremtory dangerous as to defie Government) to have some of them sent for by a messenger to owne by what authority they doe these things, for the House would be glad to find out such prompters to sedition. And I doubt not but such an Example as this will begett a more severe Lawe and suply of any defect in this, which the may thanke themselves and theire Brethren may thanke them for. Mr. Hoult and others heare will Heartily Joyne with mee, being Sensible such proceedings pretend a Confidence they may have of another Warr[1] to defend them. This is all I have to say at present till a further opertunity, wherein you may Command for the preservation of Peace in Church and State. R. B.

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[1] Query, for Warrant, as in the following "narrative."

A narrative brought mee by Mr. NICHOLS and LEECH of Warrington in the names of the Rest of the Conventiclers there, March the third 1673(-4).

Dated WARRINGTON, *Feb. 27th*, 1673.

To the Right Worp'll Sir ROGER BRADSHAIGH, Knt., the Humble addresse, narracion and Petition of severall convicted Persons, inhabitants of the Towne of Warrington, &c.

HON'RD & WORTHY SIR,—The honorable Relation you stand in unto your Contrie & the Influence your Worshipp has upon all Publike Proceedings in this County & likewise the sense of damage and danger that wee might incurr by the losse of your Worshipp's favour, should wee be altogether sylent at this tyme when such informacions are brought to your Worshipp against us as tho wee weare seditious, stoborne, insolent persons, defyers of Government, whose Practises are of dangerous consequence And (that which is worst of all) that wee may have thoughts to be Protected or defended herein by a new War^{t}: These and the like things being layd to our Charge that are of so haynouse a nature, wee Judge it our duty not onely to give your Worshipp all Possible satisffaction wee are able but alsoe for the clearinge of our owne inocencie (that soe your Worshippe and the rest of our neighbour Gentlemen may be assured that the things which are Reported of us are not soe, But are the groundles callumnies of some persons who have noe other way to cary on theire designs against us then by Renderinge us infamous and odious unto your good Worshipp). And in this good worke wee shall be both faithfull and as briefe as possible in giveing your Worshipp a narrative of proceedings how they have bine carryed on amongst us since the tyme that the King's declaration for libertie came forth; Which, as wee Remember, was in March 71 [1671–2]. At the coming out whereof theire was noe little astonishment begott in us what might be the ground or reason of it. But Consideringe it was our duty to acquiesce in the Actings of our superiours and not too Curiously enquire into the Reasons of them, at last it begott in us this thought that it might possibly bee in the pursuance of, or have Relation unto that provisoe in the later end of the Act concerninge the Kings prerogative; and that which did the more confirme us in our opinion was the generall submission of the Justices of Peace (or at least cessation of occation) in all places where his Majestis Lycences came. Yet notwithstanding we weare Resolved to see what others did, and how it would be Resented by our Country Gentlemen, before we would make any application to any person to be made par-

takers of the privelidge thereof, Tho wee did earnestly longe for it in case it might come to us in a Right way. And thus things Continued with us untill the Generalitye of nonconformists Ministers both in Cittye and Contrye throughout the nacion had theire libertye to Preach publiquely and Places assigned unto them, and that in Peace and without controule or disturbance of any soe farr as wee either knew or heard. At last, hopeing all was Right in the businesse, we assayed to obtayne a Lycence for ould Minister Mr. Yates, and his hired house to be the Place (which he tooke neare the Church for Conveniencie); which Lycence was sygned the 25th of July after; and soe returning to us Againe, who for severall yeares had lived five myles off us in obedience to the lawe in that case, went unto Sir Gilbert Ireland and shewed his licence (as it was meete he should), being then at Beusy. And some of us went to Mr. Ward, our present parson, and tould him that notwithstandinge the libertye given we had a purpose not soe to cleave to Mr. Yates as to neglect his Ministry, but desired the benefitt of both; which wee did enjoy for a season to our great comfort and satisfaction and without the least intrenchinge upon Mr. Ward's usuall tyme for his Publique ministry. But after a while Mr. Ward began to be highly displeased (and what invectives he uttered in his Publique ministry we shall let passe) and tould some of the neighbors that if Mr. Yates would preach he would have him take a place further off from him; and those that would heare Mr. Yates let them, and those that would come to heare him might, and soe he should knowe his freinds from his foes. At which sayinge of his the Towne was much trobled and went to him and tould him that they would still continue theire contribution to him (which was somethinge considerable) and that he should not anyways be damnifyed by Mr. Yates comeinge into the Towne. But notwithstanding all that could be said to satisffye him it would not be accepted, but remove wee must. And ever after that tyme to disapoynt us [he] did alter his usall tyme of Preachinge unto Mr. Yates his tyme, which was betyme in the morninge and soone after midd day (before his). Thus when we had tryed all meanes and saw it would be not better, we procured an other Place in the Towne and obtayn'd a licence for that, signed the 9th of December, 72; and theare have in peace Continued ever since (sometymes heareing Mr. Ward and sometymes Mr. Yates) untill of late Mr. Ward beinge stired up against us by what means we knowe not, unless it weare from a groundless conceit that a suspention which was sent out of the Bishopp's Court at Chester against him might be procured by some of us—from which aspersion he hath since cleared us before severall Wittnesses. By what hath bene sayde your good Worshipp may take notice that wee weare not over forward at the first cominge out of his

Majestis declaracion but stayed a considerable tyme untill wee saw what was generally done; nor did wee foresee it would give offence to any to take the Benefitte of his Majestis declaration; neither have we since carryed it on either contemptiously against authority or seditiously amongst our Neighbors, But have Endevered all that Ever we could for a Right understandinge and freindly acomodacion betwixt the two parsons; And have alwayes Judged our present libertye and freedome to proceed from the clemency of our neighbouringe Justices, which wee well knew they might interrupt at there Pleasure; nor have wee at any tyme asserted or mentayned any other ground thereof And have alwayes looked upon ourselves as secure, & promised unto ourselves as much libertie and freedome as any others in the Nacion did enjoy; and all throw the Wisdome and Prudence of our superiors (wee meane our owne Contrye Justices of the Peace) Untill Mr. Ward by his importunity with Mr. Slater procured a Warrant against us. Upon the sight whereof Mr. Yates submited and ceased Untill by the mediacion of some freinds that wee made use off to Mr. Slater that we hoped would be prevalent with him That his Worshipp would not be offended if we began againe, and that he would graunt out noe more Warrants against us—both of which we had some intimacion would be condicended unto (with this proviso, that it must be at our owne perills)—we tooke the Incouragement to begin againe, judginge it might be a surprisall or earnest solicitation of the Informers which might have moved Mr. Slater to grant out a Warrant against us. In the meane tyme, hearinge nothing of your Worshipp's mind in the businesse, we hoped all would doe well. And thus things continued with us [till] Wigan sessions last, at which your Worshipp & severall other Justices weare present, who notwithstandinge the Earnest importunity of the informers weare hardly prevealed with (as we heard) to grant out any Warrant against us, nor did wee either heare or could learne that any was granted out: For which gret favour and Clemency we (Judging it our duty) sent a letter of thanks by a spetiall hand unto one of the Justices that was then upon the Bence, hopeing in due tyme it would be communicated to all the Rest. But soe it fales out that severall Warrants are Isued out against us, as allsoe a letter from your Worshipp to Mr. Ward wherein you declare your great displeasure against our proceedings and Judges it to be out of Refractorinesse and contempt of Government that wee hould on in our former course. Now that your Worshipp and the rest of our Country Gentlemen may bee assured that noe such cryme can Justly be charged upon us, Att the sight of your Warrant and letter, which Mr. Yates saw upon Munday or Tuisday last (beinge made Publique by Mr. Warde), In humble Obedience thereto & to athority is Resolved to decist. And if your Worshipp or any

other Justice at the Sessions had but hinted the least dissatisffaction or displeasure against our proceedings to any person amongst us whom your Worship should have thought most meete, wee beleive theire would have beine a Readye Submission & none of this severitye would have needed. And theare wee shall turne our Narracion into humble Supplicacion:

And doe humbly beg (that since things are thus with us and trouble is falen upon us which wee did not expect or doe beleave your Worshipp would have imposed had you understood the whole Truth of the matter, as wee hope your Worshipp will doe by the proceeding narrative which might have beine more large but that wee feare wee have bine over tedious alreadye: whereby wee hope in some measure our Inocency will appeare) That your good Worshipp will be pleased to accept of us into your favour againe (Tho unworthy), which we had meritoriously forfeited had all things beine true which has beine Reported of us unto your Worshipp; And that in your wisdome you would find out a way whereby the Rigerous Execution of the Warrants may be suspended & soe many inocent persons may not suffer, some of which in Testimony of theire good affection to his present Majestie ventred life & estate & all in Order to his happy Restauracion. And what your Worshipp thinks meete to doe in Answering our desire wee shall take it as a favour, & as in Duty bound shall Ever Pray, &c.

My Answer to Mr. WARD, Minister of Warrington, concerning the Conventiclers; March the 3rd, 1673.

HAIGH.

SIR,—This day Mr. Nichols & another of your Towne Presented mee with a Narrative of some inducements and Encouragments they had which made them presume to hold theire Conventicles as they did, and wherein they alsoe seeme to justifye themselves very much to be inocent of those Informacions which have Rendred them insolent, & withall have therein made theire applicacion with a submission & promise of future obedience—the Perticulers whereof they have promised to shew you. In the meane tyme I have told them that I shall give you orders to lett the Constables knowe to goe on with the Execucion of their Warrants att theire Perrills, & give an accompt thereof at the sessions of such goods or moneys as they have distrayned or Received; till which tyme I shall give noe other Answer to this paper but shall then Represent it to the Rest of the Justices. At which tyme it will be necessary to have sufficient and Positive Witnesses to the words that any of the Conventiclers have given out & bene charged with, since they seeme to charge you & others with misinformations against them. I must confess the end

of the Lawe to be to Endeavour their suppression more then benefitt by fine; & your beleife of theire future demeanoure will goe farr with us. Soe Referreinge the Rest till the sessions I rest—Your afft. freind to serve you, ROGER BRADSHAIGH.

I should be glad these People would continue to be as Cautious as they seeme to Promise.

The postscript to the last letter may be a sign that Sir Roger was becoming somewhat tired of the struggle, and the next letter shows that he was willing to give as much favour as his conception of duty allowed.

The Copy of what I writ under Doctor BRIDOCK's letter to Parson Baldwin[1] to desist Conventicling; Aprill the 24th, 1674.

SIR,—Since Mr. Deane of Salisbury hath taken notice of your Unlawfull meeting and Preachinge at Copull Chapell I must look upon it as an Informacion, & Consequently proceede against [you]; wich I shall bee unwilling to doe if I may be encouraged to beleve that you will desist, for I doe not knowe any power can awarrant you against the knowne Lawes. Soe, upon confidence you will give me noe other occation, I shall Remane—Your loveing freind, ROGER BRADSHAIGH.

Aprill the 24th, 1674.

The following are depositions in the case against Nathaniel Heywood, Vicar of Ormskirk till his deprivation for Nonconformity in 1662. He continued his ministrations in the district, and in 1672 opened the chapel at Bickerstaffe Hall here mentioned, having the support of Lady Stanley. Though he escaped any legal penalty at this time, he had to cease public preaching :—

Com. Lanc.

I am credibly informed that the next Lord's day there will be an Assembly, Conventicle or meetinge under collour &

[1] Possibly Roger Baldwin who, after ejectment from Rainford in 1662, ministered at Eccles, &c., as a Nonconformist till his death in 1695. Dr. Brideoak was Rector of Standish, 1645–78; Dean of Salisbury, 1667; Bishop of Chichester, 1674.

pretence of religion in other manner then accordinge to the Leiturgy & practice of the Church of England at the Hall of Biccurstaffe, scituate in Biccurstaffe afforesaid, in Contempt of the statute made in the 22th yeare of the Raigne of our Soveraigne Lord King Charles the Second Intituled an Act to prevent and suppresse seditious Conventicles: Theise are therefore to will & require you & in the name of the King's most Excellent Majestie stricly to Charge & Command you That takeinge with you sufficient Assistance you Repayre the next Lord's day before nine of the Clocke in the aforenoone unto the said Hall of Biccurstaffe & (after refusall or Denyall to Enter) Breake open the Doores & Enter into the same & Dilligently Enquire & take notice if there be any such assembly wherein is Five persons or more (beinge sixteene yeares ould or upwards and subjects of this Realme) over & above those of the same household; & if you Find any such that you take them into your Custody to the Intent they may be proseeded against according to the said Act; & make a true & perfect presentment in writeinge under your hands of the names and surnames & places of aboade of all such persons as you shall theire find preaching, prayinge, or present at such assembly, Conventicle, or meetinge under Collour & pretence of exercise of Religion, & whether the same bee in manner Accordinge to the Leiturgie and practice of the Church of England; & returne the same together with theise precepts to & bring such person & persons as are unknowne to you & refuse to declare unto you his, her or theire names, surnames & places of aboade before mee to the intent they may bee proceeded against according to Law. Given under my hand & seale this Tenth day of October, Anno Doñi, 1674. Jo. Entwisley.

To the Overseers of the poore and
Constables of Biccurstaffe.

The Information of Robert Holland, Constable of Biccurstaffe, Taken the Eleventh day of October Anno Dom̃i 1674, before mee John Entwisley, Esqr., one of his Majestis Justices of peace and Quorum of the s'd County.

Who saith that this morneinge hee Received a Warrant directed to the Overseers of the poore & Constables of Biccurstaffe under the hand & seale of the said John Entwisley Commandinge them thereby to take with them sufficient Assistance & repayre to the Hall of Biccurstaffe, & after refusall or denyall to Enter to Breake open the doores & Enter into the same & Enquire if theire were any assembly, Conventicle, or meeteinge under Collour & pretence of Exercise of Religion in other manner then accordinge to the Leiturgie & practice of the Church of England. In obedience

whereunto hee this Informant went to the Hall of Biccurstaffe, where hee found all the Doores about the said House Locked or Barr'd soe that hee could not Enter into the same; but att a doore of a Roome comonly called the Chappell theire hee Demanded entrance in regard hee heard some Person praying or preachinge in the same Roome, & although hee could not be admitted to Enter yett hee Confesseth hee absolutely refused to breake open the Doore, & now saith hee will nott, Lett what will befall him.

ROBERT HOLLAND
his R mark.

The information of HENRY PREISTLEY and GEORGE MAUDSLEY, both of Ormschurch In the same County, Taken this Thirteenth day of October, Anno Dom. 1674, before Sir ROGER BRADSHAIGH, Knt., & JOHN ENTWISLEY, Esq., Two of his Majestis Justices of peace & Quorum of & for the said County of Lancaster.

Who sayth & depose that John Kindsley, Edward Dicconson & Mary Hyde of Aughton, Robert Molineux of , Wm. Harrockes, Tylor, & Mary Coockeson of Biccurstaffe and Nathaniell Hewood of Ormschurch (formerly Viccar there), together with Twenty other Parsons & more unknowne, over and besides those of the same Household, being of the severall ages of sixteene yeares & upwards and subjects of this Realme, weare on the last Lord's day (being the Eleventh day of this Instant October) present at an Assembly, Conventicle, or meetinge under Collour and pretence of Exercise of Religion in a Certayne Building Called the Chappell, parcell of the mancion House or Hall of Biccurstaffe; wherein the said Wm. Harrockes Read some parte of the Comon Prayer, but not the Lettany nor the Epistle nor the Gospell appoynted to be read for the Day; And the said Nathaniell Hewood made a prayer & tooke his Text in the 2d. of Corinthians, the 4th Chapter and the 3d. & 4th verses, and did preach or teach thereupon. And theise Informants further say that before they departed from the said Hall of Biccurstaffe there came Robert Holland, Constable of the same Towne, with the warrant thereunto Annexed, The Execucion whereof as to the Breakeinge of the said Doores in the presence & heareing of theise informants hee the said Robert Holland absolutely denyed, saying, "Lett your Master (meaninge Mr. Entwisley) do with mee what hee pleaseth, I am Resolved I will never Breake any doore heere."

HENRY PREISTLEY.
GEORGE MAWDSLEY.

The informacion of RALPH GLEAST & ALEX. MAUDSLEY of Ormschurch, taken this 21st day of December, Anno Dom̃i 1674, before us, Sir ROGER BRADSHAIGH, Knt., and JOHN ENTWISLEY, two of his Majestis Justices of Peace & quorum of the said county.

Who saith they[1] very well knowe Mr. Nathaniell Heywood of Ormskirke and that hee was viccar of the parish and parish church of Ormschurch before the tyme of the King's Restauracion, and for severall yeares before & after and ever since the makeing of the Act of Oblivion Intituled the King's Majestis most gratious free & generall pardon, Indempnity & oblivion (made in the 12th yeare of our Soveraigne Lord Kinge Charles the second) untill about the feast day of St. Bartholomew which was in the yeare of our Lord God 1662; and whilst he was viccar hee dwelt in the viccarage house within the Towne. And that they[1] hath seene him severall times since the 24th day of March in the yeare of our Lord God 1665 in the Towne of Ormschurch. And they[1] this Informants saith on Tuisday Last, being the seventeenth day of this Instant December, they[1] saw the said Nathaniell Hewood in the House of John Garner in Ormschurch aforesaid. And that the same Towne is not above Fower Myles distant from Biccurstaffe Hall in Biccurstaffe afforesaid nor from the new Chappell in Skaresbricke.

RALP GLEAST.
ALEX. SCARESBRICKE
his AS Marke.

Capt. et Jurat. die et Anno superd. coram nobis
ROGER BRADSHAIGH,
JO. ENTWISLEY.

The following warrant for Mr. Heywood's imprisonment is without date and probably was not issued :—

It hath beene duely proved to us, Sir Roger Bradshaigh, Knt., & John Entwisley, Esqr., two of his Majestis Justices of peace & quorum of & for this County pallatine of Lancaster upon the Oathes of Richard Gleast and Alexander Scaresbrick, both of Ormschurch, that Mr. Nathaniell Hewood of Ormschurch for

[1] Altered from "he," the words in the heading "& Alex. Maudsley" having been added after this paragraph was written. It will be noticed that the wording has not been corrected perfectly, and that Maudsley should be Scarisbrick.

severall yeares before & att & ever since the makeinge of the Act of Oblivion Intituled the King's Majestis most gratious free & generall pardon, Indempnity & oblivion made in the Twelfth yeare of the Raigne of our Soveraigne Lord Charles the second, &c., & untill the feast day of St. Bartholomew which was in the yeare of our Lord 1662, hath beene viccar of the parish and parish church of Ormschurch & Dwelt in the viccarage house within the Towne of Ormschurch; And that the same Towne is not Foure Myles distant from Biccurstaffe hall & that Biccurstaffe Hall is within the same parish. And it hath beene likewise duely proved to us upon the Oathes of Henry Preistley & George Maudsley taken before us the Thirteenth day of October last that the said Nathanyell Hewood since the Foure & twentith day of March which was in the year of our Lord God 1665, That is to say the Eleventh day of October last past, hath come unto & beene at Biccurstaffe Hall afforesaid And was then & there present at an assembly, Conventicle or meeteing under Collour & pretence of Exercise of Religion in a Certayne building Called the Chappell, parcell of the same House Called Biccurstaffe Hall, wherein a family then Inhabited, with Twenty other persons & more over & besides those of the same household (beinge of the severall ages of sixteene yeares & upwards & subjects of this Realme). And the said Nathaniell Hewood did then & there make a prayer & take his text in the second of Corinthians, the fourth Chapter & the third & fourth verses, & did then & there preach thereupon, but did not read the Common Prayer in the said assembly at that tyme. And the said Nathaniell Hewood hath not proved that he was served with any writt, subpœna, warrant or other process whereby his personall appearance in the same place was Required, nor that hee is ordayn'd according to the Forme of the Church of England, nor that hee hath declared his unfeigned assent & Consent to the use of all things Conteyned & prescribed in the Booke of Common Prayer & Administracion of the Sacrament & other Rites and Consernes [Ceremonies] of the Church accordinge to the use of the Church of England, nor that hee hath subscribed the declaration contayned in a Certayne Act of Parliament made in the Fourteenth yeare of his Majestis Raigne & Intituled an Act for the uniformyty of the Publique prayers & Administracion of Sacrements & other Rites & Ceremonys And for the Establishinge the Forme of makeinge, ordeyninge, & Consecrateinge Bishops, Preists, & Deacons in the Church of England According to the same Act or any other subsequent Act, nor that hee hath taken & subscribed the oath Expressed in a Certayne Act of Parliament made in the 17th year of the said King's Raigne Intituled Nonconformists Restrayned from Inhabitinge in Corporacions & hath now Refused to sweare & subscribe the aforesaid Oath & Declaracion before us: Therefore wee send you

herewithall the Body of the said Nathanyell Hewood, requireinge you to take him into your saffe & Close Custody and soe keepe him for six months without Bayle or mayne prize accordinge to the statute in the said 17th yeare of the Raigne of Kinge Charles the Second in such Case made & provided. Given under our hands & seales at Wigan in the County aforesaid this day of January Anno Domi 1674.

ROGER BRADSHAIGH.
JO. ENTWISLEY.

NOTE ON CAPTAIN MEADOWCROFT (p. 142).

Early in 1660 Edward Moore of Bankhall complained of "a troop under the command of one Captain Medowcroft which are raised by the late orders from Lambert, being all great Anabaptists. [They] are here in this County and keep very strict watch on Warrington Bridge. They have on Saturday last taken several gentlemen prisoners;" Captain Stewart's MSS. in *Hist. MSS. Com. Rep.* x., App. iv. 109. This may show why Meadowcroft and his men were regarded with suspicion even some years later.