

By Richard Brooke,  
F.S.A.

The Poll Book of Free Burgesses of Liverpool, who voted at the election for Liverpool in 1780, when the contest took place between Bamber Gascoyne, Jun., Esq., Richard Pennant, Esq., and Henry Rawlinson, Esq., which terminated in the election of Mr. Gascoyne and Mr. Rawlinson.

The Book of Addresses, Squibs, Pasquinades, Songs, &c., written on the occasion of that election. We learn from it that the principal electioneering houses of the candidates were the Fleece (Banner's), and George's Coffee House, Castle Street, for Mr. Gascoyne; the Golden Lion (Forshaw's), for Mr. Pennant; and the Talbot, Black Horse, and Rainbow, for Mr. Rawlinson.

The Poll Book, &c., for 1796, when the candidates were General Tarleton and Colonel Gascoyne, who were elected, and John Tarleton, Esq., who was unsuccessful.

The Book of Addresses, Squibs, &c., of that election.

#### MISCELLANEOUS COMMUNICATIONS.

Mr. Brooke stated, that between 30 and 40 years ago, a ceremony somewhat similar to the election of a Mock Mayor in Newcastle, Staffordshire, used to take place annually in Liverpool. On every St. Luke's day, 18th October (on which day the Mayor of Liverpool was then elected), a number of working men, acting as a kind of Mock Corporation, used to meet at Page's Tavern, in Roscoe Street, for the purpose of electing a Mock Mayor. They were called the Mayor and Corporation of "Asses' Green," from the circumstance of an uninclosed tract of ground being then in front of the tavern, extending thence to the west side of Rodney Street, and forming part of it. After the election, which took place after dark, the new "Mayor of Asses' Green" underwent the ceremony of "Chairing." He was carried in procession, attended by drums and fifes, with colours, and occasionally torches, and accompanied by a considerable crowd; and the procession proceeded through Roscoe Street and Leece Street, into Rodney Street, and when it arrived about half-way between Leece Street and Knight Street it made a halt, and "the Corporation" and populace sang "*God save the King.*" They used to halt close to Mr. Brooke's residence; and as they were invariably well conducted, and as he considered the ceremony harmless, he was accustomed to give "his worship" a small gratuity. The procession then used to move on along Rodney Street to Knight Street, down the latter to Roscoe Street, and back to the Tavern. Mr. Brooke also stated, that he had no reason to suppose that the ceremony of electing the Mock Mayor of Asses' Green was an ancient one. It has now

been discontinued for many years; the last time that he could recollect seeing the procession was on St. Luke's day, about 30 years ago.

Mr. Neill mentioned, that of the original members of the Liverpool Athenæum, established in 1798, only three now survive.

Dr. Hume read a letter from the Town Clerk, intimating that the Library and Museum Committee of the Town Council had agreed to provide accommodation for the Society's Collection, at the apartments of the Free Public Library and Museum.

A letter having been read from John Ireland Blackburne, Esq., of Hale, suggesting that at least two meetings of the Session should be held during the day, for the accommodation of non-resident members;

It was moved by HUGH NEILL, F.R.A.S., seconded by RICHARD BROOKE, F.S.A., and resolved,—

"That the Society, approving and recommending the principle of the suggestion, refer the matter to the Council for consideration, and for the arrangement of details if necessary."

## PAPER.

### THE ALLEGED ROYAL VISITS TO LIVERPOOL.

*By Joseph Mayer, F.S.A.*

It is always at a disadvantage that any one sets up a doubt, or even hints at the want of historical evidence to support an old, and generally received tradition; nor ought we to wonder at this, for one half the world never ask themselves the question whether it is likely to be true, or whence the narrator had his authority for the assertion. On the contrary, they content themselves with the probability of the occurrence, and so taking it for granted, tradition often becomes, in course of time, embodied into written history, and is handed down by after writers on the subject as fact. Just such is the case in the subject now before us; where various writers on the early history of Liverpool, after failing to make it a British or a Roman Station, boldly drag in Royalty to fill up the gap, which they wished could have been occupied by a British Chieftain or a Roman Emperor.

But surely this is not the true end and aim of History—to bring forward mere imaginings and suppositions, to be set forth in such light as to be like a "Jack-o'-Lantern" leading us into a quagmire;