

In the miscellaneous information, a letter was read from Dr. Kendrick, of Warrington, mentioning the fact that some curious documents had recently been found, in the thatched roof of an old farm-house, in the course of demolition, at Houghton Green, about two miles from Warrington. He says :—

“ They consist chiefly of original warrants or precepts issued in the spring of 1643 by the Earl of Derby, Lord Molyneux, Colonel Norris, and others, for the supply of men, provisions, forage, and money, to the royalist garrison, at Warrington, at that time threatened by the parliamentarians. I have not leisure to copy the whole; but, as they are for the present deposited with me, I shall take copies, and lay them before your Society at the next meeting, which I presume will be in October next. In the meantime, I send you one to read to-morrow evening, if an opportunity offer.

“ I may premise that the parliamentarians had been driven from before Warrington, in the April of 1643, by the Earl of Derby; but, having received large reinforcements, they again attacked it on the 21st of May, and obliged the garrison to surrender upon honourable terms on the 27th of the same month. The precept which I send was issued by Colonel Edward Norris, the governor of the town, on the 14th of that month, seven days before the town was actually beset. The document acquires additional interest from the endorsements on the back testifying that no time was lost by the constables of the several townships in its transmission from one to another.

“ It is my opinion that the house in which they were discovered was formerly the residence of the constable of Houghton, and that the varying occupation of the district by parliamentarians and royalists led to his wary concealment in the thatch, of these evidences of his sympathy with the royalist cause.”

“ To the Constables of Hulme and Winwick, and all other the Constables within the p'ishe of Winwick and all others greeting.

“ 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 own houses; but nowe so it is that this day I have received intelligence by 3 severall messengers that the enemy intends very speedily to assault us. These are therefore in his ma'tys name straitly to charg and comand you that forthwith upon receipt hereof you give notice and warning to all the able men within your several constableries that are within the age of 60 yeares and above the age of 16 yeares that they com unto this town of Warrington with their best arms and p'vision of meate for 4 dayes by 9 of the clocke \* \* \* bing the 15th daye of this instant May, wherein you are not to faile as you honor his ma'tys service and will answer the contrarie at your utmost p'ille. Given under my hand this 14th day of May 1643.

“ E. NORRIS.

“ Se you send me an accompt of this warrant.’”

The following endorsements occur on the back of the warrant :—

- “ ‘ Seene & p’used by the Constables of Winwick and Hulme.
- “ ‘ Seene & p’used by the Constable of Newton.
- “ ‘ Seene & p’used by the Constable of haidoke (Haydock) and speedylie sent away to ye Constables of Golborne.
- “ ‘ Seene & p’used by the Constable of Goulborne the 15th day between 3 & 4 of the clocke in the afternoone, and speedylie sent unto Loton.
- “ ‘ Seene by the Constable of Lawton about 7 of ye clocke ye 15 day and sent to Kenion w’th speede.
- “ ‘ Seene & p’used by the Constable of Kenyon.
- “ ‘ Seene & p’used by the Constable of Culcith and sent away.
- “ ‘ Seene & p’used by the Constables of Southworth in Croft, and Houghton in Arbury, and sent away with al speed.’ ”

The following Papers were read :—

I.—AN ACCOUNT OF THE ROMAN AND BRITISH REMAINS, FOUND  
NORTH AND EAST OF THE RIVER WYRE.

*By the Rev. Wm. Thornber, B.A., Blackpool.*

In my last paper I traversed the agger that runs through the Fylde, from the Sistantian capital of Kirkham during the sway of the Romans in Britain, to the celebrated Lancastrian harbour of Wyre. That journey was comparatively easy ; but the one I am about to undertake abounds with many difficulties, as I pioneer a remote section of our island, hitherto untrod by the feet of antiquarians ; nay, even tabooed by learned writers from any ancient research. A good guide, however, has offered his services in my friend, the Rev. Mr. Banister of Pilling, by whose aid I flatter myself that I shall be enabled to open a path for my successors.

I will pause a few minutes on the site of Fleetwood, before I cross the river, in order to inspect its geological features. It is a flat tongue of land, between the sea and the Wyre, unrelieved except by sand hills as far as Bourne Hall, the commencement of the Bergerode of Speed, &c. The surface of the ground is covered with deep-blown sand and gravel, beneath which lies a peaty, bluish silt, the ooze of the river; whereon you may perceive in some places, especially about Fany, the marks of the plough, the ruts of wheels and the roots of lacustral plants ; whilst imbedded in it are frequently found the horns of the Cervus Elaphus and beds of shells identical with those on the shore. The ground occupied by the merchants of the Portus was not here : at the Roman period, except on the sea-bank on