

FIFTH MEETING.

Collegiate Institution, 4th March, 1852.

P. R. M'QUIE, Esq., in the Chair.

PROCEEDINGS.

The Minutes of the last Meeting were read and confirmed.

The Certificates of three Candidates for Membership were read for the first time.

The following were duly elected Ordinary Members :—

Rev. John Shepherd Birley, Halliwell Hall, near Bolton.

David Howe Lambert, Baltic Buildings, Redcross Street, and
Bedford Street, Liverpool.

James Sykes, Breck House, Poulton-le-Fylde, and 49, Seymour
Street, Liverpool.

The following DONATIONS to the Society were laid upon the table :—

1. From the *Society*.

Proceedings of the Society of Antiquaries,
No. 22, in vol. ii.

2. From *other* Donors.

Robert Rawlinson, Esq. Reports of the Board of Health, on a preliminary inquiry, &c. respecting Berwick-on-Tweed, (2 copies); Poulton-cum-Seacombe, (2); Rusholme, (2); Dorchester and Fordington, (2); Morpeth and Bedlington, (2); Birmingham, Carlisle, and Dover, (1 each.)

P. R. M'Quie, Esq. A map of Manchester, A.D. 800. Copied by James Wyatt, Engineer.

James Kendrick, M.D. Randle Holme's Academy of Armory; printed at Chester 1688.

Rev. T. Faulkner Lee, M.A., Lancaster. Lithograph of the Ancient Runic Cross, of Lancaster, now in the Museum of the Natural History Society at Manchester. Drawn from the original, by the Rev. T. F. Lee.

J. W. Whitehead, Esq. Prospectuses of Projected Schemes in Liverpool, about the year 1836. Of 102 which were proposed, Mr. Whitehead had collected as many as 80 Prospectuses.

The following Articles were EXHIBITED :—

- By Joseph Mayer, F.S.A. Six stone Celts of various sizes and shapes ; four bronze do. ; part of a sword blade ; an ancient spear head with the wood in it ; and a palstab found in the County Antrim, Ireland.
- By Dr. Hume. Bag of a "leubra" or native Australian woman, made of the stringy bark tree. A New Zealand basket made throughout of the *phormium tenax* or native flax.
- By Alfred Rimmer, Esq. Three Drawings by George Ormerod, Esq., D.C.L., &c.,—viz., Smithell's Hall, exterior and interior views, 1810 ; and Hale Hall, 1820.

MISCELLANEOUS COMMUNICATIONS.

Dr. Hume exhibited and read extracts from certain MSS. forwarded by Major-General the Hon. Sir Edward Cust, K.C.H., Vice-President. The following extracts sufficiently explain their import and shew their character.

" Deposiconns of witnesses taken within the King's Ma'ts Court of Excheq^r within his highnes Castle at Chester, the vijth daye of Maye, Anno Regni Regis Jacobi, Angliae &c. quint. et Scotie xl^o 1607. Upon the ple & behalf of Gilbert Vrmeston defte against John Vrmeston compl^t

" Henrie Watte of Moreton w.thin the Countye of Chester husbandman, aged three score yeares and upwards, sworn and examned. Saith he knoweth the p.tyes, and hath knowne them for the space of thirtye yeares nowe last paste and above. And did also knowe William Vrmeston in this Interr. named, and that the said defte is eldest sonne and next heire to the said William Vrmeston. The said William in his lief tyme and at the tyme of his death, was taken and reputed to be lawfully seised in his demesnes of fee, of and in the messuage & certeyne howses and buildings garden and yord to the same belonging, scituate in Moreton, nowe in the plts occupacion, and also of and in one Close or p.cell of land in Moreton aforesaid, called the West-car-hey, * * * And verilye thinketh that the said cottage is builded upon the deftes owne landes, or upon the waste landes in Moreton aforesaid, But whether the deftes father did fynd tymber to the building of the same he knoweth not. * * * Hee saith that there was heretofore a survey taken and made by Henrye Connye John Roberts and Myles ffells, officers for the said henry the late Earle of

derbye of the landes in the Interr. mentioned. And that there weare p.sent at the survey with the deponent William Bennet and Richard Rob^{ts} with others whose names he certainly rem'breth not. And that theis p.celles of land hereafter named, Viz the lytle Kyllonde, the two hullondes in the Gorstefield, the dovehowselonde, the Waynsharelonde, the Smyrllonde, the hadlonde at the head, the hullonde in the oulde field, the hullonde in the Hawthorne, the Waye butt, the Wyldmarelonde, the borde meadowe, the pyke by the rake, and the hullond by the rake weare then surveyed * * Also saieith that the said Compl^t hath used and taken one Cowe grasse in the Towne More of Moreton aforesaid, as Ten^{nt} thereof to the defte, And that the right ho^r William Earle of derby is Chief lord or owner of the Inheritance of the said Moore, And that the said defte hath the said Cowe grasse as app^ten^{nte} and belonging to his Inheritance in Moreton aforesaid, and p^rmitteth the Compl^t to use the same, And that the defte doth putt one Cowe less in the said Moore by reason that the Compl^t hath the superior title there. And further saieith that the defte is a Charterer wth.in the said Townshippe of Moreton. And that there are divers other Charterers wth.in the said Townshippe, that have Comon of pasture or grasse for kyne or Cattle in the said moore, by reason their Inheritance in Moreton aforesaid." Other Witnesses were William Martin of Saughauill Massye, yeoman; Thomas Fabon of Moreton, husbandman; Henrie Smith, Arthure Vrmeston, and Henrie Irbie of Moreton, husbandmen.

The Society resolved to join in the invitation to the British Association for the Advancement of Science, to meet in Liverpool in 1853.

PAPERS.

I.—A LANCASHIRE CHARM, IN CYPHER, AGAINST WITCHCRAFT AND EVIL SPIRITS.

By John Harland, Esq.

Many years ago, certainly prior to May 1825, some men engaged in pulling down a barn, or shippon, at West Bradford, about two miles north of Clithero, in this county, were attracted by seeing a small square piece of wood fall from one of the beams; and with it dropped a paper, folded as a small letter [$3\frac{3}{8}$ by $2\frac{5}{8}$ inches], but measuring, when opened, $7\frac{1}{4}$ by 6 inches. A sort of superscription was in large and unknown characters; and inside, the paper was nearly covered with a sort of hieroglyphics, with strange symbols and a table or square, of 36 small squares, filled with characters in red ink, the great bulk of the writing being in black ink. For the loan of this paper I am indebted to its possessor, Jeremiah Garnett, Esq., of Roefield, Clithero.

In May 1825, this curious document was entrusted to the late Rev. Richard Garnett, of the British Museum, a gentleman of much erudition, and varied and extensive learning. By the aid of some old astrological books, he succeeded in decyphering and explaining the whole, and it is his explanation, (with a very few additions and corrections of my own) that I have now the honour of submitting to this Society. In the middle ages, charms and exorcisms were numerous; and Brand, in his *Popular Antiquities*, gives a week's entire service of the Roman Catholic Church, for the exorcising of a haunted house by the priest, the prayers differing every day; as to which we may observe, in reference to the charm under notice, that the collect for St. Michael's Day was said on the Tuesday and not the Sunday.

The table in the left top corner is a sort of magic square, called by astrologers "The Table of the Sun." It is so arranged that the sum of every row of six small squares, whether counted vertically, horizontally, or diagonally, amounts to 111, and the sum total to 666, a favourite magical number, the origin of which is to be sought in Revelations, xiii., 18:—"Here is wisdom. Let him that hath understanding count the number of the beast: for it is the number of a man; and his number is *six hundred three score and six*,"—i.e., 666. For the sake of greater mystery the numerals are expressed by *letters*, as follows:—

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	0
a	e	i	o	u	l	m	n	r	z

There are apparently some slips of the pen in it. For example, the second number of the first transverse or horizontal row (io=34), ought to be (ie=32), and the 2nd number of the 5th row, which is partially obliterated, should be (er=29). In the top tablet or space, flanking this table, are five mystical characters or symbols in red ink. The first in the top left corner, consists of the symbols of the Sun, and of the constellation Leo, which, in astrology, is "the Sun's own house," and where of course he is supposed to have the greatest power. The word written in black ink under these symbols, is $\mu\text{-}\chi^{\text{ev}}$ (*machen*) the cabalistic name of "the third heaven," and the Archangel Michael being supposed to preside over that sphere,—his seal or cypher is introduced below the symbols just named (the commencement like a rude 4 and the termination like a capital N,) with his name subscribed, $\mu\text{-}\chi\text{-}\varepsilon\lambda$ (Michael). The next character, at the centre top (like a rude Z with circular ends,) is "the *Intelligence* of the

λ	ο	υ	υ	-
μ	ω	υ	υ	
-γ	-ο	-λ	-υ	ω, ω
-υ	ο	ο	ο	-μ
ου	:γ	-2	γ	ωλ
λ	υ		ο	ο



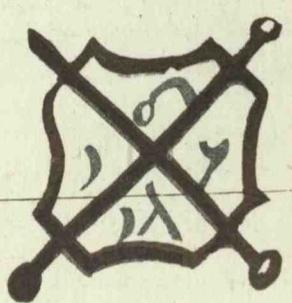
δλ

μ-χσγ

ΔΕΝ

μγχ-ωλ

ΙΥΓΕΔΛΙΝΕΝΩ

-ω-νλν + θγ - + ε-μ-ε + ν--δγγ-δ + ωγυ-υοι -γ-δ + γ-ωλον-δ
 + γλ + δ, γν-δγιο + ω-γνδ + δλγιδ, κλ + λοιγ-γυ-λν + λ
 ινυομ- + μ + θ + ρομινιδ + ροοιδ + θγ- γλ + fi-λ + fi-λ + fi-λ
 λρκε, ρλθ οοεμλ δοωλμλ ε-ωλλλλ δ-νελ, μ-θ-α, -υγοδμλ ε-γμλ
 fiδω δομω-ηδ μινιδ fi-λ δοοεινδ μ fiδωμ δ, δ, λ υολ fiδω, γ
 λεινγιο f-δ, γμ υολ ραμλ γ-ε, λ-λ υολ ωελ λγ ε-λ η-νε λ
 ωελ διν-μ υελ λινε λινε μ υολ η-νε εωδλ, μ -δγγ, ρα-ε, γε
 δινε ωογλ λγ ε-λινε μ-λωδλ, ε υολ λμλλλ μινικε νγμνε
 ω-λγιδ ελ fiλ, ελ δαγγλιδ δ-νελ, -μεν ~ ω-θωγνιδ λωγ ρλ, οδ
 ιν εελ, δ δ-νελ, fiεολλγ νικον λμ υον, -λγογνικ λμ fi-λ οιλ λελ
 λ-οιε λιν εελ, ολι-μ, ν λωγγ- ωονομ νιδ λγμ ρλ, δ, δι-νιμ δ-
 νιδλ ιν ρομ αλ γομλλο νιδλ, ωοε-λ-νιδλγ- ελ ονμ, ωδλ
 γακ, λημδ -μν, ειδ ρλ, νιδλ, δ εβενλ ελ νελνιδ, νδ, ε-δ, λ λενλ-λ
 ιν ωκ δελ λλ εγ- νιδ- μ-λλ fi-λ ~ ~ ~

-γλ- + Θν +

ΓΘΓγ-γγ-μμ-διν

Sun", that word being written over it, *ἡλιογενεα*. Under this is a character or symbol (like a broken fork) denoting "the *Spirit* of the Sun," the word *σπῆριτ* (*spirit*) being written within it. In astrology every planet is supposed to have two beings or spirits attached to it, and called its Intelligence and its Spirit. The last figure, which contains within its quarterings the *σ, γ, λ* (*Sigil*, seal), is the seal of the Sun himself, in astrological language. All these symbols show that the charm was meant to be put in operation on a Sunday, that being the day of the Archangel Michael, as well as of the Sun.

We now come to the words of the charm itself. These are disguised by a peculiar vowel notation, and further obscured by the partial employment of a few Greek characters for some of the consonants and the distortion of the form of most of the other letters. The vowel notation runs thus :—

a	e	i	o	u
—	b	'	\	/

The consonants are thus written :—

b, like a rude capital C.

c, f, j, s, w, x, with little alteration from the ordinary forms.

d, h, as they are found in ancient writings.

g, l, m, n, p, in Greek characters.

q, r, like the figures 9 and 7 respectively.

t, like a staff, with a hook or small circle at top.

These are all illustrated in the fac-simile adjoining.

The charm occupies fourteen lines, which may be thus rendered into ordinary letters :—

Line 1.—apanton [or awanton] + hora + camab + naadgrass + pynavet ayias + araptenas

2.—+ quo + signasque + payns [or pagns? pagus] + sutgosikl + tetragrammaton +

3.—inverma + amo + θ, [apparently an abbreviation for *Theos*, God] + dominus + deus + hora + [here the hole in the paper obliterates a word] + fiat + fiat + fiat +

4.—ut dicitur decimo septimo capitulo Sancti Matthæi a vigesimo carmine

5.—fide demoveatis montes, fiat secundum fidem, si sit vel fuerit

6.—ut cunque fascinum vel dæmon habitat vel perturbat hanc

- 7.—personam, vel hunc locum, vel hanc bestiam, adjuro te, abire
 8.—sine perturbatione, molestia, vel tumultu minime, nomine
 9.—Patris, et Filii, et Spiritus Sanctu. Amen. Pater noster qui es
 10.—in cœlis, sanctificetur nomen tuum, veniat regnum tuum, fiat voluntas
 11.—tuo, sicut in cœlo etiam in terra, panem nostrum quotidianum da
 12.—nobis in diem, et remitte nobis peccata nostra, etenim ipsi
 13.—remittere omnibus qui nobis debent; et ne nos inducas in tentat—
 14.—ionem, sed libera nos a malo. Fiat.”

It will be seen that the first three lines of this charm are a sort of gibberish, with an admixture of Greek and Latin words, constituting in itself a charm, supposed to be efficacious in expelling or restraining evil spirits. With the fourth line then, must begin our translation :—

“As it is said in the 17th chapter of St. Matthew, at the 20th verse, ‘By faith ye may remove mountains; be it according to [my] faith,*—if there is, or ever shall be, witchcraft [or enchantment] or evil spirit, that haunts or troubles this person, or this place, or this beast, [or cattle], I adjure thee to depart, without disturbance, molestation, or trouble in the least,—in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost Amen.”

Then follows the Lord’s Prayer—“Pater noster,” “Our Father, which art in heaven,” &c., ending with the word, “Fiat,” (be it done.)

It remains to notice the superscription or endorsement, for the paper has been folded as a letter, and these words are written outside :—

—γλ— + εϑ

†ετγ—γγ—μμ—τ.ν

These we read “Aglā — On [or En] — tetragrammaton.” The first two words are names given to the Deity by the Jewish cabalists. The third, (which is also the last word in the second line of the charm) is meant to authenticate the whole; and to show that it is the production of an artist who understood his business; for “tetragrammaton,”† and “fiat”, are words

* This is not a literal quotation. The verse runs thus :—“If ye have faith as a grain of mustard seed ye shall say unto this mountain, Remove hence to yonder place, and it shall remove; and nothing shall be impossible unto you.”

† “Tetragrammaton” is a word frequently in use among Jews, as descriptive of the sacred and unpronounceable name (Jehovah.)

of such potency, that a charm without them would be of no efficacy whatever. The late Mr. Garnett, writing in May, 1825, adds—"I should think that the document is of no great antiquity, probably not more than 30 or 40 years old. It was doubtless manufactured by some country 'wise man', a regular dealer in such articles. There are, I believe, several persons within 20 miles of Blackburn, who still carry on a trade of this sort."

II.—MEMOIR OF THE EARLS OF CHESTER.

By W. Williams Mortimer.

PART II.—THE NORMAN EARLS.

In a former volume of the Society's publications,* will be found a brief memoir of the ANGLO SAXON princes who held the Lordship of Chester previously to the Conquest. The following is a similar sketch of the NORMAN LORDS, and of the Palatinate Earldom which they held, after their predecessors had been banished or exterminated. Some account of the mode in which the Saxon princes conveyed and granted their lands, may form a suitable introduction.

In the reign of Alfred, a general survey was made of his dominions, the particulars of which are still preserved in the *Great Book of Winchester*. Of its accuracy there is little doubt; and it is quoted in almost every page of the *Domesday Book*, of which it formed the model, but which was not completed until twenty years after the Conquest.

By the fundamental laws of the Saxons, all their lands were subject to the performance of the following duties: I. The erection and upholding of castles. II. The building and maintenance of bridges. III. The military defence of the realm; not under particular leaders, but in general "the expugnation of foreign invaders." The estates were of four great kinds: 1. Thanelands, otherwise Boclands or Charterlands. These, which comprised much of the kingdom, were hereditary, and independent of any superior; so that the owner could freely sell or grant them to others. 2. The Beneficium, granted on condition of military service to some particular chieftain;

* Vol. ii. p. 215.

this was held either for life or for a definite term. 3. The Folkland, held by the many commoners or yeomanry, was not entirely free or hereditary, but under an obligation to make a fixed annual return of provisions. 4. The Church lands were held under Frank-Almoigne; i. e. without feudal service, but with perpetual prayers and masses for the souls of the grantors and their families. To these may perhaps be added 5, the small plots occupied by the slaves [thralls or bondmen,] and villains [mere villagers], for their support, and with which they were sold.

At the Conquest, these modes of tenure were cancelled by the sword of the Norman; and estates were granted on condition of military service. Each Norman leader received his fief from the king on this condition; and again he infeoffed his own vassals in smaller portions, until the system of subinfeudation was complete.

The City of London and the territory immediately adjacent to the field of Hastings yielded at once to the Conqueror, but this formed not one fourth of the kingdom. Twenty years elapsed, ere all the midland and the great northern Counties had surrendered to his arms. Then, and then only was the Domesday Survey made; with the double object of showing how much had been allotted to his companions in arms, and how much yet remained to be disposed of similarly. But, one of the ancient Saxon kingdoms, Mercia, the Conqueror was unwilling to entrust to any one of his Barons; he therefore divided it into separate portions or counties,—thus destroying the unity which might endanger his throne, and rewarding a greater number of his followers. To some he also gave commissions, granting in perpetuity such lands as might be conquered from the native occupiers, in the “*Marcher*” counties of England and Wales.

I. The City and County of Chester, (the latter including that part of Lancashire between the Ribble and the Mersey, and also the Hundred of Atiscros in Wales, lying between Chester and the Clwyd,) was granted to Walter de Gherbaud, a Flemish nobleman. His valour at the battle of Hastings, and subsequently against the Saxons and Welsh, obtained for him this reward. Little is known of this Earl, except that the difficulties of his position were great and unceasing. Wearied with the fatigues of warfare, he obtained leave to visit his patrimonial estates in Flanders; when being cast into prison in his native country, the Conqueror resumed possession of his lands in England. The name of Gherbaud is seldom mentioned

in local history, although he was unquestionably the first Norman Earl of Chester; but he must not be confounded with the Palatinate Earls who succeeded him. The difficulties which he had experienced in retaining possession of the territory assigned to him, induced the Conqueror to erect Chester into a County Palatine, giving to its holder "a fullness of power previously unknown in these realms; such a Sovereign jurisdiction that the ancient earls kept their own Parliaments, and had their own Courts of Law, in which any offence against the dignity of the sword of Chester was as cognizable as the like offence would have been at Westminster against the dignity of the Royal Crown; "for William" adds Pennant "allowed Lupus to hold this County *tam libere ad Gladium sicut ipse Rex tenebat Angliam ad Coronam.*" The Palatinate Lords might pardon treason, murders and felonies, they appointed justices and judges, and were as absolute in their own county, as the king in his own palace, whence says Blackstone, "Counties Palatine are so called a *pallatio.*"*

These privileges were granted to the counties of Chester and of Durham "as bordering upon the inimical countries of Wales and Scotland in order that the people having justice administered at home, might not leave the county exposed by absence to the enemies' incursions; and that the owner by so large authority might be more watchful and act with greater efficacy in its defence."

II. All these privileges were by the Conqueror conferred on his nephew HUGH LUPUS, son of Richard Goss, Earl of Avranché, Auranges or Abrancis, and Viscount of Armorica, by Margaret, the daughter of Harlowin a Norman of rank. Harlett the mother of Margaret was the daughter of a respectable skinner of Valois; she had had, previously to her marriage, an intrigue with the Duke, Robert of Normandy, surnamed the Magnificent, as likewise from his violent temper and disposition, Robert le Diable. This eventuated in the birth of an illegitimate son, William, who succeeded to the Dukedom of Normandy, and is better known in English history as William the Conqueror. His nephew Hugh, the son of Richard Goss, was at the conquest rewarded with the manor and castle of Tutbury and lands adjacent, for the great bravery he had evinced in many encounters with the English, in all of which his daring courage and ferocity amply confirmed the propriety

* But there are several other etymologies of this word. See Spenser's Ireland, apud Todd, v. viii. p. 534, and Bracton.

of the surname he had previously acquired, of *Lupus* or the wolf, by which he is so well known in our local history.

To maintain the state and dignity of the Earldom, Hugh *Lupus* was invested with immense estates in different parts of the kingdom. The city and castle of Chester with the whole of the county which did not appertain to the Church, was conferred upon him, or his immediate retainers; he himself holding in demesne no fewer than forty-eight entire townships. His other properties extended into the counties of York, Lincoln, Norfolk, Suffolk, Huntingdon, Oxford, Northampton, Derby, Notts, Rutland, Berks, Buckingham, Warwick, Salop, Gloucester, Hants, Dorset, Somerset, and Devon. After Hugh *Lupus's* investment in 1070, he restored the city walls, enlarged the fortifications, subdued the Welsh, and reduced the entire county of Flint under the sword of Chester. He also appointed great officers of his state and household; and nominated several of his principal Barons* to aid him in the government of his extensive territory.

The Normans partook largely of one feeling at this period, which was that scarcely any christian virtue exceeded that of the building and endowment of churches and religious houses. Many of them, therefore, founded or extended monasteries, as they believed their end approaching, and Hugh *Lupus* among the number. A monastery had existed for centuries at Chester, the foundation of which was attributed by tradition to *Wulpherus* King of Mercia, for the reception of his daughter *Werburch*, afterwards patron saint of Chester, and such as chose to join her. After undergoing various changes, its previous inmates were dispossessed by *Lupus* in the sixth year of *William Rufus*. He was then suffering from severe illness; his endowments were upon a magnificent scale. The new foundation was transferred to Monks of the regular order of *St. Benedict*, and *Anselm*, Abbot of *Bec* in Normandy, who died in 1105, became its first Abbot. *Hugh* died in 1101.

Historians have differed much respecting the character of *Lupus*. By some he is represented as an active and prudent prince, especially in his early days, but toward the close of his life he sunk into voluptuousness. By others he is represented as prodigal, vain, ungodly, an epicure and sensualist. His numerous severities practised on the Welsh were retaliated by contemptuous names derived from his personal appearance, as *Hugh Fràs*,

* See Appendix to this Paper.

(Hugh the fat,) or Hugh Dirgane, (Hugh the Gross.) His wife was Ermentrude, daughter of Hugh de Clerimont, Earl of Beauvais, in France. By her he had only one son.

III. RICHARD, son of Hugh Lupus, succeeded at the age of seven years. It is not known with certainty how the Palatinate was regulated during his minority, nor indeed till the time of Earl Randall, but there is reason to suppose that he was under the guardianship of his mother. In 1119 he married Maude, the daughter of Stephen de Blois, son-in-law of the Conqueror, and in a few weeks afterwards, returning to England with his bride, accompanied by two of the sons and one daughter of Henry I, and about a hundred and fifty of the young nobility of England and Normandy, he suffered shipwreck; and all save one of the crew were drowned. The old chroniclers relate the details, that the King's ship sailed first and arrived in safety, but that the crew of the Prince's ship had been intoxicated with part of three hogsheads of wine, and ran their vessel upon some rocks. The historians of the period testify no sorrow for this event, but regard it as "a divine vengeance," "a judgment of God," &c., occurring in a calm sea, in fine weather. The reason is that William, the legitimate heir of Henry I, cherished a spirit of bitter animosity against the Anglo-Saxons, and had been heard to declare that if ever he came to reign over the miserable remnant of that people, he would yoke them like oxen to the plough.

IV. RANDAL DE MESCHINES, Viscount Bayeux next succeeded. He was nephew to Lupus, being son of his sister Maude, by Randal of Meschines, and of Bricasart in Normandy. Of Earl Randal, peaceful in his disposition and domestic in his habits, not one incident is recorded worthy of notice. His name seldom appears after 1119, when he is mentioned as remaining faithful to Henry I, during the disturbances that prevailed in Normandy in that year. He married Lucio the widow of Roger de Romara, by whom he had issue Randal his successor, another son who became Earl of Cambridge, and a daughter. He was liberal in his contributions to the church, and in his donations to his followers.* He

* Among others he gave the manors of Storeton and of Puddington, and the balliwick of the forest of Wirral to his steward, Alan Sylvestre or Savage. This Alan had a daughter who succeeded to his estates, and conveyed them to one Alexander, who is presumed to have been tutor to the son of Earl Randal, though in some pedigrees he is called steward of the household. Adopting the fashion of the time he assumed the name of his residence—Storeton—which with the wardenship of Wirral forest was confirmed to

died in 1128, after an incumbency of eight years. His wife, now a widow for the third time, gave £266 13s. 4d. for livery of her father's land, and paid a fine of 500 marks, that she might not be compelled to marry within five years.

V. RANDALL the second, generally surnamed de GERNONS—but perhaps, more correctly de Vernon, from the place of his birth—was the son of the first Earl Randall, to whose estates and dignities in England, as well as in Normandy, he succeeded. The influence he derived from the great possessions of his father, was increased by his marriage with Maude, daughter of Robert Earl of Gloucester, natural son of Henry I. He was of a very ambitious disposition, and living in times when political contentions prevailed, he makes a conspicuous figure in the history of that period, in which he was not only one of the most powerful of the Barons, but, decidedly the greatest warrior. United in arms with his father-in-law, Robert of Gloucester, and his half-brother, the Earl of Lincoln, “he made many most notable stirs in this nation.” The old historians have left elaborate details of the proceedings of these powerful barons during that “confused alternation and succession of anarchy and tyranny, which the poverty of language compels us to call the reign of Stephen.” This monarch had given offence to Randall, by making Henry, son of the King of Scot-

him by Hugh Cyvelioek, afterwards Earl of Chester. Storeton afterwards stiled himself Magister, and his signature as *Mag'tro Alexandro* frequently appears, in numerous deeds, immediately after that of the Sheriff of the County. He had two daughters, by the marriage of one of whom in 1315, to Sir Thomas de Bamville, Storeton was conveyed to him, and afterwards divided between his three grand-daughters co-heiresses. Upon the marriage of Jane or Joan, the eldest, with Sir William Stanley, the first of the name in Wirral, he obtained the bailiwick of the forest and her share of the manor; and having purchased the other shares from her sisters, he assumed the armorial bearings of the Foresters, viz.—*Argent, on a bend azure, three bucks' heads cabossed or*, instead of those previously borne by the Stanleys. His great grandson, Sir William Stanley, Lord of Storeton, who died 21 Richard II, appears from an inquisition to have held the manor from the King as Prince of Chester. Many charters now in Chester shew how much Richard the Second was attached to the capital of his favourite County, which in his greatest extremity furnished him with a body guard of 2000 native archers. In the latter part of his reign, 21 Richard II, cap. 19, the Earldom was erected into a principality. But these proceedings were cancelled by his successor Henry IV, who conferred the Earldom upon his son, creating him Prince of Wales, Duke of Cornwall, and Earl of Chester. This Sir William was the direct ancestor of the many noble and distinguished Stanleys who have since occupied so conspicuous a position in the annals of this kingdom. His eldest son married Margaret the daughter and heiress of William de Hotone, from whom is in direct descent the present Sir William Stanley Massey Stanley, Bart., late of Hooton. His second son was Sir John Stanley, Lord Deputy of Ireland and Knight of the Garter, who marrying Isabella the heiress of Latham, became the founder of the ennobled families of Stanley of Knowsley, (Lord Derby,) and of Stanley of Alderley—also of the Stanleys of Ponsonby in Cumberland.

land, Earl of Northumberland, and presenting him with Cumberland, a county which Randall considered his own, as he claimed to be lord of Cumberland and Carlisle. Prevented by the King from attacking Northumberland, on his return to the court of his father, Randall's indignation was roused against Stephen, and he immediately surprised the town and castle of Lincoln, which the King had garrisoned, and took it with all the strongholds in that county.

The two earls of Lincoln and Chester, were in turn besieged in Lincoln by Stephen, but Randall escaping, raised a large force among his own followers in Cheshire and North Wales. Robert of Gloucester, his father-in-law, aided him, and Matilda was proclaimed Queen. The King's troops consisted in a great degree of Flemings; but a battle taking place at Lincoln, on Candlemas-day, 1141, they were forced to flee before the fierce Welshmen, and the king was sent in irons to Bristol, where Matilda was residing.

At this period, Randall was in the zenith of his power; but Gloucester had been made a prisoner, and his liberty was of so great importance to his party, that the king was exchanged for him. During the remainder of his life, Randall was engaged in a continued series of battles with Stephen, attended with very varied success; once fully one-third of the kingdom belonging to himself. In every town and village, the factions of the royalists and imperialists, (as the party of Matilda was called,) had almost daily contests, in which both sides suffered severely. The frequent and long absences of Randall from Cheshire, and the exhaustion of males in fighting his battles, tempted the Welsh to make inroads upon his territories, "making great store of spoil and devastation." Late in life, he was one of those who invited Henry Plantagenet to England. He died in 1152 or 1153, it is generally supposed by poison. He had previously founded Trentham Priory, the Nunnery in Chester, and several other religious houses in Warwick and Lincoln. One of his last acts, was to give to the monastery of St. Werburgh, Chester, the manor and churches of Bromborough and Eastham, as a recompense for injuries which he had done to the brotherhood. And to procure the removal of a sentence of excommunication which had been pronounced by Walter, Bishop of Lichfield, against the Earl, his widow and son, shortly after his death, transferred the manor of Styshall, with other lands in Warwickshire, to the Bishop.

VI. HUGH the second, surnamed CYVELIOCK, from having been born in the Commote* of that name in Powysland, succeeded as sixth Earl. He possessed, we are told, the valour and fortitude of his father, but was greatly inferior to him in wisdom and in the control of his passions. He wrested from the Welsh, and retained in his own hands, much of the land about Bromfield and the neighbourhood. At this time, when the Welsh, confined within their mountain fastnesses, were no longer a source of terror to the English, when the vast possessions of the British monarch in France were not disputed, when Scotland no longer threatened the border frontiers with invasion, and in England all was peaceable except one or two of his own turbulent Barons, Henry II appeared at the height of his prosperity. But by the evil disposition of his Queen instigating his three sons, then mere boys, a powerful conspiracy was formed against him. The flames of civil discord broke out in all directions. The powerful Earl of Chester, "William the Lion" King of Scotland, and the Earl of Leicester led their forces against the King, and were at first eminently successful both in England and France. But a reverse occurring, Earl Hugh fell into the hands of the King, at the castle of Dole, in 1173; and the King of Scotland being taken, peace was soon established. The three young princes were pardoned, with the most of their allies, but the three principal conspirators were to be treated with separately. William the Lion and the Earl of Leicester easily made terms; but it was only in 1178, that Henry restored to Hugh his liberty and estates, on the earnest entreaty of his friends. "Being taught by his folly to be more wise," says Webb, he retired to Chester, where he was buried in 1181. He also was liberal to the church. He added to the endowment of Trentham Abbey; and confirmed the manor and village of Greasby to the Abbey of Chester.†

VII. RANDALL the third, surnamed BLUNDEVILLE,‡ succeeded his father, and held the earldom during the long period of fifty-one years. He was the principal adviser of four English monarchs, (Henry II, Richard I,

* Part of a shire, hundred, or cantred, containing fifty villages.—Bailey.

† As a witness to a deed, granting the church of Prestbury to this Abbey, the name of Gilberto *filio* Pincernæ appears. Robert the father of this Gilbert was Robert le Pincerna, or Butler, which name he assumed from his office; he was the ancestor of the Butlers or Botelers of Amounderness and Bewsey. Several families branching from him are extinct,—as Boteler of Teston, a baronet "of that right worshipful and ancient family," as Philipot the deputy of Camden calls them. Sir Philip Boteler the last Baronet, died in 1772. He bore for Arms, arg. on a chief sa. three cups or.

‡ From *Album Monasterium*, i.e. Blondeville, (modern Oswestry.)

John, and Henry III), and all writers agree in considering him one of the principal barons of England, not only in prowess, but in wisdom and prudence. He was called Randall the Good, from his benevolence; but partaking of the feelings of the period he entered the lists of the crusaders at an advanced period of life, with a degree of fury and fervour which fanaticism only could inspire. He attained great celebrity, and Robert Langland or John Malvern gives a curious illustration of the Earl's notoriety in song at the time when he wrote. An ignorant monk, attempting to chaunt mass, pleads as an excuse for his inability to perform it:—

“I cannot the Pater Noster as the priest it syngethe,
But I can Rimes of Robin Hood, and of *Randall of Chester*,
But of our Lord and Ladye, I lerne nothing at all.”

The first twenty years of this earldom present little worthy of notice. He was in arms in 1194, to aid in the liberation of Cœur de Lion from imprisonment; and the known designs of Llewellyn, Prince of Wales, to attain the independence of his country, kept the border or marches in a state of perpetual excitement. Amid the changes of the period, the alliances and hostilities, the varying friendships and treaties, Earl Randall appears to have acted with firmness and consistency.

The Earl of Chester was one of those who had been instrumental in procuring the elevation of King Henry III., who was crowned in 1216, at the age of nine years, and in the divided condition of the nation and weakness of the crown, Llewellyn attempted to attain his object, but mainly in consequence of the faithlessness of the English barons in alliance with him, he was defeated. The victory in which the young King broke the forces of his rebellious barons is quaintly called “the fair of Lincoln,” and took place in May, 1217. The earl of Chester was then Regent; and next to the security of the nation, he sought that of his own territories. The devastations of the Welsh extended to almost every village and town on the borders; they were witnessed often from the walls of Chester; and the suburb of Handbridge, on the opposite side of the Dee, was thence called *Treboth*, or the burnt town. In September, 1217, Randall took advantage of a treaty that had been made with Llewellyn, and went to the crusades. On his return he made grants to several religious establishments. The Cistercian monks of Poulton were transferred to the Abbey of Dieulacres, in Staffordshire, which he had first founded; he erected Beeston and other castles, which were to be supported

by tolls on those who passed through his lordships; and he established beacons, as at Everton. His whole life was spent in activity, and nothing was either too difficult for his accomplishment, or too minute for his attention. Alike in his victories and in his government, he was influenced by feelings of pure patriotism.

He was undoubtedly, the first subject in the kingdom, holding the two great earldoms of Chester and Lincoln, and by virtue of his wife Constance, (widow of Geoffrey, son of Henry II.,) the dukedom of Brittany and earldom of Richmond, which she had inherited from her father. He was sheriff of the three shires of Stafford, Salop, and Lancaster, in the two former of which he held large estates by inheritance; and, in consequence of receiving confirmation of lands which his ancestors had held, but which had been forfeited by the defection of Roger de Poitiers—the original grantee,—he became chief lord under the king, of all Lancashire. For the tenure of his lands between the Ribble and the Mersey, he paid annually a goshawk, or fifty shillings into the king's exchequer. Such large possessions gave him great power and influence, so that he sometimes refused to answer the summons of royalty itself.

He died in 1232, at Wallingford, whence his body was removed to Chester for interment. He was twice married, having been divorced from Constance in 1200, and remarried to Clemence, widow of Alan de Dinnan. Some say that he was married a third time; but there is evidence that his second wife survived him. Respecting his private or personal history little is known; but it is inferred that he was small of stature, from a reproachful remark made of him previous to the battle of Lincoln. His vast possessions were divided among his four sisters. Maude, the eldest, who had married David, Earl of Huntingdon, brother to William the Lion, King of Scotland, received Cheshire as her portion. Mabel, married William D'Albiny, Earl of Arundel; and Agnes, Ferrers, Earl of Derby. Avis or Hawes, the youngest, and her brother's favourite, received the earldom of Lincoln, with all his lands in that shire; she married Robert de Quincey, son and heir of the Earl of Winchester.

VIII. JOHN, surnamed the SCOT, son of Maude and David, succeeded as Earl of Huntingdon and Chester. Little is known of him, but it is believed that he spent his time mainly in the improvement of his possessions, and that he was of a peaceful disposition. He at first took part with

the Barons against Henry III., but speedily joined the councils of the monarch—being influenced no doubt by personal attachment as well as by alliance. He was constant in his attendance at the court of the king; and at the marriage of the sovereign, carried one of the swords of state—that of mercy. On this occasion, the great barons of the land had all been summoned to perform the usual offices or duties which had anciently been held by, or were due from their ancestors, at the coronations of the kings.

In the life time of his father, by his desire, he married Helen, a daughter of Llewellyn, Prince of North Wales; the object being to heal the differences which had long existed between the Welsh and the Cestrians. The marriage was not attended with happy results. He had no issue, nor was there any direct or immediate heir to succeed to the earldom; when in 1237, after having held it for only five years, he died and was buried at Chester. It is supposed that he was poisoned, and that by the connivance of his wife.

With him terminated the Palatinate Earldom of Chester, for the King took possession of all the manors and lands which had been held by the Earl, giving in lieu thereof ample domains to his sisters whom he had appointed his coheirs. His widow also received from the king, lands in Northampton, Middlesex, Bedford, and other counties. The rewards or *exchanges* as they have been called, were liberal, the king being “not averse to any, but unwilling that so great an inheritance as the earldom of Chester, should be parcelled out among distaffs.”

The widow and children of John le Scott, last Earl of Chester and of Huntingdon, being thus recompensed out of his princely possessions, the honour and dignity of the Earldom were attached to the Crown, and they have since remained a brilliant appendage of the British monarchy, having been uniformly borne by the heir-apparent of these wide-spread realms.

APPENDIX.

THE BARONS OF CHESTER.

Hugh Lupus, anxious to commence the exercise of his almost regal prerogatives in becoming state, nominated several of his principal BARONS, to form a Parliament to aid him in the Government of his extended territory. Their number, exclusive of spiritual peers, was seven or eight; the title of each was hereditary, and it was taken from his chief place of residence. They had ample means to support their dignity. Sir Peter Leycester says, "though inferior in rank, nay in place below all Knights, they had great power and privileges in the county, which then extended over all Flintshire, and the greater part of Denbighshire, and Cærnarvonshire." From them, many of the distinguished families of Cheshire are descended.

1. Foremost in precedence was Neal, Nigel, or Lenoir;—Baron of Halton, Constable and Earl-Marshal of Chester. He possessed consummate skill as a commander, and great bravery as a soldier. In addition to the offices of state entrusted to him, he possessed twenty-seven manors or townships in Cheshire, in one of which he erected a residence and fortification—Halton Castle—the ruins of which still remain. His son William, the second Baron, founded a priory at Runcorn; and his grandson, the third Baron, dying without male issue, his estates were divided between his two daughters. Lenoir, does not appear to have accompanied the Conqueror to England. One of his brothers was the ancestor of the numerous families of Dutton, Aston, Arley, Gerard, and Warburton; his descendants taking their names from their respective properties. The elder daughter of the third Baron, married Eustace Fitzjohn, whose great grandson took the name of Lacy in 1194, on inheriting the possessions of Robert Lacy, lord of Pomfret. Henry de Lacy, the tenth Baron, was high in rank and power, and a great favourite with Edward I. He was Earl of Lincoln, Constable of Chester, Baron of Halton, Pomfret, Blackburnshire, Roos, and Roweynock, and Lord Protector of England. He left only one daughter, sole heiress, at his death in 1310; and she married Thomas Plantagenet, Earl of Leicester and Derby. His widow dying without issue, the Barony of Halton reverted to the crown; and, is since known as the "fee of Halton."

2. Robert de Montalt or Mold, came next. He was Seneschal of Chester, and entrusted with the government of Mold. A strong castle was erected there to protect the Normans from the incursions of the Welsh. Upon the death of Robert, his heirs succeeded till 1327; when the last Baron, dying without issue, bequeathed his estates to Isabella, Queen of England, and John of Eltham, Earl of Cornwall.

3. William de Maldebeng, Malbank, or Nantwich, a near relative of Hugh Lupus, became Baron of Nantwich. He built a castle of great strength at Nantwich, and adopted the name of the place as his surname. It is mentioned in Domesday, that he possessed no fewer than forty-seven manors or townships. His son, who founded Combermere Abbey, gave one-fourth of Nantwich as an endowment; but the male issue failing, the remainder became much divided. Most of it is now held by the Marquis of Cholmondeley and Lord Crewe.

4. Richard Vernon, Baron of Shipbrook. The fifth Baron dying (37 Henry III.) without male issue, his barony became vested in his sisters as co-heiresses, whence it descended to the families of Wilbraham, Stafford, and Littlebury.*

5. Robert Fitzhugh, supposed to have been a natural son of the Earl, was his chief secretary; and though properly Baron of Malpas, is sometimes called Baron of Hawarden. He had thirty-one manors, including Malpas, which he chose for his castle and surname. The lords of Malpas, in common with other powers, possessed that of life and death in their courts; and it would appear from various reasons, that they more frequently exercised it than others. From him are descended the ancestors of the families of Cholmondeley, and the Egertons of Cheshire, Bridgewater, and Wilton.

6. Hamon de Masci, Baron of Dunham, held his barony, under Lupus, by military tenure. The first Baron was a distinguished warrior; and the third founded the priory

* Half of the Baronial Manor was after legal proceedings recovered by an uncle called in the pedigrees "Sir Ralph the Olde," and "the Old Liver." He is stated to have lived one hundred and fifty years. See *Harl. MSS.* 2079 pp. 124-132, and *Lysons, Mag. Brit.*

of Birkenhead, about the middle of the twelfth century,—in a portion of the barony of Dunham. It was further endowed by Hamon the fifth Baron, upon the death of whose son, in 1342, without male issue, the barony passed to the ancestor of the present earl of Stamford and Warrington.

7. Gilbert de Venables, a younger brother of the celebrated Earl of Blois, was appointed Baron of Kinderton; and had thirty-seven townships annexed to his dignity. The power of inflicting capital punishment, was exercised by the Barons of Kinderton so lately as 1597; when one Hugh Stringer was tried for murder in the Court Baron, and being convicted was executed. The descendants of this Gilbert are frequently mentioned in the history of English warfare; as at the battle of Shrewsbury* and in the wars of the Roses.† Peter Venables, the last direct male descendant, died at Middlewich in the early part of the last century. The Baroness survived him only a few years, dying in 1717. Various other families, still seated in Staffordshire as well as in Cheshire, are descended from these Barons.

8? To these seven, some add a Baron of Stockport; respecting whom, however, there is great doubt. Camden and Spelman incline to the affirmative; and they are followed by the learned authorities of the *Magna Britannica*, as well as in some degree countenanced by an ancient painting. Sir Peter Leycester, on the other hand, decides in the negative, and denies the authority of the painting. In the records of Henry III. and Edward II. Stockport is described merely as a manor, and not as a lordship; and the proprietor in a plea, *temp.* Henry VII., only claimed the right of punishing *minor* offences. It is probable therefore that there was not an eighth Baron, of the same rank.

To the above Temporal Barons, Lupus added certain Lords Spiritual. These were as follows:—1. The Bishop of Lichfield, who in 1075 transferred his episcopal seat to Chester, and thenceforward was called Bishop of Chester. 2. The Bishop of Bangor, whose diocese comprised all the lands lying from Chester to the Menai Straits. 3. The Abbot of Chester. 4. The Augustine Prior of Norton. 5. The Benedictine Prior of Birkenhead. 6. The Cistercian Abbot of Stanlaw. 7. The Cistercian Abbot of Combermere. [Some add erroneously—8, the Abbot of Vale Royal.]

It is probable that others still were added to this Parliament, among whom it is allowable to reckon first Lupus's partner, cousin and friend, Robert de Rodelent, who became commander-in-chief of his forces. Under the name of d'Avranches, he was knighted at the court of the Confessor; and retiring to Normandy, he afterwards was one of the companions of the Conqueror. He received certain grants jointly with Lupus, as the right to govern all territories wrested from the Welsh. The whole diocese of Bangor was by him obtained in this way. He built the castle of Rhuddlan, whence he assumed the name "de Rodelent;" and rebuilt that of Deganwy (Dinas Gonway or Conway.) To the monks of Ulrica, he gave with other things, the manor, tithes and church of West Kirkby in Wirral, "the church of the Island," (most probably the cell or chantry on Hilbre Island), and the church of St. Peter at Chester. Of two sons, one was drowned, and the other, supposed to be illegitimate, held the manor‡ and church of Thurstanston, from which he assumed his surname.

* "Where almost all the powers of Cheshire got together,
By Venables (there great,) and Vernon mustered thither."

† "There Dutton, Dutton kills; a Done doth kill a Done;
A Booth, a Booth; and Leigh by Leigh is overthrown;
A Venables against a Venables doth stand,
And Troutbeck fighteth with a Troutbeck hand to hand.
There Molyneux doth make a Molyneux to die,
And Egerton the strength of Egerton doth try.
Oh Cheshire, wert thou mad! of thine own native gore,
So much, until this day, thou never shed'st before,
Above two thousand men upon the earth were thrown,
Of which the greatest part were naturally thine own."

‡ The great grand-daughter of Matthew conveyed the manor, by her marriage, to Patrick of Heswall, High Sheriff of Chester 5 Edward I. Their only daughter married Robert of Whitmore, whose direct descendants remained in uninterrupted possession till 1751, when it became the property of six co-heiresses. Proceedings in Chancery took place, by which the manor and hall of Thurstanston were settled in 1816 upon Mrs. Lucy Brown, of Marchwiell Hall, Co. Denbigh, and at her decease they became the property of their present occupier Colonel Glegg.