

STRAY NOTES.

AN OLD WINWICK HOUSE.—In the village of Winwick there stands a good house, built in what is called the "Queen Anne style," which has over the front door, carved on the upper part of the large keystone, a cardioid shield between palm branches. On this there are, in raised characters, the letters and date :

P
W A
1717

These stand for the Rev. William Pilkington, LL.D., rector of Croston, who married at Winwick, in 1705, Alice, daughter of John Launder, of New Hall in Ashton-in-Makerfield, and widow of Legh Bankes, of Winstanley, to whom she had been married at Winwick in 1703 ; she died in 1747. On the lower part of the keystone there are incised in script letters, the initials

M P

which stand for their daughter and heiress, Margaret Pilkington, who was the first wife of the Rev. Streynsham Master, M.A., vicar of Aston-juxta-Birmingham, and afterwards patron and rector of Croston, to whom she was married in 1734 ; she died in 1757, aged 49. Further particulars of these persons will be found in *Some Notices of the Family of Master*, by the Rev. George Streynsham Master, printed in 1874 for private circulation, and in *Local Gleanings*, ii., 95, and the *Victoria County History of Lancashire*, iv., 147.—J.P.R.

BOOTH FAMILY OF MANCHESTER.—The following entries are written in an old Rheims Testament which once belonged to a family named Hall ; possibly the words "father" and "mother" should be read as "father-in-law" and "mother-in-law" :

Thomas Booth Junr died March 3. 1785.
Thomas Hall (my uncle) Died March 29. 1785.
Henry Booth of Manchester Died March 16. 1786.
Thomas Booth (my father) Died Sep. 27th. 1787.
John Booth of Manchester died August 11. 1789.
My mother Booth died June 14th 1792.

—J.P.R.

CHETHAM EPITAPH.—The following epitaph at Leghorn in Italy was copied by the late Rev. Charles Best Norcliffe, of Langton, Yorkshire :

Vivit Regum sorte beatior | Cujus cineres | Humili
 hac requiescunt urnâ | Georgius Chetham | Patri Jacobo
 de Turton in agro Lancast. Angliæ Armigero | Filius
 natu secundus. Nat. Prid. Non. Decembris A.D. 1678. |
 Ab antiquo majorum stemmate | Neque tamen vetu-
 state stirpis | Quam prisca morum probitate | Magis
 illustrium | Oriundus | Quorum egregiis vestigiis | Dum
 pressius inhæreret | Mira indolis suavitate omnibus
 charus | Etiam ab incunabilis | Castus pius fidelis hilaris
 sobrius sedulus | Alieni | Nequaquam appetens | Sui |
 Parcus nimis nec profusus | Immobili tenore vitæ | Nisi
 perpetuo virtutum incremento | In meliorem mutaretur |
 Indicio majora spondens | Eheu ! | Vix florenti juventa |
 Lethali apoplexia correptus | Si lustra computas |
 Morte immatura | Sin virtutes | Mature occubuit | xvij
 Cal. Aprilis A.D. 1701. | In piam memoriam | Cognati
 hæc marmora | Mœsti dicam ? | Lœti posuere | Non,
 enim ad luctum moritur qui ita vixit. | Abi Viator | Ac
 imiteris | Nec quicquam putes mansurum | tibi in-
 violabile | Cras fortasse tu quoque silebis. |

ARMS: A griffin segreant, a bordure bezantée, a crescent for difference.

—J.P.R.

PETER CLAYTON, RECTOR OF NORTH MEOLS.—This rector died 30 Nov. 33 Elizabeth (1590), as appears by the depositions concerning his estate taken a little later. He had lands at Easington in Yorkshire, Leyland and Tockholes, this last appearing to be his native place. The beneficiaries included his son John Clayton *alias* Inman, and Mary Clayton *alias* Inman; they appear to have been illegitimate, though in one place John is called "son and heir"; Chester Recognizance Roll 258, m. 3, 6; and *Deputy Keeper's Report*, xxxix, app. 72. This supplements the account in *V.C.H. Lancs.*, iii., 228.

JAMES WORRALL, RECTOR OF AUGHTON.—His will, dated 4 Aug., 1651, and proved 4 Aug., 1653, is at Somerset House (98 Brent). He desired to be buried in the parish church of Aughton, near where his predecessors had been buried. He mentions Margaret Worrall his mother, Robert his son, and Edward Stockley his brother-in-law. Worrall was presented to the rectory by Stockley in 1646; *V.C.H. Lancs.*, iii. 289.

THE EARL OF CHESTER'S ADVOWRIES.—At the Chester Court on 20 Sept., 1323, Henry son of William de Orel summoned Richard le Bruyn to answer for taking a cow of his at Childrethorneton in the previous July. The defendant said he was in charge of the earl's advowries. Plaintiff had taken refuge in the county on account of a felony committed in Lancashire and therefore came into the earl's advowry (or protection) and was liable to an annual payment for that protection; the cow was taken in distraint, because nothing had been paid. The plaintiff said he was born at Orel, was legitimate and free, not a fugitive for felony or anything else, and not a villein. Therefore he did not come under the earl's advowry. In support of his claim he produced the following writing:

A touz cex qe cestes lettres verront ou orront Gilbert de Sotheworth viscont de Lancastre, sir Richard de Molyneus persone de Sefton, Gilbert de Halsale, Richard le Walshe, Johan le Norays, William le Coudray, Robert de Grelle, William de Molyneus, Thomas de Hale coroner de Derbshire, Wauter de Aughton, Robert de Molyneus de Thornton, et Henry de Walton salut en Dieu. Sachiez qe Henry le fitz William de Orel fu nez en la vile de Oryl en Derbshire e est franke home e de franche condicion de aler et revener en touz lyus a sa volunte quites de totes maneres de malvaitez, felonies et naivetez et pur tels le savoms et tesmoigns saunz chalange estre de chekune persone; purquai nous prioms a totes gentz le dit Henry tenir de tel condicion. En tesmoignaunce de quele chose a cestes lettres overtes avoms mis nos seals. Escrit a chastel de Liverpole le Jeudy en lendemain de la feste de saint Laurence en lan del regne le roi Edward fitz al tres noble roi Edward xvij^{me} (11 Aug., 1323).

The decision was given in plaintiff's favour (Chester Plea Roll 35, m. 20d). The place named seems to be Orrell in Sefton parish. Similar cases occur in the next roll, when Hugh son of Adam de Russhale and others vindicated their birth and freedom from offence. (Roll 36, m. 14, 14d.)

COINING IN CHESHIRE.—John de Shrowesbury, abbot of Norton, was charged with having in 1404 and later coined nobles, scutes and farthings to the deception of the king's people; but he was found not guilty. (Chester Plea Roll 126, m. 3d.) A "scute" was a half-noble (3s. 4d.) In 1416 Michael Ith' *alias* Michael Flemyng of Lyverpole,

a goldsmith, was charged with making counterfeit money at Lacheford in September, 1415—viz. : gold and gilded nobles, halfpence and farthings, to the value of £200, and silver money, "grotes," of the values of 2d., 1d., $\frac{1}{2}$ d., and $\frac{1}{4}$ d. On trial he was acquitted. (Roll 120, m. 23.) Another case is recorded in 1440, when Richard Bannester of Chester, and late of Heskeith in Lancashire, gentleman, was accused of having coined 10 nobles of gold and 3 groats of silver at Nantwich on 22 Sept., 1438, uttering the same as the king's coinage. Further he had on Tuesday in Easter week in the following year (7 April) broken into Daresbury church, taken a book called "a Masse boke" (worth 10 marks) and thrown a chalice, with the Body of Christ exhibited therein, to the ground, and also taken a spoon (value 2s.) of the goods of Richard Donbaben and John Pykeryng, the churchwardens. He denied the coining, and as to the theft said he was a clerk and demanded the ecclesiastical privilege. A book was given to him and he read as a clerk. Thereupon James Huyton, as deputy of John Burdet, Decr. Bacc., archdeacon of Chester, claimed him for the church court. The jury at Chester said that accused was not guilty of the coining but was guilty of the theft. He was accordingly delivered up to the ordinary as a clerk. (Roll 145, m. 33d.) Two or three years later Henry Halstidde of Brereclif and John Tatersall of Burneley in Lancashire, were also charged with making false money, but were acquitted. (Roll 148, m. 13.)

WEST KIRBY REGISTERS.—With the exception of entries regarding the Coventry and Glegg families the earliest Register of West Kirby, 1561–1619, portions of which are almost illegible, does not appear to contain much of interest. The two following entries, however, may be worth noting by local genealogists :

1605. Oct. 17 Joh. . . Standishe & Ellena Blundell,
mar :

1610. July 27 Joh'es Cotton Cler. et peregrinus, bur :
None of the above are West Kirby names.—F.C.B.

THE VALUE OF A GUINEA.—A Chester Plea Roll (No. 490) of 1680 records a complaint by John Pinington. He had on 2 March lost at Tarvin a coin, *anglice*, "one Guiney peece of Gould," value £1 1s. 6d. ; and Thomas Cheshire of the same place had found it and would not return it to him. The result is not recorded. Mr. Penney has a note on the value of this coin, first minted in 1662, in his edition

of *Sarah Fell's Household Book*, p. 572: "The first value was 20s., but the price soon went up to 21s. 6d., and in 1694 to 30s., owing to the deterioration of the silver coinage. In 1698 the value came down to 21s. 6d., and in 1717 to 21s."

THE HOSPITALLERS IN CHESHIRE.—In 1347 an inquiry was made as to the privileges claimed by the Knights of St. John. The reply is interesting as stating the townships in which they had tenants to be summoned to their courts. They had views of frankpledge at *Nantwich* for Nantwich, Brouneshurst, Copenhale, Munshull and Alsacher; at *Larketon*, for Larketon, Lachecote, Okhull, Tiresford, le Rode, Teverton, Prestlond, Holowe, Cheseuys, Eddelegh, Setebuk, Rydelegh, Woikeslowe, Haddelegh, Cuselegh, Astelegh, Tussyngham, Eage, Tilstan, Stretton, Barton, Chirton, Golburn Belowe, Hatton, Foukestapelford, Bruynstapelford and Chester; at *Frodesham*, for Frodesham, Alvandeley, Thornton, Kyngelagh, Nottley and Elton; at *Tatton*, for Tatton, Knottesford, Nethertabellegh, Sladhurst, Merbury, Northwych, Lymme, Mulinton, Leghe, Cumberbach and Roustorne; at *Middlewich*, for Middlewich, Sondebache, Swetenham, Twemelowe, Crauenache, Stubbes, and Brerton; at *Fulshawe*, for Fulshawe, Chorley, Eggesley, Cholford, Wythyngton, Sudyngton and Asthull. The courts were held yearly at Michaelmas, except at Middlewich, where two courts were held, at Michaelmas and Easter. In support of this and other privileges they produced a charter granted by Randle III., as Duke of Brittany, earl of Chester and Richmond. See Chester Plea Roll 59, m. 8.

JOHN COE, MINISTER OF LYMM.—In Ormerod's *Cheshire* (i., 594) the only date for this incumbent is "1661 in, et ante." In some Lancashire depositions of 1647 he is already described as "minister of Lymm," being 35 years of age. His testimony was that twelve years previously (*i.e.*, about 1635) he was witness to a lease made by Thomas Ireland of Bewsey esq. to William Marsh gent. (the plaintiff in the suit) of a tenement in Little Bolton occupied by Robert Bordman of Great Bolton. The tenancy was to begin after the death of the said Robert and of Ralph Bordman his son; Pal. of Lanc. Chancery Depositions, bundle 42.

REPORT FOR THE YEAR 1920.

PRESENTED JANUARY 20, 1921.

THE subjoined table demonstrates the membership of the Society on January 1st, 1921, and although there has been a considerable increase in the annual subscription it is pleasing to observe the comparatively small diminution in our numbers.

MEMBERSHIP.

	Annual.	Life.	Associate.	Honorary.	Total.
1st Jan., 1920	194	10	—	8	212
1st Jan., 1921	187	10	—	8	205
Gain	—	—	—	—	—
Loss	7	—	—	—	7

The Council express regret for the death of the following four members, viz. : Mr. P. C. Thicknesse, Mr. David Scott, Mr. Robert Norris and Mrs. Alfred Fletcher.

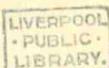
Eight new members have been elected during the year under review.

In the course of the past year nine meetings were held. The first was the Annual General Meeting, when a large number of excellent archæological items were displayed by means of lantern slides ; the seventh was held at the Reference Library, by kind permission of the Library, Museum and Arts Committee of the Corporation of Liverpool, when the additions to the Binns Collection were exhibited.

In view of the constantly increasing expenses attendant upon the production of the Annual Volume of *Transactions*, it was found necessary to propose the increase of the annual subscription to £1 11s. 6d. This was duly carried into

effect at a Special General Meeting, held on December 9th.

The first summer meeting of the session took place on 29th May, when the members travelled to Manchester, where, under the guidance of Mr. J. J. Phelps, Hon. Secretary of the Lancashire and Cheshire Antiquarian Society, they visited the Roman fort. The remains of the wall were viewed, and the whole site of the Roman camp vividly described. The party then, by the kindness of the Governor, visited the Old College of Manchester, the former house of the Earls of Derby, now Chetham's Hospital. Here the great banqueting hall, the double-storied cloister, of which there is only one other example in England, the ancient library, and the various rooms and fine old furniture were seen. Mr. Phelps gave an account of the building, and pointed out the various objects of interest. By kind permission of the Dean, the Cathedral was visited. The Rev. H. A. Hudson, M.A., F.S.A., gave an interesting lecture on the old church. The nave, choir, aisles, splendid screens, and beautifully carved choir stalls were much admired.



The second summer meeting took place on 3rd July, to Ormskirk and Aughton. Canon Haynes, Vicar of Ormskirk, met the members at the Church, and pointed out the various features of antiquarian interest. This church is one of the three churches in England which has both a spire and a tower, the tower being built about 1540, to receive the bells of Burscough Priory. The tenor bell dates from 1497, being re-cast in 1576, and is beautifully decorated. The oldest portion of the church is the Norman arch in the chancel, belonging to the late eleventh century. Here were seen in the Derby Chapel (the burial place of the Earls of Derby for nearly 300 years) the alabaster figures of Sir Thomas Stanley (1459) and his son, the first Earl of Derby (1504) and their wives. The members next visited Aughton Church, where the rector, the Rev. R. F. Markham, explained its details. This church has recently been restored with great care, the very fine 16th century oak roofs of the nave and aisle having been exposed to