



DISCLAIMERS AT THE HERALDS' VISITATIONS.

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FOR the information of those who have not paid much attention to the study of heraldry and genealogy, it may be as well, in the first place, to explain what the Heralds' Visitations were, in order that the meaning and effect of Disclaimers may be better understood.

Armorial bearings were originally assumed by their wearers at will, being, at first, merely intended to serve as distinguishing marks in the field of battle; but about the middle of the thirteenth century they became generally hereditary, and soon acquired a character which caused them to be highly valued and jealously guarded as ensigns of honour and symbols of patrician rank. Having thus become coveted hereditary distinctions, some check upon their voluntary assumption became necessary, to prevent unworthy and unsuitable persons displaying insignia to which neither their military achievements nor social status entitled them.

To effect this, King Henry V., upon instituting the office of Garter King of Arms,¹ made a pro-

¹ Ulster King of Arms, for the Kingdom of Ireland, was first appointed in the year 1554.

clamation, dated the 2nd day of June, 1417, to the effect that no man, of what estate, degree, or condition soever, should assume arms, unless he held them by right of inheritance or by the donation of some person who had sufficient power to give them; and that all persons should make it appear to officers, to be appointed by the King for that purpose, by whose gift they enjoyed such arms as they respectively bore, excepting those who had borne arms with the King at the battle of Agincourt.

In the year 1420 the first regular chapter of the heralds, in their collective capacity, was held at the siege of Rouen (*Dallaway*), but it was not until sixty-five years afterwards—on the 2nd day of March, 1484-5—that King Richard III. granted to them a charter of incorporation. Further privileges were conferred upon the heralds, in the year 1549, by King Edward VI., and, in 1555, Queen Mary granted to the College of Heralds a house called Derby House, in the Parish of St. Benedict, Paul's Wharf, London, the precursor of the present College of Arms in Queen Victoria Street.

Although there had been heralds acting, to some extent, as officers of arms in England from the thirteenth century, it was not until the reign of King Henry VIII. that any really systematic plan of recording armorial bearings and pedigrees was commenced by them. Before that time there had existed merely rolls of arms, such as the Roll of Carlaverock,² and certain collections of arms and pedigrees, very limited in their scope. In 1528, however, some of the officers of arms were commissioned by the Crown to make Visitations of, or in other words to visit, certain counties of England,

² A poem written in Norman French in the reign of Edward I., and containing an accurate blazon of the arms of 105 knights, who were present at the siege of Carlaverock Castle, in Dumfries-shire, with the King, in the year 1300.

for the purpose of preparing an official record of the armorial bearings and pedigrees of all such persons as were entitled, by their position in life, to what is sometimes called "visitation rank." Visitations were, in due course, periodically made at intervals for every county in England, and, after being neglected under the Commonwealth, were afterwards revived and continued until the year 1686, when they finally ceased. The pedigrees and arms recorded at these Visitations were carefully entered in manuscript volumes, still preserved at the College of Arms, which form the basis of heraldic and genealogical authority and contain an immense amount of information relating to the arms, quarterings and descents of some thousands of the ancient families of England.

In this way Lancashire was visited by the heralds in the years 1533, 1564, 1613 and 1664, and Cheshire in the years 1533, 1566, 1580, 1613 and 1663. The Lancashire Visitations have all been printed by the Chetham Society, and a volume containing much of the Cheshire Visitations of 1533, 1566, and 1580 has been issued by the Harleian Society.

The Commission, under the Great Seal of England, issued to Thomas Benolte, Clarenceux King of Arms, in the 20th year of the reign of King Henry VIII., for the first of the Heralds' Visitations, empowered him to convene and call before him or his deputy, at such time and place as he should appoint, "all persons that do pretend to "bear arms, or are styled Esquires and Gentlemen," and to require them to "produce and show forth "by what authority they do challenge and claim "the same." Full authority was given to the heralds to pull down or deface all arms wrongfully usurped, and to "make infamous by proclamation" at the assizes, or any general sessions, or elsewhere, all those who used arms without any right,

or assumed without authority the titles of Esquire and Gentleman.

In pursuance of the like commission the King of Arms, or Herald, issued a warrant directed to the High Constable or Bailiff of the Hundred, or to the Mayor or other chief officer of the place where he intended to hold his Visitation, commanding him to warn the several knights, esquires, and gentlemen within his jurisdiction, to appear before him at the house and on the day specified in the warrant, and to bring with them their escutcheons and pedigrees, with such evidences and writings as might justify the same, in order to their being duly registered. A warrant of this kind will be found in Mr. H. S. Grazebrook's *Visitation of Staffordshire, 1583*, published by the William Salt Archæological Society, and the same warrant is reprinted in the introduction to my little work on Disclaimers.

Some of the local gentry who were summoned to appear before the heralds, especially at the later visitations, did not show that alacrity in obeying the summons that the officers of arms had a right to expect, and we find that persuasion, in some cases, was attempted to induce their attendance. Thus, in a letter dated the 4th February, 1663, written by Sir William Dugdale,³ Norroy King of Arms, to Mr. John Crew of Utkinton, he says:—
 “ I shall speedily send away my Warrants to sum-
 “ mon those who appeared not when I was there,
 “ resolving to be at Chester on Saturday the 19th
 “ of March. If you have opportunity of discourse
 “ with any who came not to me, I shall desire that
 “ you will represent to them how fitt it is for them
 “ to enter their descents, and to submitt to such
 “ regularity in the bearing of their armes, as may
 “ be for the honour of their families, and restraint

³ At this time Dugdale was an esquire; he was knighted in 1677, on his appointment as Garter King of Arms.

“ of inferior persons from usurping what they ought
“ not to have.”⁴

In Lancashire Dugdale's summons was not treated with the respect due to an officer of the Crown, for a warrant was issued by him⁵ to the Bailiff of the Hundred of Salford, dated the 2nd day of February, 1664-5, in the schedule to which seventy-three of the Lancashire gentry are named, as having neglected to appear before Sir William at the sign of the King's Head in Salford on the 9th day of September, 1664, “ as well for the registringe their
“ descents and justifying their titles of Esquires
“ and Gentlemen as their right to such Coats of
“ Armes and Crests which they usually show forth
“ and bear”; and the bailiff is commanded to summon them at the King's Head on Saturday the 11th day of March, 1664-5. Then the warrant goes on to say that in case they refuse to attend, Sir William will be “ enforced to adorne them to attend
“ y^e Lords Commissioners for the office of Earle
“ Marshall of England to answer y^r disobedience
“ and contempt of His Majesties commission.”

Those of the gentry whose disposition and education inclined them to take a proper pride in their arms and descents and to obey the summons of the officer of their sovereign, came before the heralds at the time and place appointed, bringing with them whatever seemed likely to be useful in substantiating the arms and pedigrees which they wished to have entered in the Visitation Book. We can well picture to ourselves the interesting and often beautiful evidences that would be produced by well descended knights and esquires on such occasions: large vellum pedigrees with arms and effigies emblazoned in gold and colours, early charters in quaintly written characters with beautifully engraved pendent seals,

⁴ *Chetham Society*, vol. xxiv. *Chetham Miscellanies*, vol. i.

⁵ *Ibid.*

grants and confirmations of arms, surrounded with elegantly illuminated scroll-work, and boldly painted panels, such as we have seen exhibited at the meetings of our Society.

If the evidence produced satisfied the heralds, the pedigree and arms were duly entered and were signed by the person who proved them, generally the head of the family. If, on the other hand, the whole of the descent was not satisfactorily established, the officers of arms frequently entered a short pedigree, the facts of which were within the personal knowledge of the applicant; a custom which rightly survives to the present day, in entering a pedigree in the College of Arms, in the rule that an applicant may enter his pedigree from his grandparents downwards without producing corroborative evidence, but all earlier generations are required to be strictly proved by certificates and other documents.

If there was any doubt about the arms displayed, the pedigree was entered without them, and respite was often given by the heralds to allow an opportunity of verifying such arms, which, when satisfactorily proved at a later date, were "allowed" and duly entered in the Visitation Book.⁶ If, however, no proper proof was forthcoming, the user of the arms was compelled to petition for and obtain a grant from the Crown, or to suffer the ignominy of being publicly branded by proclamation as an usurper of arms and no gentleman. Thus, in the

⁶ There is a case on record in Harl. MS. 1470, in which a certificate was given to Stephen Longsdon of Longsdon, co. Derby, to bear certain arms, although he had at the Visitation "disclaimed the title of a gentleman under "his hand as not knowing how he might justify the same," and was proceeded against according to the Commission, but had afterwards found that his "ancestors had been of long time reputed gentlemen and borne arms. . . . "which he is able to prove by evidence and other good record." From this it is clear that the heralds were willing to restore the arms of which a man had deprived himself, if he conformed to the laws of arms and made proper proof of his right to armorial bearings.—(Introduction to *Visitation of Salop*, xxx.)

Visitation of Hereford, 1634, there is this note:—
“ John Philips, of Ledbury, to be disclaimed at our
“ next 'sises, because he was not disclaimed at our
“ being in the country, being respyted then for
“ prooffe, but cannot make any prooffe.” These
proclamations are what are known as Disclaimers.

Letters written to Sir William Dugdale shew that, as Norroy King of Arms, he possessed a sway equal or almost superior to the authority of a secular sovereign; and we know from his diary how vigorously he defaced the false arms on monuments and pulled down the armorial standards and banners in some of the Lancashire and Cheshire churches, and how he commanded many of the gentry to attend the Earl Marshal's Court to answer their contempt of the King's commission.

Although suggestions have been made to the contrary, the heralds, as a rule, do not seem to have acted in a harsh or arbitrary manner in regard to the production of proofs in support of pedigrees; for, if requested, they would visit the houses of the gentry, to examine deeds and other family records, in cases where such evidences could not be conveniently produced at the time or place appointed by the summons.⁷

Again, in the matter of armorial bearings, the old heralds were not too exacting. In 1668, Sir William Dugdale writes to Mr. William Horsley:—
“ Therefore it will be requisite that he do look over
“ his own evidences for some seals of arms, for
“ perhaps it appears in them, and if so, and that
“ they have used it from the beginning of Q. Eliza-

⁷ The warrant, already referred to, which is printed in Mr. H. S. Grazebrook's *Visitation of Staffordshire, 1583*, contains the following:—
“ And these that may not comodiously bringe wth them such their evidences
“ auncient writings and monuments as would serve to prove the antiquitie of
“ their race and familie but shalbe desirous to have me home to their houses
“ upon the significatyon of such their desires for the furtherance of Her
“ Maties service I will make my repayre unto them soe soone as conveniently
“ I maye.”

“beth’s reign, or about that time, I shall allow “thereof, for our directions are limiting us so to do, “and not a shorter prescription of usage.”—(*Introduction to Visitation of Salop*, p. xxix.) So that, although no actual document granting or confirming the arms could be produced, Sir William was willing to admit a prescriptive right and to confirm and enter the arms if their use could be proved by seals from a date not later than about the beginning of Queen Elizabeth’s reign. The document by which such arms were allowed was known as a Confirmation of Arms. In these days the English heralds have no such discretion, and if any given armorial bearings are not on record in the College of Arms as belonging to a particular family they cannot be allowed. In Ireland, however, the old rule as to prescription and confirmation still prevails; the reason being that the collections of arms on record in Ulster’s office are known to be imperfect.

To return to the subject of this paper. Those persons who had disobeyed the summons of the heralds were publicly disclaimed if they persistently refused to shew their right to the arms used by them; and also all those who had attended the summons, and, having been unable to prove the arms wrongfully used by them, continued such use in defiance of lawful authority.

During Dugdale’s Visitation of Yorkshire, taken in 1665-6, nearly one-third of the gentry who were summoned to appear before him neglected the summons. Two years after the conclusion of that Visitation, Sir William issued a precept to the High Sheriff of the County of York, appending the names of the persons who had treated the summons with contempt, and they were duly disclaimed at the York Assizes in 1668.

The Disclaimers were made “after sound of a “Trumpett” by proclamation at the market cross,

or some other convenient place, generally at the time of the Assizes, and a written proclamation was hung up charging the persons, whose names were written below, in the name of the Sovereign, "that they nor any of them do from henceforth by any ways or means use or take upon him or them the names of Esquire or Gentleman, unless they be thereunto authorised according to such order as is prescribed and set forth by the Laws of Arms," and also commanding in the name of the Sovereign all Sheriffs, Commissioners, Archdeacons, Officials, Scriveners, Clerks, Writers, or others whatsoever, not to call name or write in any Assize, Session, Court, or other open place or places any one of these persons by the addition of Esquire or Gentleman, who at this present by this proclamation are reprov'd, controled, and made infamous of that name and dignity, as they or any of them will answer to the contrary at their peril" to the Earl Marshal of England. A proclamation of this kind will be found before the list of persons disclaimed at Chester in 1664, printed at the end of this paper.⁸

It will be observed that the proclamation was directed against those who had assumed the title of esquire or gentleman contrary to the order prescribed by the laws of arms. In other words, the proclamation was against those who, by usurping arms to which they had no right, had assumed the rank and style of esquires and gentlemen, or had wrongfully assumed those titles, having no arms at all. This clearly appears in the heading to the list of persons disclaimed at the Visitation of Staffordshire, taken in the year 1583:—"The names of those that in the time of this Visitacyon of Staffordshire

⁸ For a copy of this document and of the lists of disclaimers in Harl. MS. 2142, I am indebted to Mr. George Grazebrook, F.S.A., whose Introduction to the *Visitations of Salop*, printed by the Harleian Society, will well repay a careful perusal.

“ have made noe prooffe of their gentry, bearing
 “ noe armes, and yet, before tyme, had called and
 “ written themselves gentlemen, and were therefore
 “ disclaymed in the chiefe places of the Hundreds
 “ wherein they dwell.” For, by the Laws of Arms,
 gentlemen, strictly speaking, were those persons
 only who could shew a right to armorial bearings
 derived by direct male descent from a grantee of
 arms, or from one to whom arms had been allowed
 by the heralds; or those who were themselves
 grantees of arms. There were, however, others
 who, by virtue of their office or profession, were
 accounted gentlemen by reputation, though not
 entitled to bear arms, but their right so to describe
 themselves, like the right to a title of courtesy, did
 not descend to their posterity.

The word “gentleman” was not employed as a
 legal addition until about the time of King Henry V.
 In its original and heraldic sense it has the same
 meaning as “noble”; hence the French proverb,
 “*Je suis un gentilhomme comme le roi.*” This is
 well explained in *Coke upon Littleton*, vol. 2, p. 667:—
 “As in ancient [Roman] times statues or images
 “ of their ancestors were proofs of their nobility,”
 he quotes Juvenal, Satire 8, and Cicero, “*Nobiles*
 “ *sunt qui imagines generis sui proferre possunt*, so in
 “ later times Coat armes came in lieu of those
 “ statues or images, and are the most certaine
 “ proofes and evidence of nobility and gentry, so as
 “ in these daies the rule is, *Nobiles sunt qui insignia*
 “ *gentilicia generis sui proferre possunt.*” It thus
 follows that a man might be an esquire, or a knight,
 or even bear a title, and yet be *ignobilis*. Wharton,
 in his *Law Lexicon*, under “Nobilis” has “The
 “ gentry are those who are able to produce armorial
 “ bearings derived by descent from their own an-
 “ cestors”; and, under “Armoial Bearings,” the
 same author says:—“A device depicted on the
 “ shield of one of the nobility; of which the gentry

“is the lowest degree. The criterion of nobility is the bearing of armorial bearings received from ancestry.”

These laws of arms have been referred to as belonging to the past, but they still prevail, although the constant inappropriate use of the word gentleman, out of mere complaisance, has gradually extended its popular application so widely, that it would be difficult to define its exact meaning, as generally used in the present day, indeed it may be said to have lost its significance as a definite word.

Among the persons who were disclaimed by the heralds were many who could have proved their right to armorial honours with little difficulty if they had cared to do so, and this is especially noticeable in the later visitations. Probably many of them were satisfied with the knowledge that they had in their possession proofs that the heralds had allowed arms to their immediate ancestors, or they were too indolent to trouble themselves to search in their muniment chests for the required proofs, or they occupied themselves with field-sports and took little or no interest in their arms and pedigrees, and, perhaps, objected to pay the small charges which would be incurred by appearing at the Visitation. Many of the Puritans regarded arms and pedigrees as “vanities,” seeing in them only a vehicle for false pride and ostentation, a charge too frequently, and very wrongly, brought against them in later days.⁹ Some of the gentry seem to have

⁹ A writer in the *Spectator*, 21st April, 1881, in a very interesting article entitled “Pedigree-hunting,” concludes with the following pertinent remarks: “We very much doubt whether the present love for pedigrees has anything to do with that pride of birth which has been so conspicuous a feature in other ages. Rather we believe that it is to be explained by the fact that the horizon of human interest has been widening everywhere, and that the love for the study of ancestry has developed with the general love for knowledge which is everywhere steadily growing. A man now sets out to discover who his ancestors really were, not to establish a claim to Norman blood. The old pedigree-hunting was a sign of pride and pretension; the modern is simply dictated by the desire to know whatever can be known. The one advanced itself by methods of immoral advocacy; the other proceeds by those of scientific research.”

gone away from home for the purpose of avoiding the heralds, and others would not "be spoken withal," though at home.

Some persons, not entitled to arms, were, no doubt, deterred, by the fear of expense, from obeying the heralds' summons. In the seventeenth century a grant of arms cost £20, and a confirmation £10; entering the pedigree cost a knight or baronet £2 : 15 : 0, an esquire £1 : 15 : 0, and a gentleman £1 : 5 : 0, and these were not small amounts in those days.

At the Visitation of Worcestershire in 1682, Joseph Ruthorn of Evesham tried to conciliate the heralds, attempting to make amends for his fault by promising to forbear using any coat-of-arms until he could make out what coat belonged to him. But he was disclaimed nevertheless.

Other persons were included among those disclaimed in an unjust fashion. Thomas Simonds of White Lady Aston, in Worcestershire, plaintively says, of arms, in 1634:—"I know of none of right" and further saith that his Father and Grandfather "were yeomen & so writ themselves"; and yet he was disclaimed.

Among the disclaimed there also appear persons styled "Dr.," "Mr.," and "Esq.," and also a number of rectors, vicars, captains and physicians. These were evidently included in the lists because they could not substantiate the arms used by them; for, although not entitled to armorial bearings, they would not be disclaimed for using an official title, unless they displayed arms wrongfully.

It is amusing to notice some of the entries made by the heralds, displaying a good deal of official righteous indignation. Thus they say, in the Visitation of Gloucestershire, 1623:—"Richard Warren "of Stainton falcelly usurped Arms which were de-
"faced and he disclaymed", and "Edward Hill,

“Customer of Gloucester, neither Gent. of Bloud, “Auncestry nor Arms.” Walter Cary, at the Visitation of Bucks, 1634, is said to be “no gent, “nor hath any [right] to bear arms which he “usurpeth.” Robert Wilmott, disclaimed at Derby, in 1634, “for usurping the Title of Gent, notwithstanding having been disclaimed in the Visitation “made 1611.” “Hugh Rogerson alderman and “Justice of Peace [of Chester] and served a small “time Maior in anno 1580, bereason Will’m “Goodman beinge Maior died that yeare; But he “knowethe of no Armes due or belonginge to him “nether desirethe nor deservethe any payns to be “taken for him; hee hathe yssue &c.”¹⁰

The effect of the disclaimer upon Robert Griffiths, of Broomhall, in Nantwich Hundred, seems to have been immediate, for according to a MS. note in the College of Arms, his pedigree and arms were entered by Dugdale on the day after the disclaimer.

Arms were allowed at the Visitation of Lancashire, 1613, to William Dewhurst of Dewhurst, who was then aged 26. The William, mentioned in the list of persons who were disclaimed at the Lancaster Assizes in 1667, may have been the same man—though he would then be 80 years of age—or his son or grandson. If so he was disclaimed owing to his contempt of the herald’s summons.

The lists given below include all the now existing records of persons who were disclaimed by the heralds in Lancashire and Cheshire that I have been able to obtain; probably there are not any others in existence. The only disclaimers to be found in the College of Arms, relating to the Counties Palatine, are those made at Lancaster in 1667 and at Chester in 1664. The latter have been col-

¹⁰ This is from the fragment of a visitation, preserved in Harl. MS. 2163, entitled: “Anno a natu xpi. 1591 for the Cittye of Chester taken by tho. “Chaloner for the Office of Armes &c.”—(*Visit. of Chesh.*, Harleian Society.)

lated with the same list in Harl. MS. 2142 fo. 163, and the variations noted.

The names in these lists are far too numerous to admit of annotation, even if the labour of the work would be likely to lead to useful results; and it is improbable that this would be the case, for a large proportion of the names are those of persons in whom only a limited interest will be taken in the present day.

Disclaimers.

[**Lancaster, 1667.**]

[*College of Arms. C. 37.*]¹¹

Disclaimers made at the Assizes at Lancaster,
29 Aug: 1667.

Salford Hundred.

Ric. Greene	Aspull.
Ric. Smethurst	Birkle [Birtle.]
Jno. Lomax	Chesham.
James Halliwell	Hundresfield.
Roger Rogers	New Crast [Bolton?]

Blackburne Hundred.

Wm. Dewhurst	Dewhurst.
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Lonsdale Hundred.

Edw ^d . Briggs	Burrow.
Gabraell Crost	Clayton.

Amundernesse Hundred.

James Smith	Michop.
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¹¹ Words in brackets are editorial additions.

Leyland Hundred.

Rob ^t Browne	Bretherton.
Willm. Radley	Crosshall.
..... Crispe	Parbold.

[West] Derby Hundred.

Ralph Browne	Ince [in] Makerfield.
..... Houlme	Maghull.
Thos Alcocke	Prestcote [Prescot.]
Rob ^t Walthew	Pemberton.
Theophilus Lincke[Lynch]	Rixton Hall [Sankey.]
Ambrose Jolly	Standish Gate [Wigan.]
..... Appleton	Widnes.

[In a later hand:—] A faithful and hearty Cavalier but his estate wasted & he lived by selling ale.

Richard Perceval	Leverpoole.
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[Cheshire, 1613.]

[Harl. MS. 2142, f. 163.]¹²

[Edisbury Hundred.]

Will'm Wright of Ince.
 Randle Stoukdon of Haighton.
 Peter Hale of Norley.
 David Hinton of Ruston [Rushton.]
 Thom's Sparke of Kingsley.
 William Crewe of (the same)¹³ Elton.
*John Crewe of the same.*¹⁴
 John Horton of Althersey.
 James Traves "of Horton."
 John Denson of Elton.
 John Battrich of Barrowe.
 Rob^t Walker of Aldersey.

¹² Words in brackets are editorial additions.

¹³ Words in parentheses are crossed out in the original MS.

¹⁴ Words in italic type have been added in a later ink.

[**Urral Hundred.**]

John Gill of Poulton.
 Rob^t *Gill* of Bromborowe.
 John Robinson of Wallesey.
 John Bennett *of Wallesey*.
 John Yonge of frankby.
 Tho: Hallwood of Sutton.
 John Doe of Litle Saughall.
 James Doe of the same.
 Ric. Clarke *of Saughall*.
 Thom's Barlowe *of y^e same*.
 Wm. Hely of Newton.
 Rob^t Lennard of Irby.
 Wm. Ball of Erresbye [Irby.]

[**Broxton Hundred.**]

John Madox of Edge.
 Randle Moyle of Shotley.
 Wm. Wright of Chomley.
 Christopher Hasswall of Alford.
 Urian Orton *of Croxon*.
 Ric. Mounkeffield of Kinerton.
 Raffe Astley of Belgrave.
 John Astbrooke of Tattenhall.
 Raynald findla of How mafiend.
 Thom's Deane of Church holme.

[**Northwich Hundred.**]

James Trevitt of Sproston.
 Randle fivion [Fithion] of Tetton.
 Henry Bradshaw of Allostock.
Thomas Woodcock of Church holme.
 Roger Neile of Shurlage [Shurlach.]
 Thomas Borough of Warton.
 John Pygott of Som'ford [Somerford.]
 Thom's Hodgkinson of Smallwood.
 John Layton of Snope.
 Arthur Joyanson of Warton.

[**Mantwich Hundred.**]

John Scott of Checkley.
Randle Poole of Alger.
 Ric. Kettle of Beechton.
 Hugh Brome *of same*.
 Hugh furnivall *of same*.

Thomas Som'vile [Somerville] *of same.*
 W^m. Shawe the yonger *of ye same.*
 John Shawe of Belston *of ye same.*
 John Gallymore *of the same.*
 W^m. Gallymore *Id^m* [idem.]
 W^m. Gallymore *jun^r of the same.*
 Ric. Shewe *of the same.*
 Thom's Shewe *of the same.*
 W^m. Shawe thelder *of same.*
 W^m. Loe *of same.*
 John Whellock *of same.*
 John Turney *of same.*
 Thom's Chartley *of same.*
 W^m. Barmar (of Beston) *of same.*
 Rob^t. Alsagar of Alsagar.
 Thom's Knight of the same.
 Thom's Smith of Checkley.
 John Podmore of Hassall [in Sandbach.]
 Rob^t. Lawton of Goshill.
 W^m. Pratchett of Waterston [Worleston.]
 Rob^t. Atherton of Warton.

[Bucklow Hundred.]

Rob^t. Peerson of Lachford.
 John Hatton of the same.
 John Middlehurst of the same.
 Ric. Steele of Reddish [alias Caterich, in Grap-
 penhall.]
 Ric. Gamull of Appleton.
 Edward Allen of Rosthorne.
 Phillipp Downes of Tofte.
 Gilbert Midleton of Stockton.
 John Grantham of Hall [Hale.]
 Ric. Wright of Astley [Ashley.]
 John Parkington of Parkington [Partington].
 Edward Harper of High Leigh.
 W^m. Morrys of Grappenhall.
 Thom's Shawe of Hogreauelane [Swinehead in
 High Leigh?]
 Ric. Yearwood of Moberley.
 Roger Worthington of the same.
 Roger Simcocks of the same.
 John Mather(ley) of Moberley.
 John Strettey [Strettell] of the same.
 Thom's Simcocks of the same.
 Geffrey (Browne) *Bower* of the same.

Thom's Whetley of Whetley [Whitley.]
 John Alleyn of *Over Whitley*.
 Hugh Crosby of *Over Whitley*.

[**Macclesfield Hundred.**]

Hugh Germyne [of Mottram Andrew.]
 Peter Ward of *Somerford*.
 Christopher Beron [of Bache.]
 Lenard Mottram in Andrew.
 Thom's Pygott of Berysall [Beristall.]
 Robt. Alcock of (Tommalsee) Hough [in Bollin
 Fee.]

Thom's Grasby [Grastie] of Warford.¹⁵
 Hugh Snelson of Shelford.
 John Lowe of Shelford.
 Thom's Teddering[ton] of Tedderington [Titherington.]

Henry Barlow of Mottram Andrew.
 Thom's (Gray) Srayg [Glegge] of Withington.
 John Robinson of Stopfort [Stockport.]
 Hugh Ward of Eaton.
 John Burges of the same.
 Edward Lown[d]es of the same.
 Mathew Whitton of the same.
 Urian Okes of the same.
 John Okes of the same.
 Mathew Okes of the same.
 Richard Burges of Bodinfee [Bollin Fee.]
 Henry Ryle of Northen[den.]
 John Heugham of Heugham.
 John Swinton of Alderley.
 Randle Janny of Styall.
 W^m. Shelmaryne of Northen[den.]
 Edward Okes (of Som'ford) of Michbrooke.
 Sidesbury of Mottram.
 Francis Hobson of Aldrley.
 Thom's Chester.
 William Burgeny de Pulford.

This is a trew copie of thos[e] that [were] disclaymed at S^r Rich. St. George Norroy Kinge of Armes Visetation for the county of Chester 1613

¹⁵ "Respite given for proove of armes but no proove made" at the Visitation of 1664 (Earwaker's *East Cheshire*, vol. ii., p. 641).

and taken by me Randle Holme of Chester deputy to the sayd Norroy when the[y] had byne p'claymed at Chester high Crosse after sound of a Trumpett by a bayley [bailiff] of the county of Chester.

[Cheshire, 1664.]

[A printed proclamation, with parts filled in with the pen.—
Harl. MS. 2142, fo. 164.]

To the high Shireebe
of the County Palatine
of Chester.¹⁶

Large
official seal of
William Dugdale, Esq.,
as Norroy King
of Arms.

WHEREAS the King's most Excellent Majesty, being desirous that the Nobility of this his Realm should be preserved in each degree, as well in Honour as in Worship: and that every person and persons, Bodies politick corporate and others should be known in their states & mysteries without confusion and disorder, hath authorised me *William Dugdale* Esq: *Norroy* King of Armes of the North East and West-parts of this Realm of England, not only to visit all the said province, and to peruse, take knowledge and view of all manner of Armes, Cognizances, Crests, and other like Devices, with the notes of the Descents, Pedegrees, and Marriages of all the Gentry therein contained: but also to reprove, controul, and make infamous by Proclamation all such as unlawfully, and without just Authority, Vocation, or due calling, do or have done, or shall usurp, or take upon him or them any Name or Title, of Honour or Dignity, as Esquire, Gentleman, or other: forbidding also and straitly commanding all his Shireeves, Commissioners, Archdeacons, Officialls, Scriveners, Clerks, Writers, or other whatsoever they be, to call, name, or write in any Assize, Sessions, Court, or other open place or places, or to use in any writing the addition of Esquire or Gentle-

¹⁶ The words in the proclamation which are printed in this type have been filled in by hand.

man, to any person or persons within this my Province above-mentioned, unless they be able to stand unto and justify the same by the Law of Armes, of this his Realm, or else be ascertained thereof by advertisement in writing from me the said *Norroy* King of Armes, my Deputy, or Deputyes, Attorney or Attorneys in that behalf, as by his said Majesties Commission under the great Seal of *England* more fully doth appear. Know ye therefore, that I the said *Norroy*, in pursuance and accomplishment of his said Majesties desire, and furtherance of his service herein, having in my late Visitation within this County of *Chester* by due Summons required the persons whose names are hereunto annexed, to shew unto me by what right they do use and bear any such Armes, Cognizances, and Crests as abovesaid, and take upon them those Titles and Dignities of Esquire or Gentleman: and having received no sufficient proof of such their right thereunto, and my own justification for allowance thereof, according to the trust reposed in me by his said Majesty in that behalf: but that they have presumptuously usurped the same, without any good ground or Authority, contrary to all right, and to the antient and laudable custome of this Realm, and usage of the Law of Armes: do hereby declare, that from henceforth they are not to use those Armes and Titles upon such further pain and peril as by the Earl Marshal of *England*, or his Majesties most Honourable Commissioners for the executing of that Office may be inflicted upon them, whereof I have thought fit (in pursuance of his Majesties further pleasure signified in his said Commission) hereby to advertise you, and all other his Majesties good and Loyal Subjects of this County: that as you and they tender his said Majesties pleasure herein, from henceforth you will forbear, in any writing or otherwise to attribute unto them those additions of Esquire or Gentleman, until the said persons so assuming those Titles, shall stand to and justify the same by the Law of Armes of this his Majesties Realm: or that you be ascertained thereof in writing, by advertisement from me the said *Norroy* King of Armes, or my lawful Deputy or Deputyes, Attorney or

Attorneys, in that behalf. Given at the Office of Armes in the City of London, under my hand, and the Seal of my office the sixth day of July in the sixteenth year of the reign of our Sovereign Lord CHARLES the Second by the Grace of God of *England Scotland, France & Ireland* King, defendor of the faith &c.

[Signed] **Will'm Dugdale,**
Norroy K. of Armes.

[**Cheshire, 1664.**]

[*College of Arms, C. 38.—Harl. MS. 2142, fo. 165.*]

The names of the Particular Persons residing within the several Hundreds of the County Palatine of Chester who were disclaimed at the Market Cross in Chester on Thursday 28 July 1664 being the time of the Public & General Assizes held for the said County.

The City of Chester.

William Wilson	}	Abbey Court.
Mr. Oldfield ¹⁷		
Mr. Hulton		
James Anderton ¹⁸	}	North Gate Street.
Henry Young ¹⁹		
Thomas Robinson		
John Anderson		
Daniel Baband		
Thomas Higgenson	}	Watergate Street.
John Bret		
Thomas Hand		
Richard Harrison ²⁰		White Fryer Lane.

¹⁷ Mr. Oldfeild in Harl. MS.

¹⁸ John Anderson in Harl. MS.

¹⁹ This name does not occur in C. 38, and is erased in Harl. MS.

²⁰ Erased in Harl. MS.

Jonathan Crosse	}	East Gate Street.
Thomas Parnell ²¹		
Richard Brett ²²		
John Cows ²³		
Richard Hitchcock	}	Fleshmongers Lane.
William Heyward		
Mr. Rok ²⁴	}	High part of Bridge Street. ²⁵
William Drinkwater		
James Gartsoide ²⁶		
Richard Wright ²⁶		
John Knowles		
Peter Edwards		
Henry Lloyd ²⁶		
Thomas Singleton ²⁷		
William Harvey ²⁶		
William Hewett ²⁸		
Robert Morey ²⁹	}	Lower end of Bridge Street.
Hugh Harvey		
Robert Gregg ³⁰		
Richard Bridge		
Mr. Slatour	}	Castle Lane.
John Ridge		
Thomas Acton ³¹		
Hugh Mouson ³²		
Richard Heath		
John Madock ³⁴	}	foragate Streete. ³³
Thomas Wilcock		
Randle Oulton ³⁴		
Richard Williamson, a Proctor.		

²¹ Erased in Harl. MS.

²² Richard Bret in Harl. MS.

²³ John Cows in Harl. MS.

²⁴ This name does not occur in C. 38, and is erased in Harl. MS.

²⁵ Higher end of Bridge street in Harl. MS., and the names filled in in a later hand.

²⁶ This name does not occur in Harl. MS.

²⁷ Tho: Shingleton in Harl. MS.

²⁸ Will'm. Huett in Harl. MS.

²⁹ Robert Morrey in Harl. MS.

^o Robert Greg Senr. in Harl. MS.

¹ This name does not occur in C. 38, and is erased in Harl. MS.

³² Hugh Mowson in Harl. MS.

³³ The name of the street does not occur in C. 38.

³ Erased in Harl. MS.

The County of Chester.

Northwich Hundred.

John Statham	of Brereton.
Thomas Higinbotham	Buglawton.
Huon Mynshull	Clyve.
John Hobson	
Alderman Poynton ³⁵	
Mr. ³⁶	
Richard Parnell	} Congleton.
William Spenser ³⁷	
Robert Knight	
John Walker	
John Lathom	
John Henshaw	
Thomas Parnell	
Mr. Justice Ford	
Thomas Bagnall	} Cranage.
John Leadbeater	
Robert Lowe	Eaton.
Jonathan Eaton	Goosetree cum Barnshaw. ³⁸
William Moreton	} Hulme Walfield.
Richard Fimlowe	
John Amson	Leigh.
William Yates	} Middlewich.
John Amson	
Gabraell Hodgson	Minshul Vernon.
Thomas Deane	Nether Pever.
Edmund Stockley	Newhall.
Thomas Robinson	
Thomas Hulford	} Northwich.
John Brome ³⁹	
Raphe Poole ⁴⁰	} Odd Rode.
William Raven	
John Mosse	} Sandbach.
John Stonyer	
Hugh Walley ⁴¹	

35 Alderman Pointon in Harl. MS.

36 A name erased and illegible in Harl. MS.

37 William Spencer in Harl. MS.

38 Barnshaw only in Harl. MS.

39 John Broome in Harl. MS.

40 Mr. Ralphe Poole in Harl. MS.

41 Mr. Hugh Walley in Harl. MS.

Thomas Walley	Shipbrook. ⁴²
Raphe Walley ⁴³	Stanthorne.
Richard Deane	Shurlach.
Richard Brooke	Smallwood.
Robert Kinsen	Tetton.
Henry Wigley	} Warmicham.
Raphe Hassall	
John Smith	
John Parkinton ⁴⁴	
	Witton.

Hauptwich Hundred.

Hugh Kent ⁴⁵	}	Alsager.
John Lawton ⁴⁶		Aston juxta Mondrum.
John Brayne ⁴⁷	}	Audlem.
Cholmley Salmon		
Arthur Cartwright ⁴⁸		
John Sparrowe		
Gabraell Smith	}	Baddiley.
John Bromhall		Bridgmeire.
Richard Sherwyn ⁴⁹		Bromhall.
Robert Griffiths		

[*In a later hand, in C. 38:—*] N.B. The pedigree of this R G. entered with arms by Dugd[ale] the day after this disclaimer. See the original Visitation, fo. 123.

Henry Hayes	}	Burland.
John Shenton		
Richard Walley		
Charles Ince	}	Checkley.
Richard Lovet		
John Smith		
Thomas Ursgate ⁵⁰		
Thomas Caldcote	}	Cholmston.
Hugh Wade		Chorley.
		Church Minshull.

⁴² Shipbroke in Harl. MS.

⁴³ This name does not occur in Harl. MS.

⁴⁴ John Packington in Harl. MS.

⁴⁵ Mr. Hugh Kent in Harl. MS.

⁴⁶ Mr. John Lawton in Harl. MS.

⁴⁷ Mr. John Braine in Harl. MS., and juxta Mondrum is omitted.

⁴⁸ This name does not occur in C. 38.

⁴⁹ Richard Sherwin in Harl. MS.

⁵⁰ Thomas Ursgate, Cholmondiston, in Harl. MS.

Thomas Smith ⁵¹	}	Crewe.
Mathew Meakin		
John Parrot ⁵²		
Mathew Wright	}	Hankilow.
Thomas Knight		
William Wofe		
Hugh Boulton	}	Heald.
John Bouth		
John Wilson		
William Parrat	}	Hough.
Alexander Denton		
George Edgley		
William Meakin ⁵³	}	Leighton.
Thomas Bromhall		
Roger Cumberbache		
George Henshaw	}	Marbury.
Thomas Langley		
John Wicksted		
Thomas Wright	}	Namptwich.
Randle Church		
Thomas Bullen		
Cholmley Salveyn	}	New Hall.
Mr. Browne		
Gabraell Hockton ⁵⁴		
Robert Hassall	}	Pooles.
William Cudworth		
John Lawson ⁵⁵		
William Abnet	}	Rope.
William Moulton		
Laurence Fletcher		
William Baskerville	}	Sound.
Raphe Adsheard		
Arthur Bickerton		
Raphe Bostock	}	Wibenbury.
Raphe Brescie		
Robert Parker ⁵⁶		
William Boote ⁵⁷	}	Wilkesley.
Richard Wright		
	}	Willaston.
	}	Winstanton. ⁵⁸

⁵¹ Mr. Thomas Smith in Harl. MS.

⁵² Mr. John Parrat in Harl. MS.

⁵³ Mr. William Meakin in Harl. MS.

⁵⁴ Gabr: Hockton in Harl. MS.

⁵⁵ Mr. John Lawton in Harl. MS.

⁵⁶ Mr. Robert Parker in Harl. MS.

⁵⁷ Mr. William Boote in Harl. MS.

⁵⁸ Wistanston in Harl. MS.

Mr. Broadbent	}	Worleston.
Richard Prichard		
Edward Windsor	}	Worswall.
Randle Grafton		
Thomas Wicksted		
George Tushingam		
Raphe Tushingam		
Jonathan Bradeley	}	Wrenbury.
Thomas Harrower		

Broxton Hundred.

Mr. Edward Astley	Golborne Bello.
John Booker	Bickerton.
Richard Brookes	Boughton.
Mr. Kettle	Burwardsley.
Edward Bawyn ⁵⁹	Cristilton.
Daniel Greatbache	Eccleston.
Thomas Wilcox	Huntington.
Mr. Blunketts	Malpas.
Raphe Wilbraham	Marlton cum Lache.
William Smith	Rowton.
Francis Wright	Stretton.
Mr. Bird ⁶⁰	Brocton.
Mr. Acton ⁶¹	Gloverton.

Bucklow Hundred.

Edward Gregg ⁶²	Appleton.
Henry Vawdrey	Bagguley.
Millington Coulthurst	Marthall cum Wharton
Thomas Warburton	Partington.
Richard Warburton	Warburton.
Mr. Sam: Vawdrey ⁶³	Hale.

Uyrball Hundred.

Thomas Glaslover	}	Lea.
Mr. Cottingham		Little Neston.
Mr. Upton		

⁵⁹ Edw. Bawyn in Harl. MS.

⁶⁰ This name does not occur in C. 38, and is erased in Harl. MS.

⁶¹ This name does not occur in C. 38.

⁶² Mr. Edw. Gregg in Harl. MS.

⁶³ This name does not occur in C. 38.

Edward Litterland	Poulton cum Seacrum.
Mr. Hocknell	Shotwick.
William Shipley	Stowerton.
Capt: Shipley ⁶⁴	Thortonhough.
Mr. Frogg	Whitby.

Eddisbury Hundred.

Thomas Savage	}	Barrow.
John Philips		Bunbury.
Thomas Porter	}	Hartford.
George Lowe		Kingsley.
William Row	}	Manley.
Richard Rutter ⁶⁵		Over.
Richard Wilcoxon	}	Rushton.
Peter Hall		
Raphe Vernon	}	
Raphe Ratcliffe		
Henry Young	}	
Thomas Richardson		

Marfield Hundred.

Mr. Samuel Eaton		Bredbury.
John Birtles		Birtles.
Robert Sidibotham	}	Cheadle parish.
Reginald Kelsall ⁶⁶		Eaton.
Randle Wardle		Fulshall. ⁶⁷
William Newton		Hurdefield.
Thomas Jackson	}	
Thomas Deane		Maxfield.
William Watson	}	
Richard Mottershead		Over Alderley.
Antony Bouth ⁶⁸	}	Offerton.
Francis Hobson		Pownall Fee.
Thomas Hobson	}	
Thomas Wright ⁶⁹		Ranow.
William Alcock		
William Wyrhall		
John Lowe, of Horden		

⁶⁴ This name does not occur in C. 38.

⁶⁵ Erased in Harl. MS.

⁶⁶ Mr. Reginald Kelsall in Harl. MS.

⁶⁷ Fullshaw in Harl. MS.

⁶⁸ Anthony Boothe in Harl. MS.

⁶⁹ Mr. Thomas Wright in Harl. MS.

Disclaimers at the Heralds' Visitations.

Edward Barret	Siddington.
Edmund Barwick	Sithington.
Nicholas Walker	Stelrey ⁷⁰
Henry Harpur ⁷¹	}
George Newton	
Thomas Dickenson	
Alexander Robinson	
Robert Steele	
John Bancroft	Sutton.
Peter Worth	}
Edward Brabourne	
William Worrall	
	Tiderington.
	Wimslow.

⁷⁰ Stelvey in Harl. MS.

⁷¹ This name does not occur in C. 38.

