



Communications.

LEAVES FROM AN ANTIQUARY'S NOTE-BOOK.

[The subjoined lists do not profess to be exhaustive, and it is hoped that Mr. Cox will prepare supplementary lists for the next volume of the Society's *Transactions*.—EDITOR.]

A BIT OF OLD LIVERPOOL.

ABOUT May, 1891, during the excavations for a new building on the north side of Chapel Street, about half-way between Lancelot's Hey and Rumford Place, and 150 feet back from the street, the foundations of an ancient house were found. They consisted of two parallel walls, lineable with the street. That to the north, an outer wall of ashlar stone, 18 inches thick, faced a yard with a pavement of cobble stones; the south wall, about 10 feet from it, 12 inches thick, formed the side of a cellar, filled with the *débris* of the house, which was also spread over the yard, in which lay an oak beam, partly burned. To the north-east was a well, and another well existed nearer to Chapel Street. The *débris* of the house was covered by 4 feet of soft clay. From the walls were taken sills and mullions of a three-light and a two-light square window, used from a still older building. The site formed part of the old Kiln

Hey, belonging to the Old Hall of the Moore family. The ruins suggested that they had been hastily thrown down and buried, and this, possibly, was done when Liverpool was entrenched, in 1642. The Mardyke Fort stood just below this place, and the mud wall raised for the defences ran from it very near this line. The houses taken down in 1810, as shown on a plan in the Peters Estate Office, formed no part of this old building.

LIST OF THE CROSSES IN THE NEIGHBOURHOOD
OF LIVERPOOL.

Ince Blundell.—A cross on steps, with tall restored shaft and head; a wayside cross.

Great Crosby.—Square socket of a cross, on two steps, with modern wooden cross, all in very ruinous condition; near a well, dedicated to the blessed Virgin Mary.

Little Crosby.—A shaft of a cross, with square base, and several steps, set on a raised wall over a well, by the roadside. The stones are numbered with Roman figures, and there is a date on the ashlar plinth which doubtless relates to its removal, the cross being probably fifteenth century.¹

Everton.—The remains of the cross, which stood in the centre of the village, were put into the Roundhouse when taken down. It was a market cross. Drawings in the Binns collection represent it as having three steps and a part of a round shaft.

Wavertree.—A cross is shown in Troughton's book on Liverpool, above the Monk's Well.

Woolton.—A short, pyramidal chamfered shaft, on older base, and two steps, in the middle of the old village. A market cross.

¹ Date and inscription, "I.M. 1758." The initials I have not been able to identify.—EDITOR.

Huyton.—The cross near the church is modern, and is handsome. It stands on five steps, with a base carved with quatrefoils and a capital. I have heard that it was built by a former incumbent, to occupy the place formerly used for cock-fighting.

Headless Cross, near Roby.—On the brow of the hill, going down to the village. A thick square pillar, on a heavy square base. A wayside cross. It may have had a head similar to that at Windleshaw chantry.

Windleshaw.—A churchyard cross. Base on five steps, short square shaft, with a cross cut in relief on each face, at the upper end.

Peasley Cross, I am told, exists. I have not seen it, and have no details of it.

Hunts Cross.—A displaced massive square stone socket, lying by a barn, at the cross-roads, near the station.

Childwall.—On the roadside, near Well Lane, stood the slender octagonal shaft of a cross, on an octagon socket and three steps. It was a wayside cross, probably marking the lands of the monks of Stanlaw and Whalley, who had a cell there. The stones were thrown over into the field when the road was widened, and were thence carted away about twelve years ago.

Garston.—The square base and shaft of a cross stood at the head of the mill-dam, at the corner below the hall. It is shown by Troughton on two steps, and probably marked a well, or limits of land belonging to the Abbey of Stanlaw. It was buried when St. Mary's Road was made, and a public-house built over it. It was found again in making a drain, and was kept for many years by Mr. Owen, stonemason, and finally re-erected by Father Smith on a new site. Inscribed on the

new plinth is the appropriate motto, "ECCE CRUCEM REDDIENTEM." A second cross in the churchyard is set on a base of two stones, clamped together with iron bands. The shaft has been cut into a shallow basin, where broken off near the ground, and is probably a plague stone, for exchange of money and merchandise in time of pestilence.

Liverpool had five crosses: the High Cross, in Castle Street; the White, or Little, Cross, near the north gate of the Exchange; the Red Cross, south of the Castle; St. Patrick's Cross, at the lower end of Byrom Street; and Townsend Cross, near St. John's Church. The first three were market crosses, the fourth a memorial of St. Patrick's visit to Liverpool, the fifth a way mark.

Walton.—A portion of the head of a very fine cross, of late Saxon date, has been dug up near the Church; also the large base, about 3 feet square and 2 feet high, with three set-offs or sloping steps. The head is enclosed in an arch nearly 2 feet in diameter, the spandrils are pierced, and the circle ornamented with a very well wrought diagonal key pattern. A stone was found set on the base like a short shaft, with a cruciform dished hollow in it. This has probably been a plague stone.

Winwick.—A large Saxon cross, of red sandstone, covered with carved panels, with figure subjects and knotwork. This cross stood in the chancel of the church, and was thrown out into the churchyard when the chancel was "restored," where for a long time it lay broken. It has been re-erected in the churchyard.

Farnworth.—A large and fine cross, about nine feet high, stands on the south side of the church, close to the west of the Cuedley chapel: it stands on three steps, the upper one forming the base—a massive square stone. The shaft is square, and is

surmounted by a cap with gablets trefoiled on each face. Possibly the cross stood above these, but it is uncertain whether this cap may be a restoration.

Sephton.—The base of a large cross lies in the farmyard south of the church: it is octagonal. The bases of three roadside crosses (two, plain blocks with sockets; one, of truncated pyramidal form) are found on the way to Sephton town. In the churchyard is a plain base with oblong socket, that suggest a Norman origin.

Harkirk has a large but low base, with oblong socket, on which has been cut three plain incised crosses, at some late date. The cross of the chapel of Harkirk, also, is set on an ancient base. The foundation is a Saxon one, and the width of the empty socket suggests a Saxon origin.

Crosby.—A cross on five steps stands in the wood just within the gates of Crosby Hall. The shaft is an octagon, with a roughly moulded capital, which seems to be of late 15th century date. Above this are traces of the arms of the cross, now destroyed. Local tradition says this was the market-cross, removed here for safety. The steps are deeply worn and there are faint traces of hollows in which may have been placed money for exchange in time of plague. Near the hall is another cross in a cottage garden, with a fine octagonal shaft and a modern head. On the opposite side of the road is a holy well, approached by steps and walled in, but now clogged up and disused. The dedication is unknown, but the name of the lane, Virgin Lane, suggests it. A cross of late date is cut on a large stone in the wall of the hall grounds. Ince Blundell cross, in the grounds, I have not examined.

Formby.—Near the station, where a lane formerly debouched on the common land, and near where remains of the ancient village have been found

under the sand, stands a fine cross on steps, with a slender, tapering, octagonal shaft, having a modern restored head. In Formby churchyard is a large set of steps of the ancient market-cross, removed thither from neighbouring cross roads. The square socket bears a well-proportioned wooden cross of recent date. On the treads of the steps there are very clear remains of small basin-shaped hollows, probably made for the exchange of money in time of plague: they are upon the upper two steps and base. Also in the churchyard is a rudely-wrought stone, set upright; on it is a cross, incised, rising from a circle. The cross is about 9 inches long. Round this stone it was, till recently, the custom to carry a corpse three times before burial.

Lydiate.—The base of a cross, a square block, stands at the entrance of the hall. In the churchyard of the Roman Catholic church of Lydiate is a plain stone cross, without ornament, set on a modern base. This was dug up in a field in the parish, where it had evidently been buried for its preservation.

Halsall.—The base of the churchyard cross is *in situ*, on the south side of the church. It is a massive stone of octagon plan, sloping towards the socket, in which remains the lower end of the square shaft, set in lead, and broken off short, level with the base. The base is divided into three stages by rounded bands of moulding. The date of this cross appears to be about the 15th century. It is hoped that a shaft and cross may shortly be replaced on this base.

PSEUDO CROSSES.

In various ancient villages are found large oblong blocks of stone, on which are incised circles, across which is cut a cross. These have misled

some antiquaries as to their origin. They are interesting as antiquities, but have never had any religious signification, inasmuch as they are the remains of ancient stone cheese presses. On the circle was set the cheese, and the lines of the cross carried off the whey. Two such stones (one a few years ago in use) exist at *Ince Manor*, and one was recently dug up on the Grange Road, *West Kirby*. Similar remnants of presses, now destroyed, were at *Storeton* and *Pool Hall*.

THE CROSSES OF WIRRAL.

Wallasey had two crosses : one in the town, the market cross ; one in the churchyard, on the south of the church. Robinson's account of the town speaks of both. The churchyard cross was covered with curious cutting, and was 12 feet high. It was damaged by the soldiers of William III, who used it for a target, and was afterwards made into steps for the stile into the churchyard. A large stone, 3-feet cube, with a socket, was found in demolishing an old building, adjacent to the hall, when the rectory was enlarged. It was probably a Saxon or late Norman cross, and this stone formed the base.

Bidston.—The sundial stands on the site of the cross, and its base may be the old pedestal.

West Kirby.—The base of the cross, now moved eastwards, forms that of the sundial. There are fragments of a large and important Saxon cross, with round head, and the shaft ornamented with knotwork, preserved near the church ; also of two similar smaller crosses, which may have formed a Calvary. In addition to these, several grave crosses are carefully kept.

Heswall, Thurstaston, Burton, Shotwick, Eastham,

Stoke, and Backford show no trace of the ancient crosses, but sundials replace them; neither can any remnant be found in the deserted churchyard of *Overchurch*, except one grave slab.

Neston.—In the church are the shafts of two fine Saxon crosses, sculptured with knotwork. On one are figures of a priest and of Cain and Abel. A finely sculptured cross grave-slab also is kept there, which has at one time been ornamented with glass inlaying.

Woodchurch has a large cross on several steps, with a tapering octagonal shaft, of the fifteenth century. An incongruous head has been put on it, and the shaft disfigured with a "jubilee inscription." The head of a cross, forming a crucifix, is set near the church gate. It was brought here from an ancient French churchyard, some years ago.

Bebington.—A base, with socket and pedestals for four figures, or niches, stands west of the north porch, on three steps. It has been a large and fine structure. The head, with a crucifixion on one face, and the Virgin and Child on the other, in shallow niches, is preserved near the church. It is sixteenth century work. On the south side of the church an octagon shaft, stopped, on a square base, with stopped angles, has been utilised as a sundial.

Greasby.—A modern cast-iron cross stands a little to the west of the original cross, of which the broken steps were cleared away a few years ago. The village takes its name from the cross—"Crœs Bye."

Bromborough.—A fifteenth century plain cross, on three steps, has been turned into a sundial. It stands to the south of the site of the old, and north of the modern, church. In the garden of the parsonage are kept the fragments of the base,

shaft, and head of a very fine Saxon or early Norman cross; also fragments of about six other crosses, dating from late Saxon to fifteenth century periods. They had been built into the walls of the late church, about seventy years ago. In the village is a lofty market cross, on seven steps. The shaft is a copy of the old one, with a modern addition by Gilbert Scott. The old shaft forms a sundial in the manor-house garden.

Birkenhead.—In an old view, dated 1780, the base and shaft of a cross are shewn, between the priory and the priory-house.

Sutton.—A cross is spoken of in the *Coucher Book of Whalley* as standing on Sutton Heath; possibly a way-mark, or a boundary mark between the lands of Stanlaw Abbey and Ince Manor.

Hilbre Island.—A Norman grave cross is built into the wall of a shed, and the head of the cross that occupied the centre of the garth of St. Hildburga's Abbey is in the Grosvenor Museum, Chester. It is beautiful Saxon work, with a peculiar nimbéd border.

ENTRENCHMENTS.

Entrenchment between Bidston and Birkenhead.—In 1845, before the land of Birkenhead was laid out, the late Charles Verelst made plans of a square entrenchment on the old Bidston road, with a deep wet ditch, the inner area being about 100 feet square. He showed plans of this to the Architectural Society in that year, but inquiry has failed to find them. Upon the maps in the Borough Surveyor's office, at Birkenhead, this entrenchment is shown, about midway between the site of the ancient bridge, discovered in making the railway in Bridge Street, and Flaybrick Hill. Mr. Verelst

considered it to be Roman. It had more resemblance to a moated hall or manor-house, and may be the moat of the lost manor-house of Woolton in Wirral.

Entrenchment at Irby Hall.—This large square area is peculiar, in that the moat is at the inner side, and the vallum (still in some places 9 feet high) is on the outside of the moat. British earthworks were thus constructed; but this, probably, was made at the same time as the hall was built.

Entrenchment at Rufford.—A circular moat exists in a wood, half a mile north-east of Rufford Hall. Its origin is unknown.

Thornton Churchyard and Hall stand on two square areas, about $1\frac{1}{2}$ acres each, adjoining each other. They are surrounded by roads. The rock has been scarped on the east, and the ground of the churchyard raised on the west, to form a raised platform, about six feet high. That this has been artificially made, is shewn by the loose earth on the west being held by a retaining wall of large stones, and the plinths of the church are adapted to the higher level. On the north of the hall the rock is cut into a wall, 3 feet thick.

WELLS.

St. Patrick's Well is above *Bromborough Bridge*, near the upper part of the Pool. It is on the side of a rocky valley; and a very clear spring still fills a small oblong basin, cut in the rock. St. Patrick is traditionally said to have sailed from the Mersey to Ireland.

Shodwell.—Possibly St. Chad's Well, is near the shore, in the woods between Bromborough and Eastham. Large stone troughs are turned over to

cover its mouth. Shodwell was formerly a small fishing hamlet, and remains of the cottage walls, built with clay instead of mortar, are visible; also a ruined limekiln. The hamlet is now wholly deserted.

Helen's Well, in *Hooton Park*, is dedicated to St. Helen, and the country people attribute to it medicinal virtues.

The Pin Well, Chester, at the foot of Grosvenor Park, has over it the base of an ancient cross. It was supposed to possess healing virtues, and offerings of pins were, till recent times, thrown into it; possibly a survival of the Roman custom of making votive offerings to the tutelary deities of wells.

The Monks' Well, Wavertree.—An old man remembered this well open, and told me that the descent to it was by several steps. The source of the water is not at the well, but under the lawn of "Monkswell," and a passage led to it. The inscription formerly over it is well known—"Qui non dat quod habet, Daemon infra videt. Anno 1414." Close by were found six British cinerary urns, in 1867.

At *Well Lane, Upper Bebington*, and at *Brimstage*, are square stone tanks, covered with large stone slabs, now ruinous. Judging from the tooling of the stones and the deep wear made by the buckets, they must be of some antiquity.

Winwick.—In a field to the north-east of the village is St. Oswald's Well, said to have been upon the battlefield where the king was slain. The water and soil were reputed to have miraculous powers of healing. The well is a small pit, about 8 feet deep.

An early instance of mediæval water supply being brought from a distance, occurs at Chester. The

water, for the use of St. Werburgh's Abbey, was brought in pipes from Christleton, to a tank in the centre of the cloister. The monks were probably better off for pure water than the modern citizens.

BRITISH REMAINS.

An old gardener, John Peers, who worked for me at Aigburth, and who lived to over 90, was, when a boy, at Calderstones farm. He informed me that the Calderstones did not originally form a circle, but lay on the top of a large mound by the road side, partly buried, and forming a kind of cist. When the roads were widened, the stones were set up in a circle, as they now stand—one was set in Mr. Booker's field. A large quantity of burnt bones, found when the mound was removed, were spread on the fields for manure. He saw no vases or earthenware of any sort, nor did he hear of any arms, coins, or metal, or stone implements being found. The stones lay level with the mound, and boys cut their names and footmarks on them, still visible.

ANCIENT HOUSES ON MEOLS SHORE.

In the early part of the summer of 1891, the spring tides, rising over the ancient level of the original land surface, which is now partly buried in drifted sand to the depth of 12 to 20 feet, had so far fretted away the superjacent sand as to expose a bench, or shelf of the original surface, from 5 to 25 feet in width. Upon this surface were found the foundations of ancient houses. Two of these, lying nearly due east and west, were partly exposed, rather more than half of each projecting diagonally from beneath the sandhill. The larger one was an oblong, 16 feet by 10 feet; the smaller, towards the north, 12 feet by 9 feet.

They were floored with blue clay, and the foun-

dations were of stones, mostly rough, but a few bearing evidence of previous working, resembling Norman tooling; one, a threshold, showing deep signs of wear. These foundations were one to two courses high, set in blue clay. Above this the houses had been of wattled work coated with clay, the upright posts mostly of undressed oak, in the round, about 3 to 4 inches diameter. These were partly driven in between the stones, partly set in shallow sockets notched into them. All were broken off from 12 to 18 inches above the land surface. In the corner of the smaller house was found a small pile of coals. On the landward side of the houses was a pile of burnt turf and earth, about 2 feet high, laid against the back wall; and close to each house were kitchen middens, containing large quantities of mussel-shells, fish-bones, a few meat-bones, some scraps of iron, and pieces of coarse woollen cloth and leather. Some of the latter had been the welts and soles of shoes with pointed toes, of the Edwardian type of the thirteenth and fourteenth centuries.

From these houses southward were traces of lines of wattled buildings, apparently without stone foundations or clay floors, seemingly long, narrow sheds, for the shelter of cattle. Close to one of the houses a broken pair of smith's tongs had previously been found, but within the houses themselves only the coal and a few nutshells. Rather lower down the shore, about 100 feet, were the remains of clay walls, 2 feet thick, about 60 feet long, and twelve wide. They seemed to form two structures, set together at an obtuse angle. To the south, upon the shelf of ancient surface, which was of stiff, clayey soil, two ruts or tracks of cart-wheels, 5 inches wide and 4 feet 6 inches apart, rose diagonally under the sandhills, and seemed to pass in a line between the first two

houses. This ground was abundantly marked with the hoofs of horses with round shoes, and with the footmarks of cattle, pigs, and sheep. There were also human footprints, showing shoes of the same make and period as those dug out of the refuse heaps. Two of these footprints were deep, clear, and perfect, as if done yesterday; the whole of these marks having been filled-in by light-blown sand, and thus preserved perfectly until exposed by the tide. Careful drawings were made on the spot of most of these remains, which were obliterated by the action of the tides within about a fortnight of their first discovery. Close by these houses, a short time before, a round hut had been exposed, but it was soon washed away, before it could be drawn. This record simply attempts to detail the character of these relics, without any comment on their significance.

ANCIENT ROAD AT BEBINGTON, CALLED ROMAN ROAD,
OR KIRKUP LANE.

This road begins at the south-west angle of the road skirting the north and west sides of the churchyard, and seems to be a continuation of that on the north side, though it is almost disused. The public road is in common use and has been widened. The old road runs with a wall on the left and a ditch and hedge on the right, west-south-west from this turn in the public road for 40 yards, and is laid with cinders and rubbish; it then turns west 70 yards, with slight trench on each side, and nearly level with the ordinary surface; then curves for 50 yards more south-south-west and south-west; and for 15 yards more due south. To this point there is no trace of antiquity, but the road sinks a little below the level. At this point a stone causeway begins, laid on the left side of the road, made of blocks of unwrought white freestone, averaging 18

inches to 2 feet long, 12 inches to 2 feet wide, and 6 inches to 12 inches thick. They form a continuous trackway, slightly raised on a bank of earth, and with a ditch on the right, which gradually increases in depth till it may be 6 feet deep from the level of the trackway. The road still falls below the surface level as it proceeds, till it is about 4 feet below it. This section of the road runs 14 yards south-west, 30 yards further nearly west.

In the next 87 yards the westerly course is continued, the road being hollow; thence the line runs a little south of west for 35 yards; the roadway almost 4 feet below ordinary level; the ditch on the north or right side about 5 feet deeper still. For 5 yards the stones are displaced and broken, and the road dips into a natural hollow for 35 yards, where the stones cease. In crossing the hollow, the "berm" or bank crosses to the north side and the ditch to the south or left side; the road curves in this hollow west-north-west; the stone causeway is destroyed, and the rest of the road (150 yards) runs nearly west, with a tendency to north. The road is throughout about 15 feet wide. The last portion has a ditch and hedge on each side, and keeps the natural level, and is apparently modernised; it has no regular pavement or surface, and it terminates in a road that runs north and south crossing it; there is a marl-pit at each angle. Beyond this there is no trace of it. The road points directly to the south point of Storeton Quarry. The lower or east end falls into the same line as Church Road; a slight turn to the south in Church Road (going eastward) leads to a footpath that takes up the general line of the old road and falls into a curious bit of road continuing the same course towards Bromborough Pool.

The rib of stone in the ancient portion is worn very hollow by long use, and is plainly a pack-horse

track, probably from Storeton to Bromborough Pool. As the existing roads are of some antiquity, and seem to cross and deviate from the old road, it is probably of still greater antiquity, as those roads ignore and partly destroy its line. The stone rib seems to have been set on the ridge of a bank throughout, to throw off the water where the road is hollow. The construction is much too rude for Roman work, and the stone too perishable to have endured so long in use; but the fashion of the mid-rib, as in Blackstone Edge and Delamere Forest, is doubtless a survival and renewal of a Roman model.

A series of ancient roads, one of them similar to this, seems to have radiated from Storeton Hall, which was the mansion of the Sylvesters, foresters of Wirral before the Stanleys, and these roads are most likely mediæval. I have not been able to trace the deep beds of gravel, as used by the Romans, in the construction of any of these roads. The stone rib for pack-horses may be traced in a large number of them, though mostly covered by modern work, and it is usually on the left side of the road, not in the centre.

MEDIÆVAL REMAINS AT BRIMSTAGE.

Some years ago a house was erected close to the eastern entrance gate of Brimstage Hall, about one hundred yards from the hall itself, and just outside the trace of its ancient moat. During the excavation of the foundations the traces of an old wall were come upon, which was partly built of well-wrought ashlar stones; but its plan and direction were not carefully noted. During the same excavation a number of human bones were disinterred, which, from their position, seemed to have been regularly buried, and to have been laid as in a cemetery. Some time afterwards

further fragments of wrought stone were dug up in the garden, a little towards the north of the previous discoveries; these were carefully kept, but until the 27th of June in the present year (1896) no special examination had been made of them, when, at the request of Mr. Anderson, who resides at the house, I made a careful inspection of them.

The chief remains consist of the head of one light of a traceried window, and the springing of the curve of a second light. The arch of this light is of ogee form, running into flowing tracery above it; the reveals are chamfered with a sub-order of trefoiled cusping; the tracery appears to have been what is called reticulated. Two pieces of mullions, which seem to have belonged to this window, were also dug up, and a small ashlar stone with a stop chamfer, in addition to several plain ashlar stones. On one of the fragments of mullions is a mason's mark, strongly cut, in the form of a broad arrow. Among the other fragments, Mr. Anderson informed me, there was a stoup for holy water, but at the time of my visit this could not be found. The piece of window tracery is plainly of the late second pointed period, and may date about 1350, while the oldest existing part of the hall is more than a century later. Unless, therefore, these fragments were part of an earlier hall, it seems unlikely that they belonged to the hall.

The discovery of graves, the character of the tracery, and the finding of a stoup (if it be one), suggest a separate ecclesiastical building, standing with its graveyard to the east of the hall. So far as I am aware, no record of the existence of any such chapel is known. A search for the history of the lost chapels of Cheshire, about which little is known, would, no doubt, repay the trouble. The

hospitals of Spital and Denny, and the chapels of Moreton, and the traditions respecting the two lost chapels of Wallasey, have never been fully investigated; and possibly we may have to add to these the traces of chapels at Thurstaston and Brimstage Halls, and the mysterious graveyard at Sutton Grange. The groined apartment in Brimstage Hall is said to be the chapel, and it bears traces of such a purpose; the indications, therefore, of an independent building, if this be a chapel, suggests that its use was parochial.

EDWARD W. COX.

NOTES BY THE HON. LOCAL SECRETARY FOR SEPTON DISTRICT.

THE OLD CHAPEL AT MAGHULL, COMMONLY KNOWN AS THE "UNSWORTH CHAPEL."

THIS Chapel, dedicated to St. Andrew, a very curious specimen of Gothic work, is in the parish of Halsall, and at present consists of chancel and north aisle, separated by two arches resting on a round central pillar and two round responds. In the chancel are sedilia, which have had wooden fittings, now gone, and a mutilated piscina.

The chancel arch is destroyed and blocked up, but on the north side the jamb and mutilated capital and springing are traceable. There is a round-headed arch, formerly entering the north chancel aisle from the nave; it is chamfered and unmoulded and is carried on semi-octagon shafts with capitals,