

A fragment of a seal of red wax is appended, being a portion of the common seal of the town of Liverpool, bearing the impress of a bird with a part of the legend.....COM.....and beneath, *apparently* upon a scroll issuing from the bird's beak, IOH** This is the third document discovered by Mr. Mayer having the ancient seal of the corporation appended, all of which were supposed to have been destroyed or lost.

Mr. Mayer mentioned that he had received a communication from Thomas Tobin, Esq., of Ballincollig, near Cork, one of the Members of the Society. Mr. Tobin stated that he was clearing out the rubbish from the old castle at Ballincollig, and adopting other means for its careful preservation.

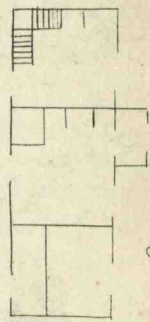
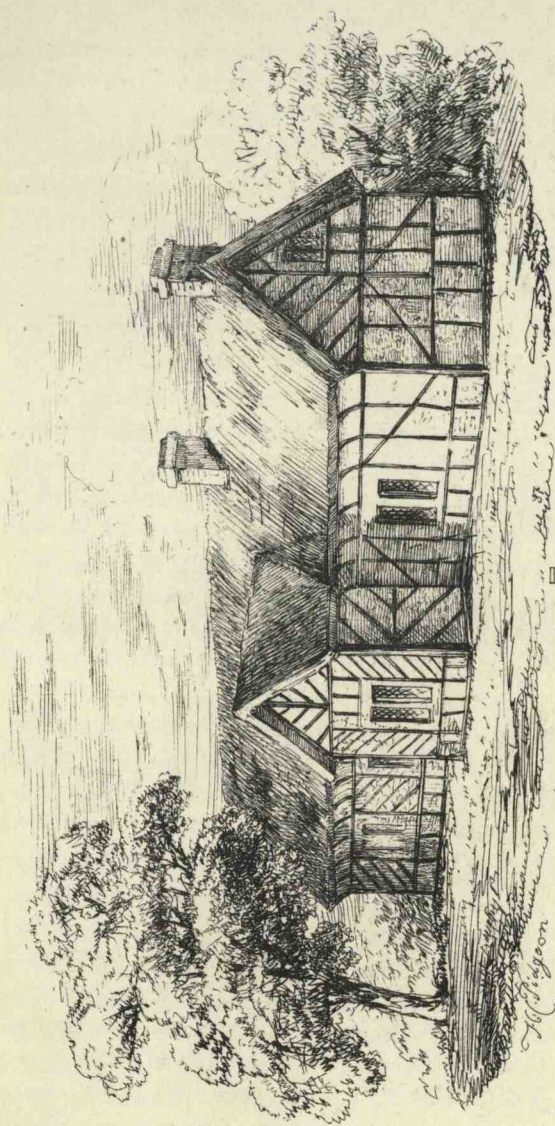
PAPERS.

I.—AN ACCOUNT OF WARRINGTON SIEGE, A.D. 1643; AND OF SOME
MANUSCRIPTS OF THAT PERIOD RECENTLY DISCOVERED AT
HOUGHTON GREEN, NEAR WARRINGTON,

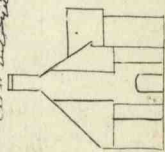
By James Kendrick, M.D.

The following narrative of local history has been prompted by the recent discovery at Houghton-Green, near Warrington, of a number of original manuscripts, so closely connected with the military transactions in this part of our county, during the Civil War between Charles the First and his parliament, as to come peculiarly under the province of this Society for notice. They consist almost entirely of *warrants or precepts* for the supply of forage, provisions, and money to the troops of the party in power, alternately Royalist and Parliamentary. A few only of the documents are in a complete state of preservation; the remainder have suffered much from the attacks of mice or insects, but about thirty can without difficulty be deciphered. The whole were discovered in the month of May last, in the roof of an ancient farm-house at Houghton-Green, a hamlet about two miles distant from Warrington. In one of the rooms on the chamber floor of the house in question, was a walled-up cavity, apparently intended for concealment, and in the thatch immediately covering this the manuscripts were found, tied together with a piece of cord. The house appears to have formerly been the residence of Thomas Sargeant, who in 1640 was constable of Houghton, and at a subsequent period served the same office for Southworth with Croft adjacent. In all probability, the varying occupation of the district by Parliamentarians and Royalists, led to his wary concealment in the thatch of his house, of these evidences of his implication with the Royalist cause.*

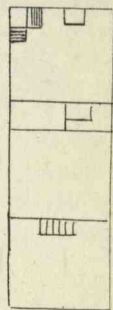
* The annexed Plate is a representation of the house at Houghton Green. The letter (A) shews the situation of the cavity in which the *documents* were found.



Ground Plan

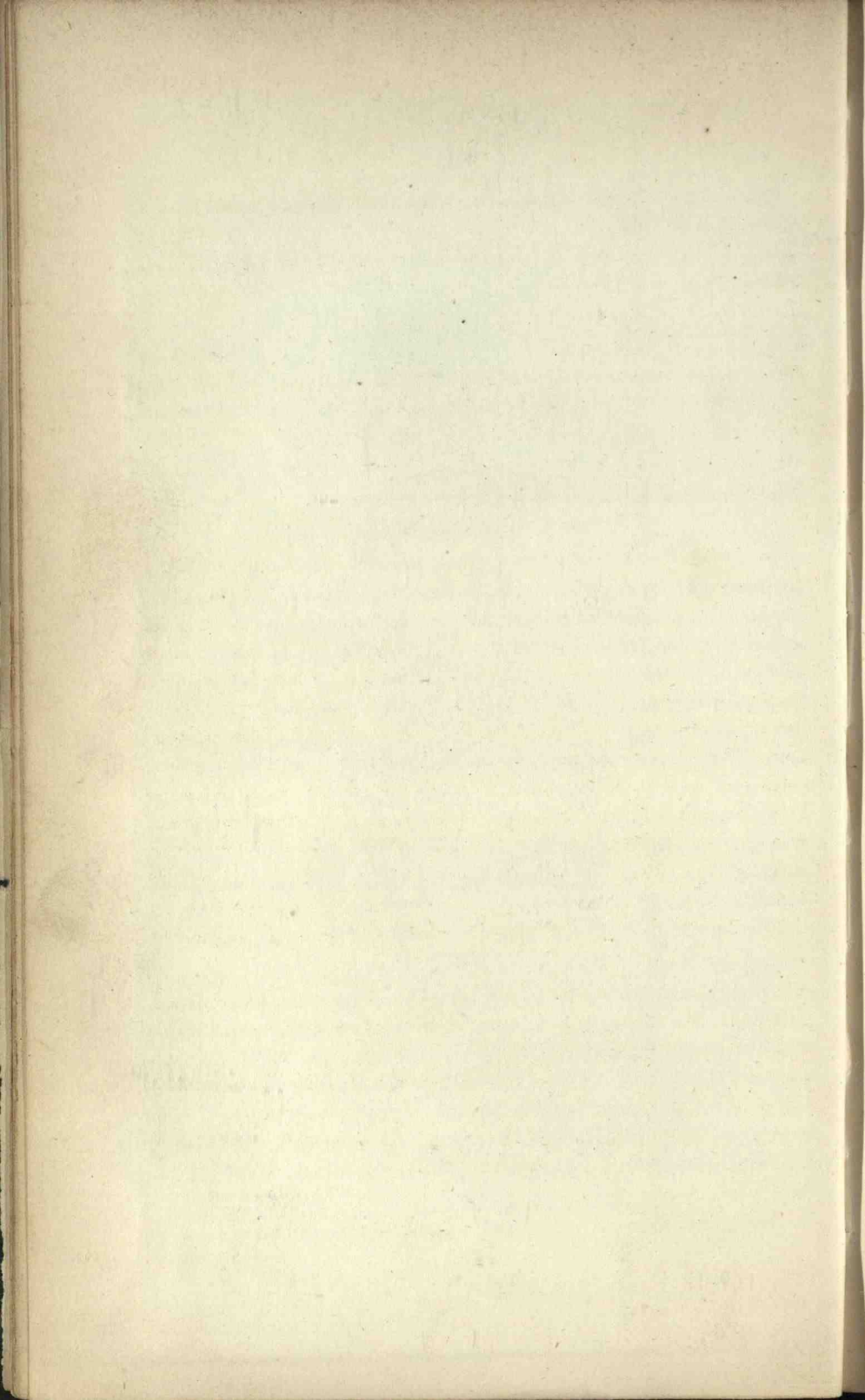


Section



Chamber Plan

OLD HOUSE. at HOUGHTON-GREEN near WARRINGTON



The members of this Society are necessarily unacquainted with many of the localities to which I shall have occasion to refer. This will be sufficient apology for my offering to their notice a few illustrative sketches, taken on the spot. By their means I hope to present the subject more definitely than I could do without their assistance.

It would be impossible in the course of a short paper, to read the whole of the documents now brought to light. I have, therefore to the best of my ability transcribed them, and offer the copy to the Society for acceptance.* A few I shall read at length, with a view of rendering more complete the immediate object of my present paper, which is to produce all the information which I have been able to collect on

WARRINGTON SIEGE, A.D. 1643.

At the outset of the Civil War, (January, 1641—42) when King Charles the First withdrew from his Parliament and repaired to York, the eyes of his Council were directed to Warrington, in the county of Lancaster, as the most fitting rallying-point for the royalist adherents. It was therefore selected as the spot where the first open declaration of war, the raising of the King's standard, should take place; and that "all but royal subject" James, Lord Strange, (shortly afterwards by the death of his father, seventh Earl of Derby,) was dispatched to Warrington, as the centre of the loyal counties of York, Cumberland, Westmoreland, Chester, Lancaster, Salop, and Nottingham, and of North Wales. The Earl is said to have speedily raised twenty thousand men, well armed and loyal to their Sovereign. But enemies amongst the courtiers who remained with the King at York, poisoned the ear of his Majesty with unjust suspicions of his lordship's truth and loyalty, and this led to the royal standard being first displayed at Nottingham, on the 22nd of August 1642.

The Earl of Derby, however, still made Warrington his head quarters, and it was from thence that on the 24th of September following, he led 4000 foot, 200 dragoons, 100 horsemen, and 7 pieces of ordnance to the siege of Manchester, then a stronghold of the Parliament. It is well-known that his attempt was unsuccessful. Leading his discomfited forces to join the King at Shrewsbury, they formed part of the Royalist army at the battle of Edge-Hill on the 23rd of October following. The Earl him-

* At the close of this Paper will be found an *abstract* of the documents.

self had unwillingly returned to Warrington, to raise, at his own expense, new levies; and with these in the early part of November he laid siege to Birmingham, but again unsuccessful, the end of the month finds him with his troops in garrison at Warrington.

It was here, and about this period, that the Earl of Derby returned an indignant refusal to the tempting offers of the Parliament, that if his Lordship would engage in their good cause, he should have command equal to his own greatness, or any of his ancestors. "The purport of these letters," says the historian* of the 'House of Stanley' "raised a greater indignation in his lordship than all the slights and indignations he had received at court, whereupon he vouchsafed them no other answer than that he gave to the Colonel who brought the message—"Pray tell the gentlemen at Manchester, and let them tell the gentlemen at London, that when they hear I turn traitor, I shall hearken to their proposition, till then if I receive any other papers of this nature, it shall be at the peril of him who brings them."

The Earl of Derby, during his sojourn at Warrington, is traditionally said to have occupied a low thatched house on the south side of Church Street. It is still standing, and known as "The Earl's Lodgings," and I have reason to believe is the identical "Norris Tenement" bequeathed in 1621 by William, sixth earl of Derby, for the keeping in repair† of Warrington Bridge.‡

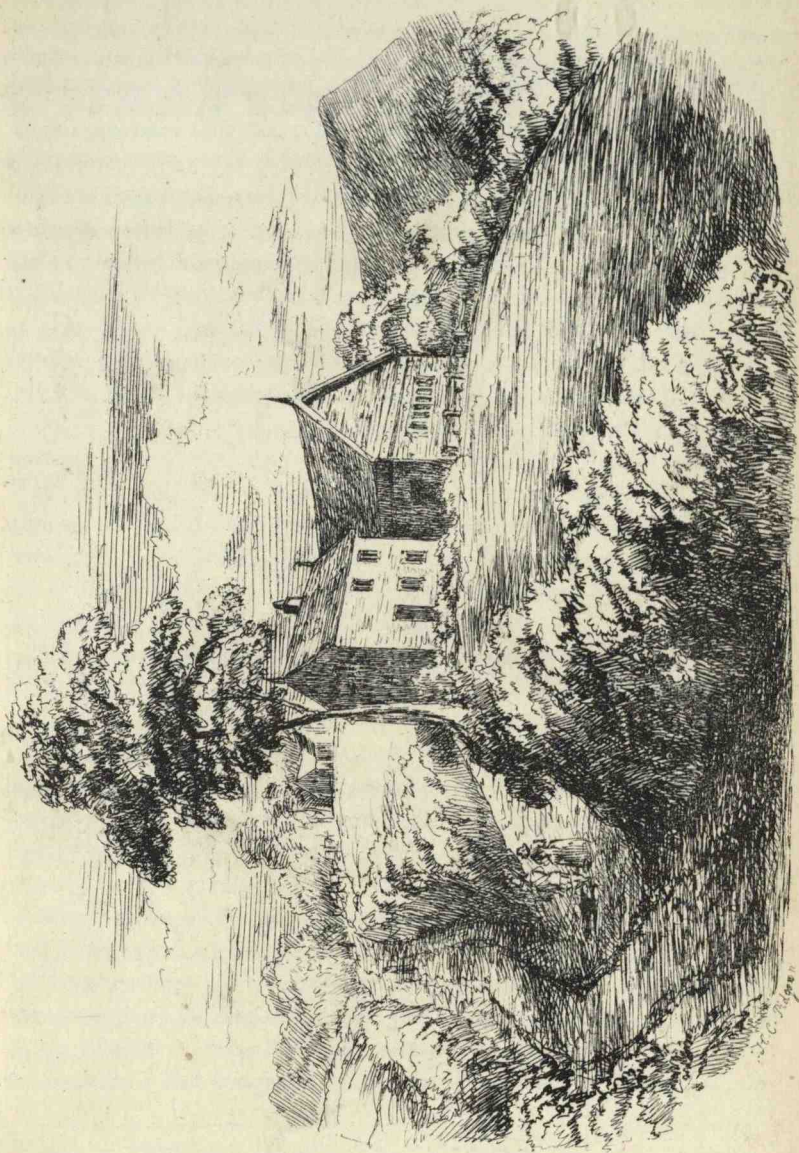
The Letter of Thomas Jesland, of Atherton, in Lancashire, to a Rev. Divine in London, under date of the 2nd of December, 1642,§ says, "The Lord Strange, now Earle of *Derbie*, is the great ringleader of the Popish faction and Malignant partie and keepest his rendezvous at *Warrington*, whither great multitudes of ill-affected people both out of *Lancashire* and *Cheshire* doe daily resort, it lying upon the frontiers of both. They make daily great spoile in the country, which hath now awakened, and so incensed them, that they are, tide-death tide-life, resolved to endure it no longer."

* John Seacome, house-steward to William, ninth earl of Derby.

+ See Dr. Kuerden's MSS. in the Chetham College Library, Manchester. vol ii p. 607.

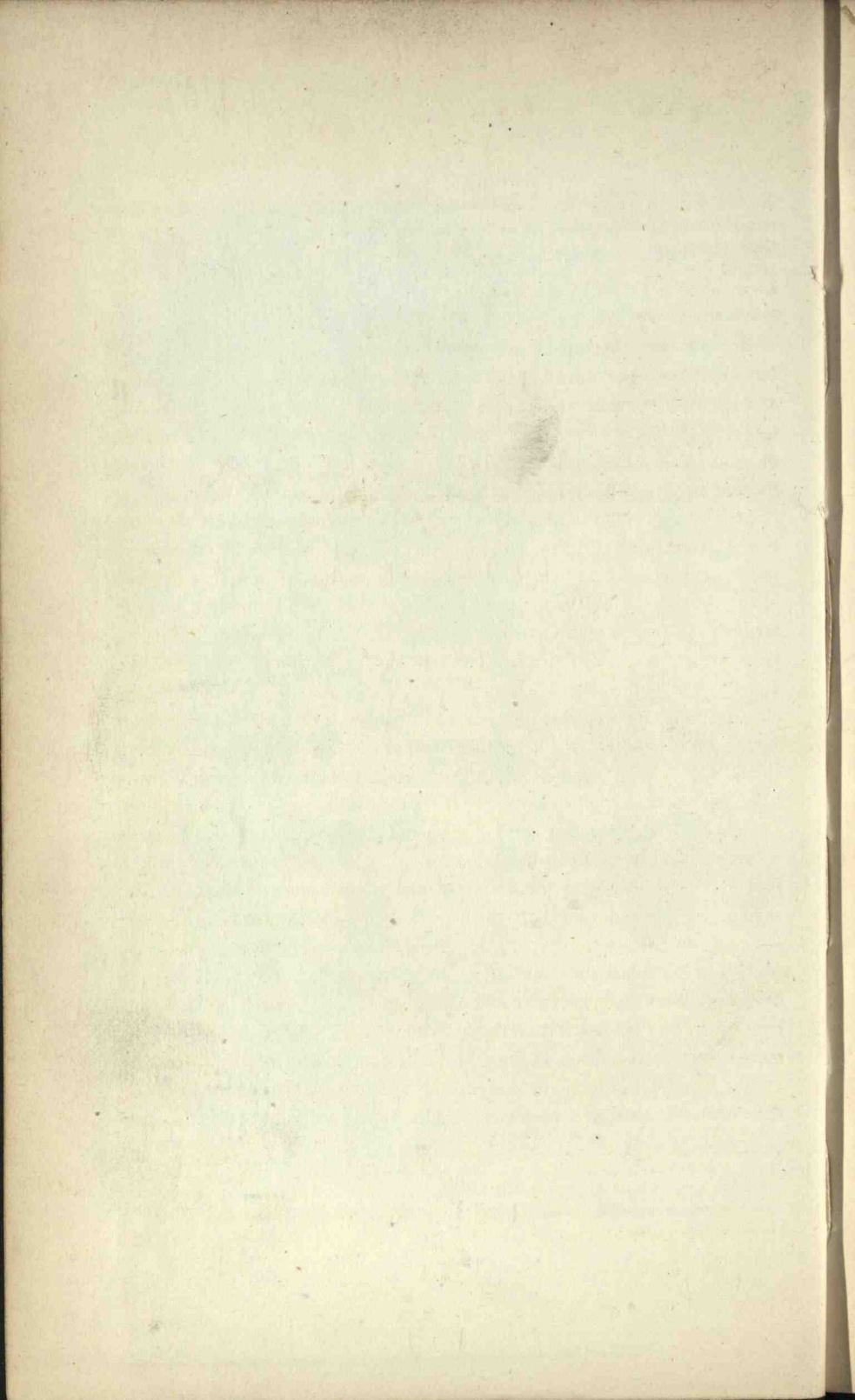
‡ On the opposite side of Church Street is another ancient edifice, now converted into a tavern, and known as the "General Wolfe," prior to which it bore the sign of the "Spotted Leopard." It still, however, retains its name of "Cromwell's Lodgings;" and here the future Protector is traditionally said to have resided for three days, when in August, 1648, he was in pursuit of the Scots army under the Duke of Hamilton. At Warrington he captured all their foot, to the number of 4000, which had been deserted by the cavalry. It is further asserted, and with every probability of truth, that Cromwell attended divine worship at the ancient Dissenting (Baptist) Chapel at Hill-Cliff, a mile and a half distant from Warrington, and that one of his soldiers occupied the pulpit upon this occasion. (See the accompanying Plate.)

§ See Ormerod's "*Civil War Tracts of Lancashire*," (Chetham Society's Transactions, vol. ii. p. 63.)



DIGGING GRAPES at FOLE CREST near WARRINGTON.

J. C. Rogers



At the close of the letter, Jesland states that "it is reported by some about the Earle of Derby, that he is very melancholy and much perplexed about that unadvised course that he hath run, for the last Thursday* at Warrington, at dinner, he said he was born under an unfortunate planet, and that he thought some evill Constellation reigned at the time of his birth, with many such other words of passion and discontent."

But although harassed, and depressed in mind by his ill success at Manchester and at Birmingham, and perhaps most of all by the unkind and undeserved mistrust of his Sovereign, the Earl of Derby was not the less zealous in the cause of his royal master. During the winter months of 1642-43 we find him personally engaged, and with somewhat better fortune, in the capture of Blackburn, Lancaster, and Preston. From Bolton, it is true, he was twice repulsed, and suffered an inglorious defeat at Lowton, but we cannot feel surprise at these reverses, if the Earl's military *materiel* were not more efficient than the following extract from a Puritan pamphlet† of the time would lead us to imagine. "We" (the Parliamentarians,) "have fortified Northwich with trenches, sconces, &c. for the securitie of all those parts which have been much infested by the Commission of Array, and the Ea. of Darbie's forces at Warrington; and we have often sallied out for the clearing of those parts which were most in danger. One place above others hath been extremely assaulted, Mr. Brookes of Norton, a neere neighbour to the Ea. Rivers, against which they brought their cannon, with many horse and foot, and fell to batter it on a Sabbath day. Mr. Brooke had 80 men in the house; we were careful he should lack no powder; with all other things master Brooke furnished them fully. A man upon his tower, with a flag in his hand, cryede them aime whilst they discharged their cannon, saying 'wide, my lord on the right hand;—now wide two yards on the left;—two yards over, my lord, &c.' He made them swell for anger, when they could not endanger the house, for they only wounded one man, lost 46 of their owne, and their canonier; then in divelish rage they burnt a barne, and corn worth (as it is valued) a thousand pound, set fire to another, but more execution was made on the man that attempted it, than the barne, for he was blinded in firing the barne, and so found wandering in the fields, and confest he had five pound given him for his service. After this they

* This would fall on November 24th, 1642.

† "Cheshire's Successe, London, March 25, 1642," reprinted in Ormerod's "History of Cheshire, vol. i. p. xxxvii.

plundered Mr Brooke's tenants, and returned home with shame and hatred of all the country."

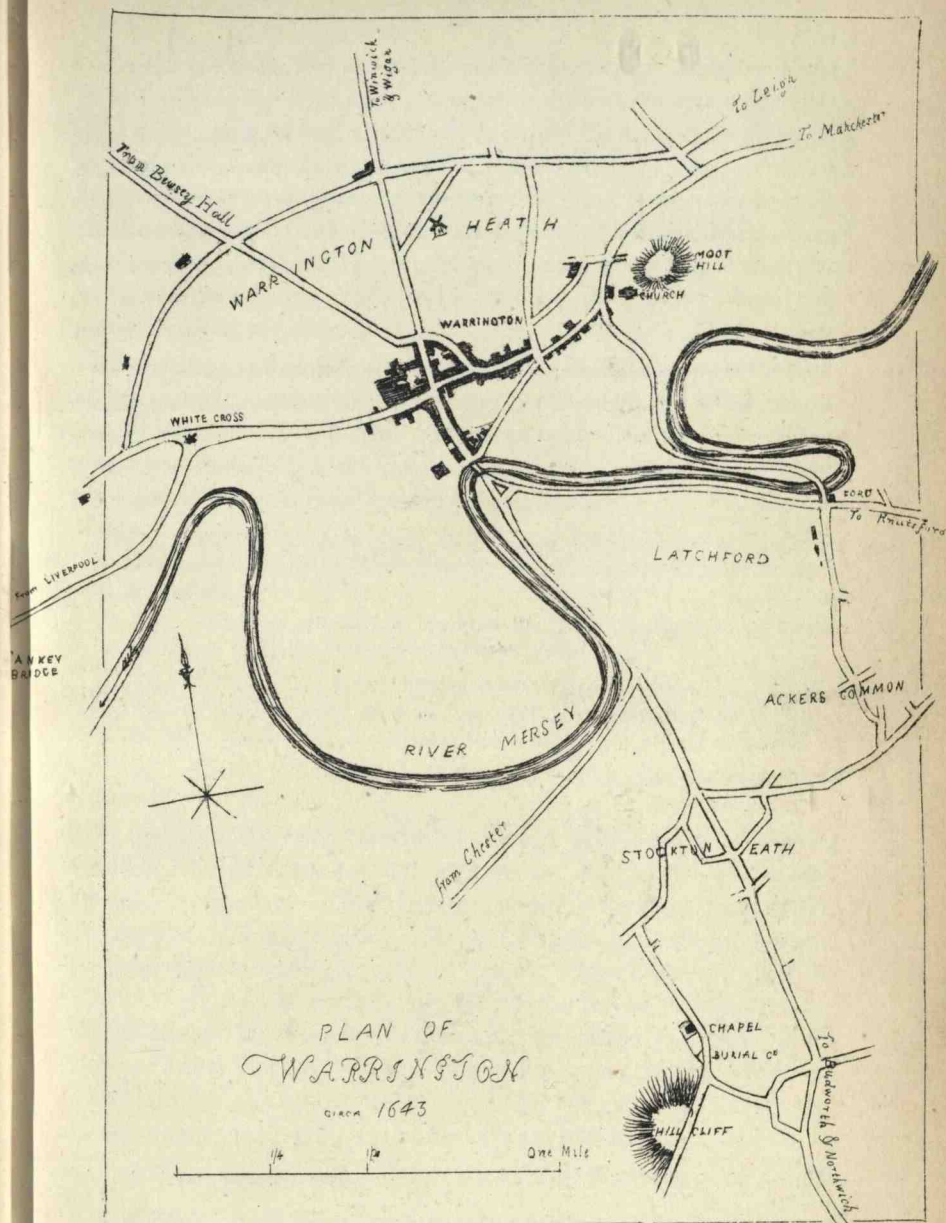
During the same winter (1642-43), the Earl of Derby is said to have strongly fortified the town of Warrington, but in what its military defences consisted we have no record. In a Puritan tract entitled "Manchester's Joy for Derby's Overthrow, 1643," it is styled "a town of great strength:"—the "outer walls" of the town are expressly mentioned by Edward Burghall in his Diary entitled "Providence improved"—*—and Mr Ormerod in his "Civil War Tracts," already referred to, speaks of mud walls being thrown up at Warrington, as at Manchester, Bolton, Liverpool, and Lancaster. Moreover, one of the *precepts* found at Houghton Green, requires the attendance of six carts with horses and drivers, and of ten able bodied men with spades, for the repair of the works of Warrington garrison, after the Siege which is the subject of our present enquiry. They cannot, however, have been of great extent, since they have left no obvious remains to the present day.

But be this as it may, the possession of Warrington was considered of such importance by Sir William Brereton,† one of the most successful of the Parliamentary leaders, that in the spring of 1643, being at Northwich, in Cheshire, he requested Col. Assheton‡ to send him 500 of the Manchester forces from Wigan to aid his own troops in gaining the town of Warrington from the Earl of Derby. On the morning of Easter Monday, the 3rd of April, a small advanced body of Brereton's forces, under the command of Captain John Arderne, of Alvanley, approached the town on the Cheshire side. The Earl of Derby, perceiving that their force was small, at once sallied out to attack them, and encountering them on Stockton Heath, about a mile to the south of Warrington, a severe engagement took place, in which many of the Parliamentarians fell. The timely arrival of Sir William Brereton, with the remainder of his forces, alone prevented a total rout, for the Earl judged it best to draw off his troops, retiring to the town

* Edward Burghall was Vicar of Acton, near Nantwich, Cheshire. A manuscript copy of his Diary "*Providence Improved*," 36 pages folio, is in the British Museum, (Add. MSS. 5851, p. 116.) and from this the quotations made use of in this paper have been carefully copied.

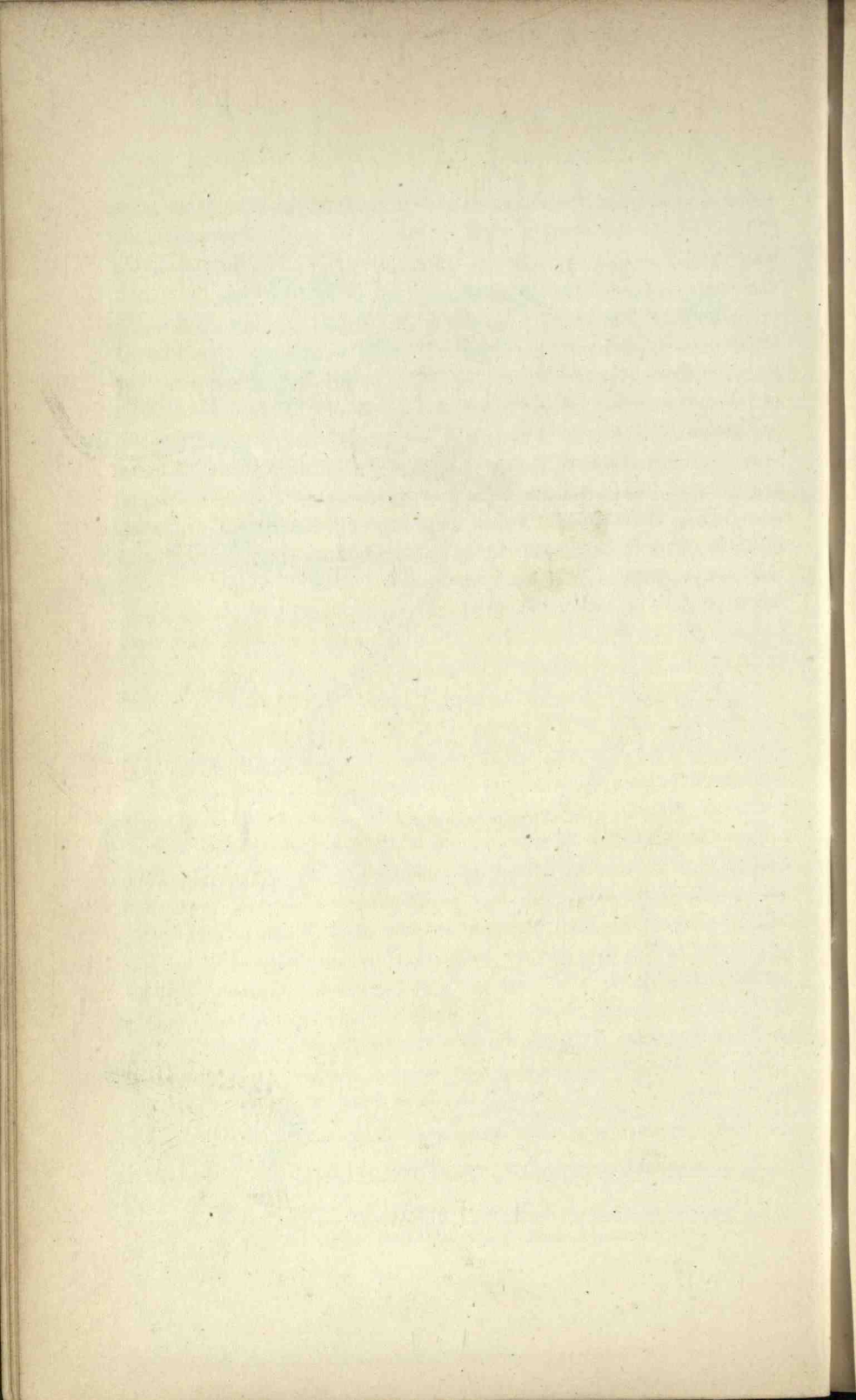
† Sir William Brereton, of Honford, Cheshire, baronet; a deputy lieutenant for the County of Lancaster.

‡ Colonel Ralph Assheton, of Middleton, Lancashire. He had captured Wigan in conjunction with Sir John Seaton, on the Saturday previous, April 1st.



T. E. Ryder del.

Etched by H. C. Pedgley



with many prisoners, and several of the enemy's colours. Under the guise of these colours the Earl contrived at four o'clock in the afternoon of the same day, to push forward a considerable body of his men, who crossing the Mersey at the ancient Ford at Lachford, (*See the adjoining Plan,*) advanced, by the route of Ackers Common, unsuspectedly upon the right flank of the Cheshire troops, and he himself leaving the town by the bridge and causeway at Wilderspool, assaulted them so furiously in front, that with trifling loss on his own part, he completely routed them, as the account states "with greate slaughter and little labor."

It is traditional that such of the Puritans as fell in the battle of Stockton Heath, many in number, were interred in the burial-ground of the Chapel, already alluded to at Hill-Cliff. Others, probably disaffected Churchmen, were buried at Budworth, five miles south of Stockton Heath, as we find in the register of burials there, the following entries.—

1643. April 6. *Thomas firth de Barnton gardianus qui apud Stockton Heath in prælio occisus fuit tertio die mensis Aprilis & sepul. sexto die Aprilis.*

6. *Johannes Amerie de Barnton constabularius qui prælio eodem die & loco & sepult. sexto die ejusdem Aprilis.*

16. *Thomas fil. Thomæ Yewley sepul. decimo sexto die Aprilis.*

20. *Thomas Yewley de Aston qui periit ob vulneribus acceptis apud Stockton Heath tertio die Aprilis sepult. vicesimo die ejusdem mensis.*

22. *Ricardus Ridgway de Budworth qui periit apud Stockton Heath tertio die.*

In connection with the period we are now considering, another interesting tradition is current amongst the congregation who worship at Hill-cliff Chapel. It runs thus :—That during the Civil War, a man and his wife, members of their congregation, suffered martyrdom (implying, I presume, for their religious tenets,) by order of "a person high in authority at Warrington." I have not yet been successful in finding any written record of this occurrence, but it is singularly in accordance with a passage in "*Lancashire's Valley of Achor*,"* printed in the same year (1643), in which it is stated that the Royalists at Warrington killed "a godly man and his wife in their own house," which was in the adjacent country.

Notwithstanding the severe defeat sustained by Sir William Brereton at

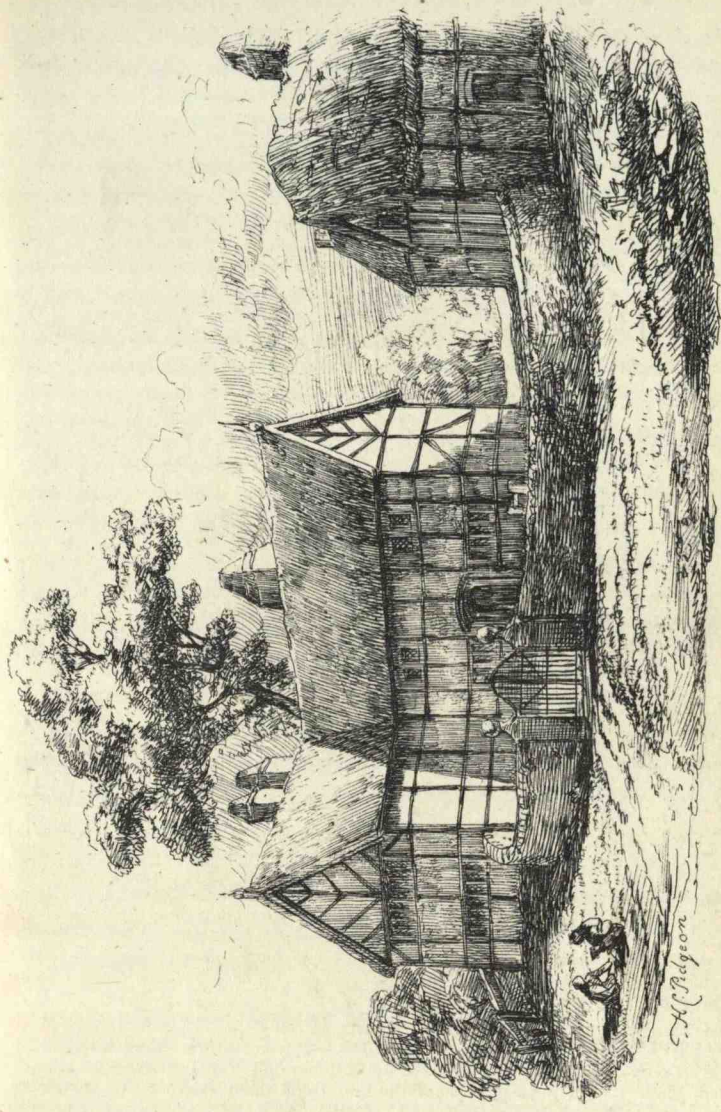
* Reprinted in Ormerod's "Civil War Tracts," (*Cheth. Soc.*) p. 138.

Stockton Heath on the 3rd of April, he appears still to have remained in the neighbourhood of Warrington, for on the Wednesday following (April 5th) we find him effecting a junction on the Lancashire side of the Mersey* with the expected troops from Wigan, as I believe, under the command of Colonel Richard Holland of Heaton. At 4 p.m. on this day the conjoined forces, in the description of Burghall, "beset the Town about, and fiercely assaulted it, having gotten Sankey Bridge, a fair House of one Mr. Bridgman's, and some of the outer Walls, and within a short space of Time were likely to have the whole; which the Earle perceiving set the middle of the Town on Fire, protesting hee would burn it all ere they should have it; which the Parliament Forces perceiving (seeing the Fire still increasing,) to save it from utter desolation withdrew their Forces after they had been there 3 dayes and more, and so departed for that time." I may remark in passing that the "fair House of one Mr. Bridgman's" mentioned in the above extract is still standing, though degraded to the rank of a tavern, the "Black Horse," at Sankey Bridges, about a mile from the town. The initials and a date, "R. B. 1632," are still visible on an oak beam in the front of the house.—(See the adjoining Plate.) Its occupant at the time of the Seige of Warrington was Edward Bridgman, a royalist, who in 1647 compounded with the Parliament for his estate by a fine of one hundred pounds.

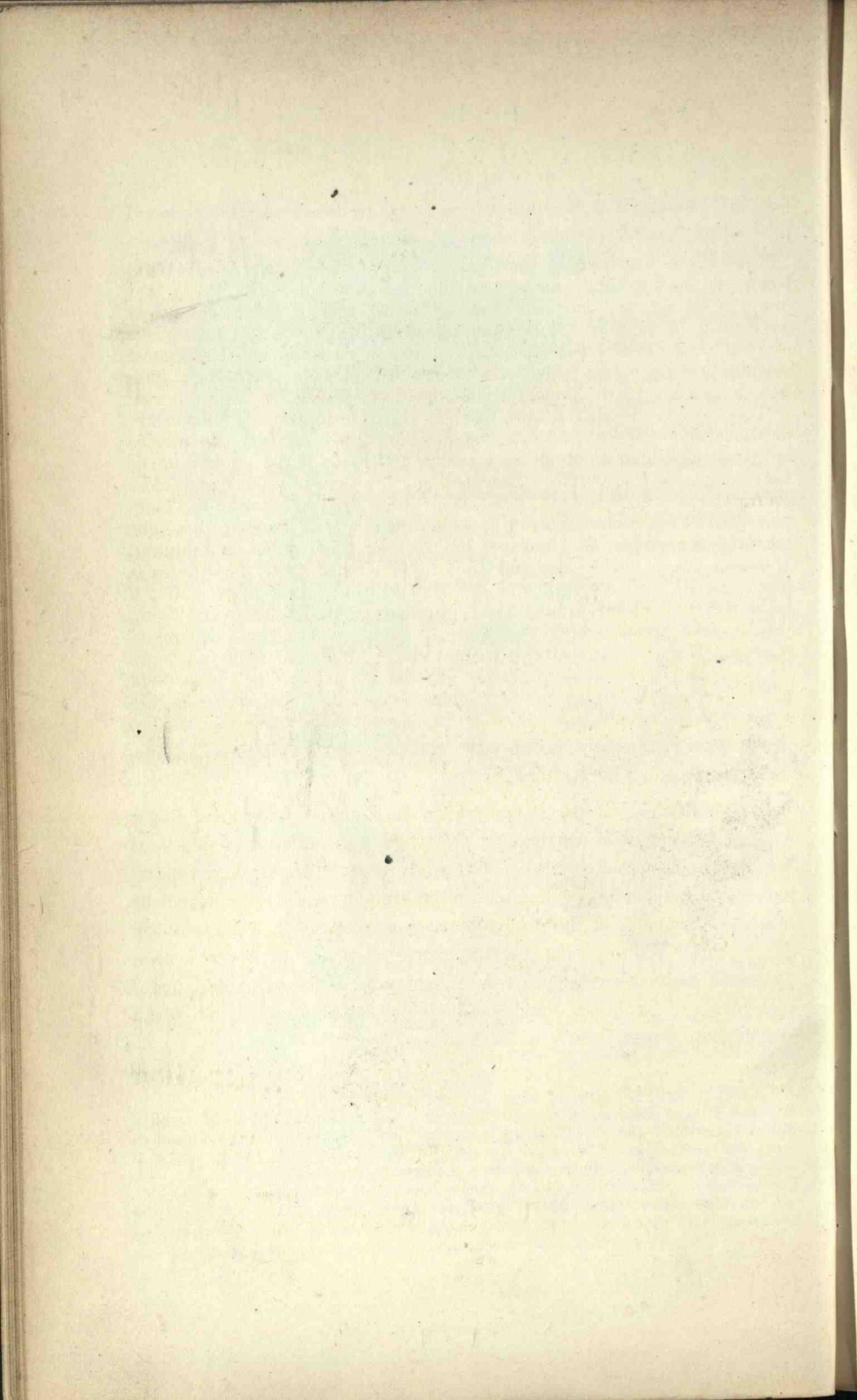
There are several other sources of information relative to this first assault upon Warrington,† but as the second volume of the Chetham Society's Transactions has rendered them of easy reference, I shall introduce one

* At what point Sir William Brereton crossed the Mersey upon this occasion is matter of conjecture. There is no ford westward of Warrington except Hale, and this was probably the route taken. He was certainly acquainted with it, and aware of its importance in a military view, for in May, 1643, when the Royalists under Rupert and Maurice had reached Whitchurch on their way to attack Liverpool, he thus writes to the Parliamentary commanders at Warrington:—"Gentlemen,—I am very glad to heare that you have taken soe good course to secure Hale Ford and Ronchorne, wch. I conceive must be by casting up some sconces, yt I believe may doe. Ye enemy I am assured is at Whitchurch &c. &c."

† See "Mercurius Aulicus," a royalist newspaper published at Oxford 1642-45.—"Manchester's Joy for Derby's Overthrow, 1643."—"Lancashire's Valley of Achor is England's Doore of Hope, 1643."—Colonel John Rosworm's "Good Service hitherto ill rewarded, 1649." With the exception of the first, from which extracts only are given, the whole are reprinted in Mr. Ormerod's "Civil War Tracts." Of the last it may be necessary to state that Mr. Robson, of Warrington, in the 21st vol. of the "Gentleman's Magazine," has clearly identified the narrative of proceedings which succeeded the capture of Wigan with those which occurred at the first assault upon Warrington, and not upon Bolton, as Rosworm assigns them, "to the best my remembrance."



The BLACK HORSE TAVERN, SANKEY BRIDGE, near Warrington.



only in consequence of its not being reprinted in detail. It is to be found in "Vicars' Parliamentary Chronicle," (Brit. Museum) part i., p. 297:—
 "Much also about the same time, namely the 8 or 10 of this Aprill (1643) lettors out of Lancashire for certain informed that the Erl of Darby that grand and gracelesse patron of Papists in that county, whose forces then were about 1400, at least, in Wiggon in Lancashire, the only or main place of receipt for the Papists treasure and goods, that he was, I say, most soundly beaten by that pious and valiant Commander Colonell Sr. John Seaton and his brave Manchestrans, together with the honest club men of those parts, and that in the fight at this Town, they took about 800 prisoners, 500 more were quite routed, above 1000 armes taken besides ordnance, and other ammunition, treasure, and goods of the Papists, to the value of at least 20000 li. Besides that, the honest-hearted and most courageous Manchestrans (who indeed are the principall men in the kingdome, next to the most famous and renowned Citie of London, that fight most prosperously for God and true religion) with their valiant and faithfull *Germane* Engineer,* rested not thus, but marched on to Warrington, a place also of good strength and great resort, which good Town (after a brave and most valiant fight) they also tooke, beat the Papists in the Town, Church and Steple, where they were strongly enclosed, and environed round, and made some batterrie against the Church, and make no doubt (by God's assistance) to be masters of it sodainly, and by God's blessing to put an end to the *Lancashire* distractions, especially if the Earl of Derby himself be there, as it is supposed." In this last conjecture, however, the journalist was premature, for we have sufficient proof that the Earl succeeded in repelling his assailants.

Shortly after the retreat of the Parliamentary forces, the Earl of Derby appears to have left Warrington. We find him suffering a defeat at Whalley, in Lancashire, on the 20th of April, from whence he retired to his seat of Lathom House, and thence into Yorkshire, where he joined the Queen. The charge of the royalist garrison at Warrington, which was still an object of desire to the leaders of the Parliament, devolved upon Colonel Edward Norris,† and two original *precepts* issued by him, under the conviction that he was speedily to be the object of an attack, were found at Houghton Green.

* Colonel John Rosworm, spoken of in the preceeding note.

† The Colonel Edward Norris here mentioned was eldest son of William Norris of Speke, Lancashire. In No. III. of the Houghton Green documents he is addressed as "*Captain of the Trained Band for the hundred of West Derby.*" In the "*Siege of Lathom*" he is designated *Colonel* Norris, and this is the last mention of him in a military character. Mr. Heywood (*Cheth. Trans.* v. ix. p. 13) quotes a memorandum from the Sequestrator's books:—"Edward Norris of Speke, a Papist, * * * the above said estate was added to the book of surveighs, the 24th day of June 1652." He died in 1664.

No. X.*

"Theis are in his Ma'ys name strailly to chardge and comand you and every of you that immediately upon receipt hereof you make diligent search w'thin yo'r Constablarie for p'vision of victualls and oates and hay for the Armie here. And the same forth'th to bringe or cause to be brought unto this towne of Warrington for reliefe of the souldiers, and storeinge the same towne in case any Seige be laid thereunto by theemie. And hereof faile not at yo'r p'll. Given under my hand this third day of May. Anno Dni 1643.

To the Constables of Southworth }
Middleton Houghton Arbury & Croft }

E. NORRIS.

md. to bringe in noe bread, but wheate or meale instead thereof, or pease."

Endorsed on the back thus:—"Southworth rec'd ye 4th day of May, at 8 of ye clocke in ye afternoone."

No. XI.

"Whereas very lately I directed my warrants to severall parts neare adjacent for the calling in of all the able men unto our ayd but finding that the Enemy was retrained was very willing that the said men should return to their owne houses. but nowe soe it is that this day I have received intelligence by 3 severall messengers that the Enemy intends very speedily to assault us. Theis are therefore in his Ma't's name strailly to Charg and Comand you that forthwith upon receipt hereof you give notice and warning to all the able men w'thin yo'r severall Constableries that are w'thin the age of 60 yeares and above the age of 16 yeares that they come unto this towne of Warrington with their best armes and p'vision of meate for 4 dayes by 9 of the clocke.....beinge the 15th daye of this instant May; wherein you are not to faile as you honor his Ma'ties service and will answer the contrarie at yo'r utmost p'ille. given under my hand the 14th daye of May 1643.

To the Constables of Hulme, &
Winwick, & all the other Constables
w'thin the p'ishe of Winwick, and to
every of them greeting.

E. NORRIS.

Se you send me an accompt of this warrant."

Endorsed on the back as follows:—

"Seene & p'suned (sic) by the Cunstables of Winwick & hulme.

Seene & p'used by the Constable of Newton.

Seene & p'used by the Con'bles of haidoke, and speedilye sent away to the Con'bles of Golborne.

Seene & p'used by the Constable of Goulborne the 15th day between 3 & 4 of the clocke in the afternoone and speedilye sent unto Loton.

Seene by the Constable of Lawton about 7 of ye clocke ye 15 day and sent to Kenion with speede.

* By referring to the abstract at the end of this Paper, it will be seen that the earlier numbers have no immediate reference to "Warrington Siege."

Scene & p'used by the Constable of Kenyon.

Scene & p'used by the Constables of Culchet and sent away.

Scene & p'used by the Constables of Southworth en Croft and Middleton Houghton en Arbury & sent away with al speed."

The expectation of Colonel Norris that he was shortly to be the object of an attack by the Parliamentary forces was realised within a few days of the date of his last *precept*. Burghall says,* "at this time Coll. Brereton & all his Horse were at *Stafford*, from whence they returned to *Namptwich*, & some considerable Forces out of *Cheshire* marched forth to meet the Forces of *Manchester* at *Warrington*, which happened to be on Whitsunday, May 21. On Monday morning they planted their ordinances and beset the Town round about, played upon it all that week, it being strongly fortified, & the Souldiers behaving themselves very bravely. But Bread & other Necessaries being scarce, upon Saturday they came to a Parley, when it was agreed upon That the Town should be rendered up, & that some Cpts. & Comanders should depart with every man his Horse and Pistols, and all the Souldiers to pack away unarmed, and leave all their arms, amunition and Provision behind them, which was done accordingly.

"And upon Trinity Sunday, Sir *George Booth*,† being lord of the Town, entred it, where he was joyfully entertained by the Inhabitants. There were slain on the Parliament side only 4, & 2 of the Town, wherein the mercy of God appeared."

From a contemporary source‡ we learn that the Siege of Warrington was upon this occasion allotted to Colonel Assheton, of Middleton, one of the most active and successful soldiers of the Parliament. His regiment leaving Manchester on Saturday the 20th of May, 1643, appears to have been joined on its route by the Cheshire forces under Sir George Booth of Dunham-Massey, and to have reached Warrington on the day following. On Monday the assault began, lasting until Saturday, May 27th, when the capitulation took place,|| followed by the formal entry of Sir George Booth

* "Providence Improved," spoken of in a former Note.

† Of Dunham-Massey, in Cheshire. His father had purchased the manor of Warrington in 1628 from Thomas Ireland, of Bewsey. At the period of which we are treating he was in his 77th year.

‡ See "Exceeding Joyfull News out of Lancashire &c, being a True Relation of the Parliament Forces taking the Townes of Warrington and Whitechurch, &c. &c. London, 1643" reprinted in Mr Ormerod's "Civil War Tracts." Mr Robson (*Gentleman's Magazine*, vol. xxi.) has shewn that the passage in this Tract considered to refer to Liverpool, in reality applies to Warrington.

|| From the extract which follows it would appear that the Church and Steeple were gained at least one day before the Town itself.

on Sunday, May the 28th. During the siege one or two marvellous incidents are recorded in "Lancashire's Valley of Achor"* with the characteristic extravagance of a Puritan historian.

"All this while the cry of oppressed *Warrington* importuned heaven, and compassion wrought in us, and having this far-fetched terrifying assistance,† we entered upon a new and prosperous Voyage the twentieth day of *May*: The three and twentieth of *May* was designed for Fasting and Prayer in Manchester, to meet with the beginning of the enterprize against *Warrington*.

"Whilst the duty was in performing, tidings came of the taking of *Winwick* Church and Steeple, they on the steeple standing on terms, till God sent a deadly messenger out of a fowling-Piece to one of them; also a strong Hall ‡ possessed by professed Romane Catholikes, and stored with Provisions, as if it had been purposely laid in, both for our supply and ease.

"In this *Warrington* Siege so good a friend was God to our faith, that the greatest *Peece* was made unusefull the second time it was in use, and without the terrour of those Idols, the living God gave us the Church and Steeple the 26 of *May*, and that strong Hold upon termes, *May* 28.

"A Providence much to be observed in this Siege was this: One night our men were to work within half musket shot of the Town: It was a great calme, that they could not work, but the enemy would hear: when some went to worke others went to prayers; and God raised a great winde, that took away the noise: a Providence not altogether unlike what I have heard in *Boston*: The Chancellor gave organs to *Boston*; before they breath in that new world, the well-affected pray: after their prayers, a mighty winde forceth its passage into the Church, blows down the organs, brake them and stopt their breath.||

"That which ripened the enemies ruine, was their hard usage of prisoners, and well-affected in the Town, their extreme cruelty in the country, killing a godly man and his wife in their own house, and their professed confidence and pride in their strong Hold, appearing by their hanging out a Flag of Defiance upon the highest chimney.

".....Some recompence God made to tyred *Warrington* in the shortnesse of the Siege, and security from spoyle, which we charitably made an article of our Peace."

The episode at *Winwick Church*§ affords me an opportunity of introduc-

* Reprinted in Ormerod's "Civil War Tracts."

† Six pieces of ordnance, part of those brought to Manchester from Lancaster.

‡ Probably Southworth Hall, one mile east of *Winwick Church*.

|| It is well known that amongst the early Puritans all instruments of Music for religious purposes were held in abhorrence. The *Organ* was especially an object of hatred and derision, and as such was designated by them "a box of whistles."

§ Mr Ormerod (*Civil War Tracts*) assigns the 23rd of May for the attack on *Winwick Church*, but as its capture, according to the above quotation, was announced and acknowledged in prayers at Manchester on that day, it probably took place on the 22nd.

ing another of the documents found at Houghton-Green. It is a *precept* issued apparently by a Committee of Lancashire deputy-lieutenants, sitting at Winwick, or at Bewsey Hall,* near Warrington.

No. XII.

"These are to will and require & immediately to charge and command you that immediately upon the receipt hereof you summon & require all men and others of ability wthin your townes to come & appear before us at Winwick upon Fryday next being the 26th. of aye..... clock in the afforenoone to lend & contribute money..... if they will avoid.....of their estats and securinge of their personsable men furnished with spads & mattocks & 3 days provisions.....for such service for the.....as shall be appointed them. And further that you gather in y'r.....vittuals for p'vision of our Armie & bringe it & the.....in to morrowe morninge to Beusy hall as you will answer the contrary at your ottermost p'll.

Given under our hands this 24th of May 1643.

Constables of Southworth cu Croft.

T. STANLEY†
RICHARD (Holland?)
PETER EGERTON
JOHN HOULCROFTE

The battery of the Parliamentarians in the Siege of Warrington was beyond doubt placed on the Moot-Hill near the parish church, which tradition asserts was raised higher than its former level for this express purpose.‡ A recent excavation of the hill has strongly confirmed this idea. Amongst other curiosities of an earlier period which have thus been brought to light are a few which may be referred to the time of the Civil War, and the Siege in 1643. Of these the most remarkable are portions of horses' trappings, the hilt of a sword, and an ancient military spur. Traces of cannon-shot are still visible on the eastern end of the chancel of the church, and to the same cause may be attributed the shattered condition of the tracery of the east window, rendering its removal a few years since necessary. The stained glass, rich and very ancient, both here and in the Boteler

* Bewsey Hall, one mile west of Warrington, was at this time the property of Sir Gilbert Ireland, a parliamentarian, and Lancashire deputy-lieutenant. His chief residence, however, was at Hale, twelve miles west of Warrington.

† Sir Thomas Stanley, of Bickerstaff, Bart.—Richard (Holland, of Heaton?) :—Peter Egerton, of Shaw: and John Holcroft, of Holcroft esquires, deputy-lieutenants of Lancashire, for the Parliament.

‡ From its distance within half-musket shot of the town, we may venture to suppose the Moot-Hill the precise locality where the besieging soldiers were labouring when there arose the marvellous "*greate winde, that tooke away the noise.*"

Chapel, was at the same time wholly destroyed, as we find a minute of a Vestry Meeting in the year 1647, in which the glass of the windows is ordered to be replaced, and other repairs of the church to be undertaken, since it was then "*far decayed in respect of the long disasters.*"

In conclusion I may remark that the surrender of the town of Warrington by Colonel Norris was expedited by intelligence of the surprise, defeat, and capture of Lord Goring at Wakefield by General Fairfax on the 21st of May. It was followed by a summons to all the Earl of Derby's Lancashire forces to join the Queen at York, and the vanquished garrison of Warrington doubtless joined the retreating body.

NOTE.—Since the foregoing Paper was read before the members of the Historic Society, I have received several transcripts from the "*King's Collection*" in the British Museum, referring to Warrington subsequent to the period of its surrender to the Parliament. These, in conjunction with the remaining portion of the documents found at Houghton Green, I may at a future time, if the Society deem the subject worthy of their notice, embody in a further historical narrative under the title of "*Warrington as a garrison for the Parliament.*"

Along with these I have received the following extract from "Vicars' Parliamentary Chronicle, part i, page 341," which as it has not hitherto been reprinted, and yet contains some incidental particulars connected with "*Warrington Siege*", I may perhaps be excused for introducing in the form of a concluding note:—

"About the beginning of June (1643) came credible and certain information to London out of Lancashire, that the most noble and renowned *Manchesterian Christians*, have taken and fully possessed themselves of the good and strong town in Lancashire, called Warrington, being the last Hold of considerable strength and consequence that the Papists had in all that county: and that now the whole county is fairly purged of those pestilent members that had so infected and infested that countie formerly, and that now it stands wholly for the King and Parliament: And that now they have bravely secured the chief towns and places which the enemy had either had, or were in any danger of them. Those that speak with the least assure, that these noble *Manchesterians* took at least six hundred prisoners in the winning of the said Warrington, and eight pieces of ordnance, and that now they will be able to spare and send to the most renowned and faithful Lord Fairfax some considerable strength of their *Manchester* forces for the assistance of their honest friends in the West Riding of Yorkshire."

And here by the way, I desire the Reader to take notice of this further passage of moment, confirmed also by certain intelligence from those parts, namely, "That the Lord Capell (that Court Summer-flea who hath so leapt and skipt up and down to no purpose, God be praised for it,) sent a messenger to assure those in Warrington (while they were besieged) that if they could hold out but to such a day, he would come to their reliefe, and raise their seige, but the messenger was apprehended by the way, by Nampwich forces, who thereby understanding of the advance of the aforesaid Lord Capell for that purpose, made out with all speed to White Church, and sodainly surprised that Town, slue about an hundred and fiftie malignants, took forty prisoners, some of them men of eminencie and good worth, took five hundred armes besides Ammunition of Powder, and Bullets and Match, and manned and fortified the town bravely for the King and Parliament, and so wiped the Lord Capell's nose both of his poore expectation of relieving Warrington, and hereby also sent him to seek another lodging where he could get it: by this losse of White Church unto noble and victorious Sir William Brereton and his valiant forces of Nampwich."

APPENDIX.

AN ABSTRACT OF THE CIVIL WAR DOCUMENTS FOUND AT HOUGHTON GREEN, NEAR WARRINGTON, IN MAY, 1851.

- I.—A *Petition* from the Inhabitants of Southworth & Croft, Middleton, Houghton and Arbury to Captain Coney (*of Dilton, Lancashire*) complaining that Captain Holcroft of Holcroft had favoured the township of Culcheth by imposing upon Southworth &c. an unfair proportion of men for the train-band.
- II.—A similar *Petition* to Mr. William Alcock (*of Prescot, Lancashire*).
- III.—A *Report* upon the above *Petition* by Mr. Alcock to Edward Norris, esquire, Captain of the trainband for the hundred of West Derby, disclaiming his connection with the above unfair imposition. Dated at Prescott Jan. 6 1642.
- IV.—A *Precept* signed "*Richard Astley*" to the constables of Southworth & Croft, Middleton & Arbury, in pursuance of a precept from Henry Ogle esquire, (*of Whiston, Lancashire*), directing an assessment to raise £21. 15. 0. imposed upon those townships. Dated 14 Jan. 1642.
- V.—A *Precept* from Sir Gilbert Hoghton to the constables of Houghton cu Middleton, commanding them to summon all the able men of the township, between the ages of 16 and 60, to appear with their best arms on the 13th of February following at Wigan. Dated at Wigan 10 Feb. 1642.
- VI.—A *Precept* signed "*Richard Asby*" under the authority of a warrant from James, earl of Derby, addressed to the petty constables in the several townships of the parish of Winwick, requiring them, in consequence of the non-payment of the various assessments imposed upon the county, to give warning to four sufficient men in each township to appear before the earl of Derby on the 27th of February following, at the house of Hugh Lathom in Ormskirk. Dated 25 Feb. 1642.
- VII.—A *Precept* signed "*Richard Astley*," under the authority of a warrant from the earl of Derby, to the petty constables of the several townships of Culcheth, Southworth cu Croft, Middleton & Arbury, ordering an assessment to raise £65. 5. 0, to be paid upon the 14th of March following at the house of Hugh Lathom in Ormskirk. Dated 9 Mar. 1642.
- VIII.—A *Precept* signed "*R. Molyneux*," to the constables of Southworth & Croft, Middleton, Houghton & Arburie, requiring them at sight thereof, to bring into the town of Newton (*Lancash.*) 20 bushels oats, 104 stone of hay, 5 threave of straw, and £2. 10. 8. in money "*for my lord mollinex*." Dated at Newton 23 Apr. 1643.
- IX.—A *private note*, without date, intimating that "*lord muleynex's*" precept to Culcheth demanded 30 bushels of oats, 180 stone of hay, and £4. 10. 0. in money.
- X.—A *Precept* from Colonel Edward Norriss. (*Given at length in the preceding Paper*).
- XI.—Another *Precept* from the same. (*Given at length with the last*).
- XII.—A *Precept* from Sir Thomas Stanley, and Richard (*Holland?*), Peter Egerton, and John Houlcrofte, esquires. (*Given at length with the two preceding*).
- XIII.—A *Precept* from Sir Thomas Stanley, and Peter Egerton and John Houlcrofte, esquires, to the constables of Southworth, Croft, &c. ordering an assessment on the township for £10 in pursuance of an order from the deputy-lieutenants of Lancashire, "*for paying of souldiers, and necessary defence of the same (county) in theis dangerous & distracted tymes*." Dated at Warrington 11 July 1643.

- XIV.—A *Precept* from Colonel John Booth, governor of Warrington, and Peter Egerton, esquire, to the constables of * * * Houghton & Arbury, requiring “*size good and able teames wth Cartes & three horses in each Carte, together with an able driver. And tenn sufficient and able workmen of bodie to worke wth spads for the doinge & p^rforminge of such service in an aboute the repayre of the workes belonginge to the s^d garri- son as shall be severally Imposed on them.*” Dated at Warrington 14 Sep. 1643.
- XV.—A *Receipt* from Richard Abraham, of Warrington, treasurer appointed to receive the sums imposed upon the townships, to Thomas Sargeant, constable, for monies received in Sep. Oct. and Dec. 1643. Dated at “Warrington Garrison.”
- XVI.—A *Petition* from Thomas Sargeant to the governor of Warrington for relief from further serving the office of constable for Houghton, and that his next neighbour (apparently a female,) may be compelled according to ancient custom, “*to send her son or any other to give content to the towne and exacute the office of a constable.*” No date.
- XVII.—An *Account* of monies paid for provision, forage, and cartage during a year by a constable, (Thomas Sargeant.) No date.
- XVIII.—A *Power of Attorney* from Colonel John Booth, governor of Warrington, to enable Robert Burley, “*his servant, now resident in London,*” to receive £1000 from the Committee of Revenue, for the payment of soldiers in the garrison of Warrington. Dated 24 Nov. 1645.
- XIX.—A *Precept* signed “Henry Byrom” to the constables of Winwick with Hulme, Newton, Culcheth, Southworth cu Croft, Middleton, Houghton & Arbury, ordering assessments, by virtue of an ordinance of parliament, to raise the sum of £45 within the said township. Dated 8 Feb. 1645.
- XX.—The same to the same, for raising further sums of money Dated 14 Mar. 1645.
- XXI.—A *Precept* signed “Henry Byrom” to the constables of Winwick & Hulme, Newton, Culcheth, Southworth, Croft, Houghton, Myddelton & Arbury, “*who have served from the beginning of the present parliament,*” requiring them to bring in their accounts to be exhibited to the parliamentary commission, at the house of Geo. Woods in West Darbie, on Friday 24th of April, 1646. Dated 14 Apr. 1646.
- XXII.—A *Precept* signed “Henry Byrom” to the constables of Southworth cu Croft, Middleton, Houghton & Arbury, requiring them by virtue of an order of the Committee of the County, dated April 25, 1646 to present to the Committee for Sequestrations at Preston, returns to a series of questions respecting delinquents and their estates. Dated 25 April 1646.
- XXIII.—The same to the same, with further questions. Same date.
- XXIV.—A *Warrant* from Thomas Holcroft to the constable of Houghton to bring to Warrington four persons therein named to provide a soldier under his command, or to serve in person. Dated 29 May, 1646.
- XXV.—A *Warrant* from the same to the same, empowering him by virtue of Colonel Booth's order, to receive from Jane Robinson of Middleton, widow, the sum of 14d. towards the hiring of a soldier. In default of payment to distrain her goods. Dated 29 May 1646.
- XXVI.—A *Certificate* from Will. Brocke that John Bordman of Houghton had deposited his musket with him at Warrington. No date.
- XXVII.—XLV. These documents are in a very dilapidated state. Fortunately they consist chiefly of *Constables' Accounts and Rates* for the different Townships mentioned in the foregoing Abstract, and possess comparatively little interest.

