

THREE TOUCHES OF A LANCASHIRE PARISH WITH NATIONAL HISTORY

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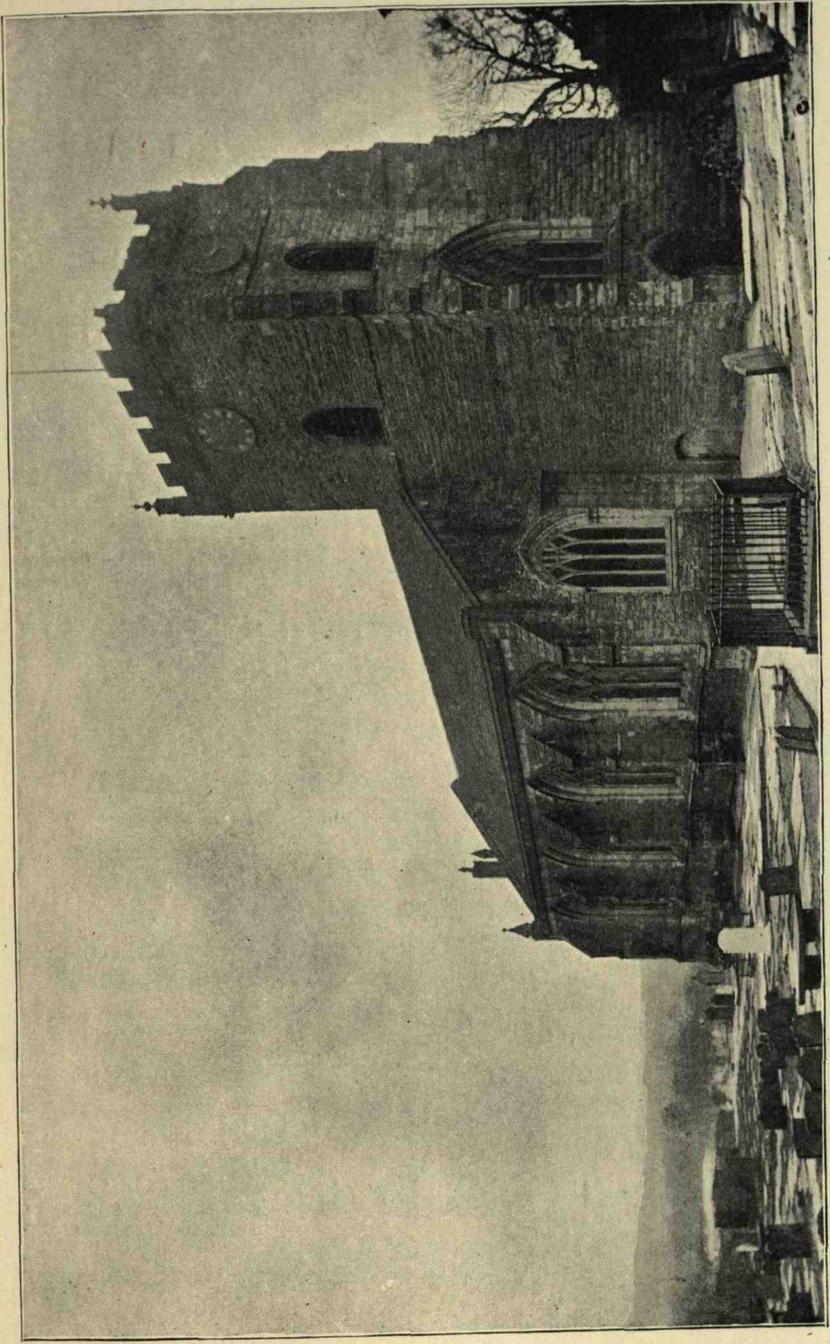
Read 10th November 1908

I CRAVE the indulgence of the members of this Society for one who has had no training in historical research, but who for the last twenty years has been studying the architectural puzzles of the Church in which it is his privilege to serve, and from that study has been led to enter the wider field of its historical associations.

The Lancashire parish is Up-Holland. The three points of contact with the national history are—

1. The Rebellion of Thomas of Lancaster, in the reign of Edward II.
2. The Dissolution of the Monasteries.
3. The Great Rebellion.

Up-Holland (the prefix, I suppose, to distinguish it from Down-Holland in the parish of Halsall) is a village four miles west of Wigan. The parish, which consists of the township of Up-Holland and parts of the townships of Orrell, Billinge, and Winstanley, had a population of 7250 at the census of 1901. The village, with its church, stands on the eastern slope of the range of hills which runs north and south from Ashurst Beacon to Billinge Beacon. Evidences of the antiquity of the place abound everywhere, beginning at the venerable pile,



UP-HOLLAND CHURCH, FROM THE NORTH-WEST

which is the glory of the inhabitants, and which some one seems to have attempted to make even more aged by cutting an inscription with the bogus date 1075 in the nave walk. Close at hand is the old Manor Court-House, built in 1663, having the Eagle and Child sculptured on the front and the Legs of Man on the back. The names of the taverns also tell of bygone days, whether it be The Eagle and Child, The Legs of Man, or The White Lion, which one needs not hazard much in guessing to be a Lion rampant gardant argent, a charge in the armorial bearings of the Hollands, and with the addition of a bend gules with three keys wards upwards or, those of the priory of Holland.¹ The last-named inn stands at the Church gate.

Two Hollands are mentioned in the Domesday Book.

- (1) "Stenulf held Holland. There are 2 carucates of land worth 64 pence."
- (2) "Two Thanes held 6 bovates of land at Holand. The value was two shillings."²

In the collation made by Beamont, notes to Gregson, ed. i. 1869, the former is said to be "Down-holland."

As regards the *name* Holland, Mr. Brierley tells me that Harrison, in his scholarly book on Liverpool Place-Names, suggests (and gives authority) Holland = Holtland, that is, Woodland.

I

THE REBELLION OF THOMAS OF LANCASTER

But Up-Holland historically means the Priory and the Church of St. Thomas the Martyr, and it is

¹ Dugdale, from Edmondson's *Heraldry*.

² Harrison reverses 1 and 2, with Baines.

to the founder of the Priory that the place is indebted for its first touch with the national history, *i.e.* with the Rebellion of Thomas, Earl of Lancaster.

The general run of events between Magna Charta and the Wars of the Roses is familiar to even casual readers of English history, and is well set forth by J. R. Green; but when one comes to dip into the ancient chronicles, from which all histories of this period are compiled, one wishes to be a Stanley Weyman, for the story of Thomas of Lancaster is rich enough in romantic and tragic interest to ensure the immediate success of a well-written romance founded on it.

Among these romantic passages I may mention the story of Alice de Lacy, daughter and heiress of the Earl of Lincoln, Thomas's wife, betrothed to him at nine years of age.

The story, which would satisfy even the readers of a modern naturalistic novel, is told by Thomas of Walsingham,¹ and may be found in the volume of the *St. Albans Chronicles and Annals* issued by the Rolls Office. It is quoted by Sir Peter Leycester, p. 275.

Johannes de Trokelow (*Annals*, p. 65, Rolls Publications) is the authority for the account of a tournament held at the castle of Piers de Gaveston at Wallingford, at which Piers defeated all comers, including Thomas of Lancaster, the Earls of Pembroke and Hereford, and John Warren, and thus drove home the hatred which was to be his ruin. On the pages 70-74 will be found an account of the rise and nobility of Thomas of Lancaster, which seems to be the basis of what is found in most of the county histories which deal with the story of the House of Lancaster.

Next we have a touch of comedy recorded in the *Chron. de Lanercost* concerning Thomas, who, after

¹ "Thomas of Walsingham," vol. i. p. 148, Rolls Series.

succeeding to the Earldom of Lincoln and to the vast estates attached to it on the death of his father-in-law, went north to do homage for them to the King. Edward II. was at Berwick, attended by Gaveston, whose presence must have disturbed Thomas's temper, for he refused to do homage, on the ground that Berwick was not within the realm. His cousin, however, humoured him by going a few miles over the border to Haggerston, where Thomas did homage, but still refused to recognise the presence of Piers.

More interesting still and fraught with tragic consequences to Thomas is the account given in the "Dictionary of National Biography," *s.v.* Thomas of Lancaster, quoting from the monk of Malmesbury, of the sequel to the capture of Gaveston at Scarborough. It is said that Gaveston had a pretty faculty for investing his friends and enemies with nick-names, and had fitted the three leaders of the movement against him with such: Thomas was "The Actor," Pembroke "Joseph the Jew," and Warwick "The Black Dog." Warwick had vowed that he should feel the "Black Dog's" teeth, and now he found his opportunity.¹ Pembroke set out with Gaveston in his charge to take him to London for trial, but at Deddinton, sixteen miles north of Oxford, Warwick surprised Pembroke, kidnapped Gaveston, and took him to Warwick, and in a day or two Piers was beheaded on Blacklow Hill in Thomas's lands,² with full consent of Lancaster and Hereford. Thomas took full responsibility for his death by having him beheaded on his own land. Whereby Thomas made the King hate him worse than before, and turned his old friend and ally, Pembroke, into his bitterest enemy.

¹ Thos. of Walsingham, *Historia*, vol. i. p. 115: "Dictionary of National Biography," p. 149, as above.

² Trokelowe, p. 76.

One can almost say that his own downfall may be traced to this incident.

The death of Piers de Gaveston did not long leave the King without a henchman in the struggle with the Barons. The De Spencers now appear on the scene.

The Barons, with Lancaster at their head, were able to force Edward to banish them from the realm in 1320. The sequel is thus recounted by Mr. Shaw in his "History of Staffordshire," *s.v.* Burton-on-Trent and Tutbury:—

"14 Edward II.—Thomas, Earl of Lancaster, was at the head of a formidable insurrection against that King, but not long after the tide turned the other way, for the year following the King, raising a powerful army, divers of this Earl's confederates deserted his cause, but those who stood firm marched with him first to Gloucester, and thence to Burton-on-Trent, and so to his castle at Tutbury (about four miles distant), doing much spoil to the country in their passage. In which journey, having with him a certain knight called Sir Robert de Holland, whom he had taken out of his buttery and preferred to 2000 marks per annum, he sent him into Lancashire to bring up 500 men out of those parts, instead of which he conducted them to the King, who, thus having notice of his enemy's motions, pursued them with all his power. First marching down to Coventry and thence to Lichfield, where on the morrow of St. Chad's Day (March 2nd) the two Spencers came to him with all their strength; which so alarmed the Earl, that on the 6th of March he placed foot on each side the bridge at Burton, to hinder the King's passage over Trent. Whereupon he was constrained to ford the river at Walton (about three miles above); which, being made known to this Earl, he drew out his men (from Tutbury Castle) expecting aid from the before

specified Sir Robert de Holland and others who had promised their help, and when he saw they failed him fled northwards. Upon which the King, coming to Tutbury, sealed a Commission (bearing the date 11th of March) to Edmund, Earl of Kent, sixth son of Edward I., and John de Warren, Earl of Surrey, requiring them to arrest him and all his party. So that soon after he was taken and beheaded at Pontefract.¹

This family of Holland, I suppose, then held it of the Earl of Lancaster, for Dugdale says the last-mentioned Robert² was seised in fee of this manor the 29th and 33rd of Edward III.; and that Thomas Holland, his brother, being Earl of Kent in right of his wife, died seised thereof the thirty-fifth of the same reign.

Dugdale refers to the Chronicle of Henry de Knighton, which has been lately issued in the Rolls Series. This is Knighton's *Chronica de eventibus historie Anglicanæ scriptores* in Twysden's book, published in 1652. This was a year or two before Dugdale published his *Baronage*, and it is, I think, the fountain from which springs all we have of the history in detail of the latter days of Robert de Holland.

Dugdale refers to him for information as to Robert's death thus: "Taken in a wood near Henley Park (towards Windsor), he was beheaded on the nones of October, and his head sent to Henry, Earl of Lancaster, then in Waltham Cross, in com. Essex,

¹ Shaw, *s.v.* *Yoxall*, fol. 95. "Dugdale says that Thomas, Earl of Lancaster, forfeited his manor by rebelling against Edward II., who gave it to Robert Holland, his secretary. But I find it elsewhere recorded that the said Earl himself granted it to Sir Edward Holland, Kt., and Maud his wife, and her heirs (9 Edward II.), which was confirmed by a Charter of Inspex. 13, of the same reign, and this agrees with Erdeswick. And by an inquisition, taken after the death of Thomas (1 Edward III.), it appears that he died seised of the manor and its hamlets."

² This is obviously wrong, as Robert was beheaded in 2 Edward III. The Robert here referred to was his son.

by one Sir Thomas Wyther, a knight, and some private friends."

There is also a note in Dugdale that "this Robert¹ was a great benefactor to the Gray Friars, at Preston, in com. Lanc., and also founded, &c." This is referred to, Leland, *Itinerary*.

Since writing the above I have found in the *Annales Paulini*, Rolls Series, Chronicles (Edward I., Edward II.), edited by Bishop Stubbs, vol. i. p. 342, a description of the death of Robert.

The following is a translation:—

"1328. About the same time in the ides of October, Lord Robert de Holande, a soldier made and maintained by Lord Thomas, Earl of Lancaster, and afterwards his betrayer, when he attempted to escape from the Castle of Berkhamstede, towards London, he was beheaded hard by the gate of Brockamwode in the Parish of Harwe² [Harrow?] by G. Wyther, a soldier, and by his followers. Indeed, his head was presented to Lord Henry, Earl of Lancaster, brother of the aforesaid Thomas. For this same Robert with his army had devastated the land and castles of the aforesaid Earl everywhere, and had done much evil to many people daily."

On pp. 343 and 344 it is recounted how Henry came to London after this, and there, in front of St. Paul's Cathedral, had met the Earl Marshal of England, with whom he had been at variance about the death of Robert, and had there made friends with him.

Maud, his widow, lived on and held the Lancashire portion of her husband's estates, as may be seen in the post-mortem inquiry held on her death, when they passed to Robert, her eldest son.

¹ Tanner in his *Notitia* states that Robert had a licence (1 Edward II.) to fortify his mansion at Holland. Quoted by Gregson, fol. 98.

² "Henley" in Dugdale. This may be an error in transcription on Dugdale's part.

II

THE DISSOLUTION OF THE MONASTERIES

The records concerning Holland Priory at the time of the dissolution are few and scanty. I have somewhere read that the monks at Holland did not get much sympathy from the inhabitants, and contrasting their unpopularity with the popularity of the monks at Burscough.

In Dugdale's *Monasticon*, fol. 411, Num. III., quoting from the Valor Ecc. Transcript of a return in the Firstfruits Office, 26 Henry VIII., it is stated that the total value of the revenue of the house was £61, 3s. 4d. Clear income, £53, 3s. 4d.

This return shows that the Prior and Convent then held tithes of the Rectory of Childwall, in com. Lanc., and of Whytewyke (Whitwick), in the county of Leicester. The value of the former is given as £38, 13s. 4d.

Raine's *Chantries*, Chetham Soc., vol. i. pp. 98, 99, gives two instances of presentations to the Rectory of Childwall by the Prior and Convent of Holland, and others may be found in the account of Childwall in the Victoria *History of Lancashire*.

Continuing the record in Dugdale we find the following details:—

Reprisals.—	£	s.	d.
Pension to Lichfield Cathedral	2	0	0
do. Shene Charterhouse	1	6	8
	<hr/>		
	£3	6	8
	<hr/> <hr/>		

Sinodals and Procurations:—	£	s.	d.
Wardens of Whitwick	1	0	0
Archdn. of Chester	1	0	0
	<hr/>		
	£2	0	0
	<hr/> <hr/>		

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Fees to Wm. Cheydok (Chadwick):—	£ s. d.
Bailiff of Childwall	2 0 0
Fees to Arnulph Lathum:—	
Bailiff of Markeland in Garston	13 4
	<hr/>
Total Reprisals	£2 13 4
	<hr/> <hr/>

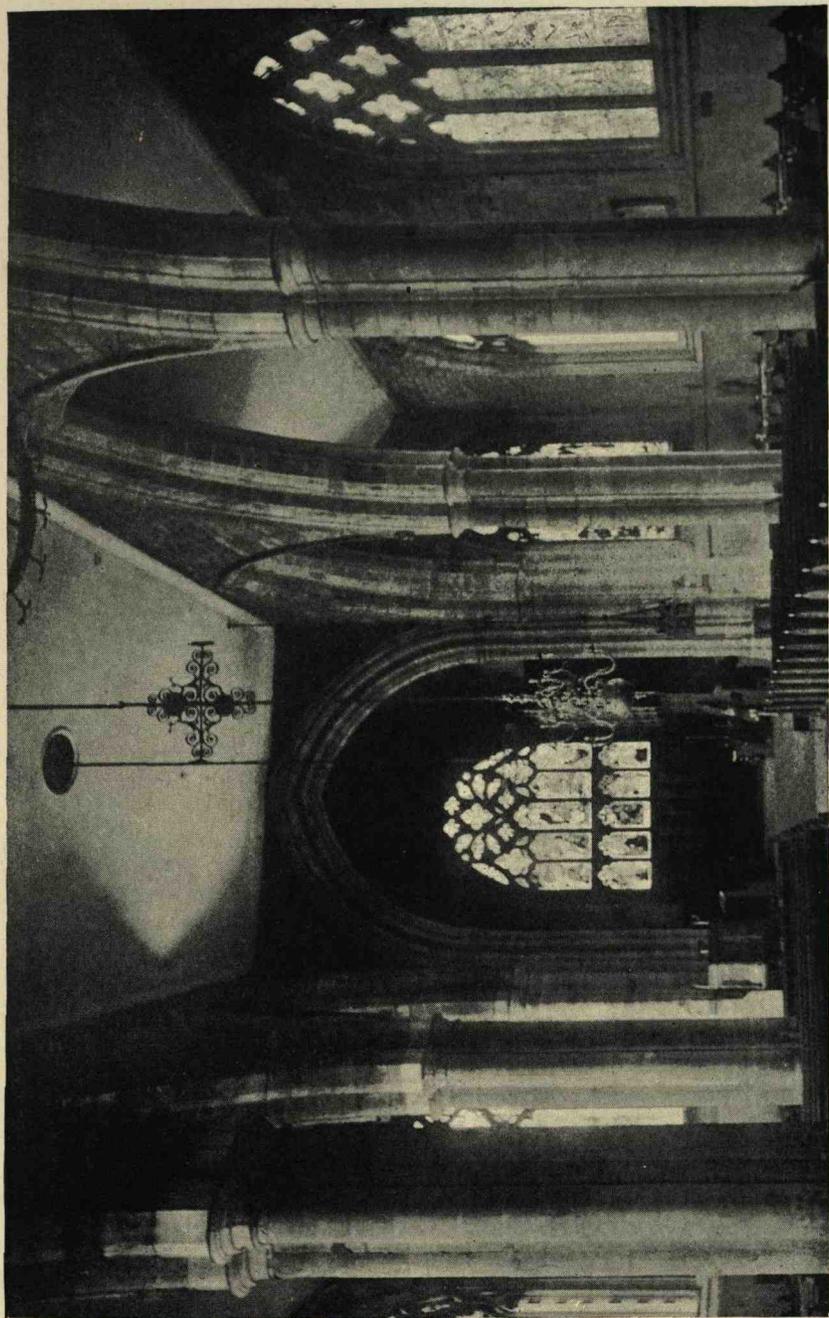
This is a record of the sale of the property of the Priory in Holland, Orrell, Wigan, and Markeland, of the annual rent of £18, 11s. 2d. per annum. Clear of tythe, £16, 14s. 0½d. There follows a

“Memord. that the church of the seyd late monast’y, wt. the steple and bells, and a chamber at the west end of the seyd church, wt. a garden to the same adjoynyng, and also the church yarde there, bene res’ved and appoynted to stande, remayne and contynue undessolved and unarented to th’use, easement and comodytie of the teñnts and inñtaunts of Hollande and other places and hamletts thereabowtts adjoynyng, being distaunt from theyr hede pyshe churches too, thre, or foure myles and some more whiche do use there to bery corpses of the seyd hamletts and townes, whiche in the wynter season, and other tempestyus times of the yere, by reason of greate abundance of waters, can not convenyently convey ner cary the seyd corpses to theyr pyshe churches to be buryed, as was declared by the seyd inhatañnts before the ryght honorables Edwarde Erle of Derby and Robert Erle of Sussex, the kyngs late levetenaunts in thes . . ., in the month of M’che, in anno 28th reğ. Henrici VIII.

“Item the pmysses is pcell of the possessyons of the late monast’y of Hollande as is above seyde, and is in distaunce from the kyngs castell of Halton 15th or 16th myles, and is pcell of no maner or man’s excedyng the yerely value of £40, to the knowledge of the seyd audytor nor the kyng maiestie hath no other lands in the townes and plac^s above seyd belongyng to the seyd late pryory of Hollande to the knowledge of the seyd audytor except it be wasts or comens occupied by the tennts of the p’mysse, and whereof the kyng hath no other pfett at this p’sent to the knowledge of the seyd audytor. What fynes or incumbe hath bene payed for the p’mysse the seyd audytor knoweth not.”

Then the value of the property is given, at which value it was sold to John Holcrofte, Esq.

“The scite,” &c., “ys of the yerely valowe of £18, 11s. 2d., whereof deducted for the xth, £1, 17s. 1½d., and so re-



INTERIOR OF UP-HOLLAND CHURCH, LOOKING EAST

mayneth clere £16, 14s. 0½d., whiche rated at xxii yeres pchace
£334, os. 10d. Added therto for the woods, £10, 12s., and so
the hole some ys £344, 12s. 10d., whereof in hand £200, and
at Crsstms next the reest £144, 12s. 10d.

“The teanure and service.”

In “Inventories of Goods in Churches and
Chapels of Lancashire, 1552,” Bailey, Chetham
Soc., vol. cxiii., we find the following:—

“P. 75.—Wigan Church cum Holland Chapell and Billynge.
Item, at Holland Chapell ii bells, a Chalice and i olde
vestemēt.

“*Note at foot.*—Incrmt. Mem. That there is encesse of twoo
belle-one chalice and i old vestemēt at Holland Chapell
never put in any Inventorie heretofoare.

“P. 77. *Note of Editor.*—Harl. MS. 604 (fol. 91), being ‘the
Brevyate of the breiff certifiat yppon the new survey of
the Religiose houses within the Countie Palatyne of
Lancastr. given to the kings highnes by Acte of P: lyment.
And within the case of Dissolution,’ of which the date
seems to be about February 1538–9 (these lesser monas-
teries were given to the king about three years earlier,
when a survey hinted at here as the old survey was taken),
the following particulars are given of Holland Monastery
in Wigan Parish. Peter Prescote being Prior.

The first value	£54 11 4
The Second value	78 12 9
Bells, lede and goods	132 2 8
Wodds to be solde	40 0 0
Debts owynge by the house	18 18 10

Religiose p’sons v. Serv’nts and others havynge livings
there xxviz.

Th’offer for the Redemo’on of the seyde house to be paid at
. . . days, CCCL iiiis. £250, 4s.”

The Priory lands may still be identified; they
are tithe free. The Records of Wigan Parish
Church show that Holland Chapel became a Chapel-
of-Ease to Wigan at this time.

III

THE GREAT REBELLION

The following is an extract from the Diary of Adam Martindale (1641), Chetham Society:—

“I inquired after a school. St. Helens was then newly disposed of, but Holland and Rainforth were both vacant. I took Holland for the liker place, there being a prettie churche-towne, and a great number of freeholders and considerable yeomen in the neighbourhood. I was there subject to many great inconveniences.

“I. By the discouragements that many lay under to send their children in those dayes of constant alarmes.

“II. By the uncomfortable (*sic*) of my habitation in a publick-house, to which many papists and drunkards did frequently resort.

“III. By the disturbance given us by the soldiers often quartering among us, to the depriving us of our beds and chambers.

“IV. By the suspicion I lay under of being a Roundhead because my brother was gone to Bolton, and my father plundered upon it, and I could not clear myself from it by swearing and debaucherie, but would have beene quiet, and meddled on no side: (for these reasons, I say), I left the place when I had been there not much above a quarter of a yeare.”

I have a most interesting document, the title-page of which reads as follows:—

An Ordinance of both Houses of Parliament for
the dividing of the Church of Holland
in the County of Lancaster

with the precincts thereof from the rest of the
Parish of Wigan: and making it a distinct Church
and Parish of itselfe.

Jo. Brown, Cler Parliamentorum.

Hen. Elsynge, Cler. Parl. D. Com.

LONDON:

Printed for Edvvard Husbands Printer to the
Honourable House of Commons, 1646.

The text of the Ordinance of Parliament is here given :—

“*Die Jovis*, 28^o September 1643.—WHEREAS a Bill hath passed the House of Commons, and is now in the House of Peers (whereunto the King’s Royal assent in these times of distraction cannot be had), for the making the Chapel of Holland, in the County of Lancaster, with the precincts thereof, into a distinct parish, and to be divided from the rest of the parish of Wigan : and whereas, in the said Bill, it is declared, That the said parish of Wigan is very spacious and populous, and the profits belonging to the said Rectory of Wigan is very great, and that the inhabitants within the precincts of Holland do live far distant from the said Parish Church of Wigan (some of them near six miles) so as they cannot possibly receive the benefit thereof : and although all parochial duties be necessarily exercised at the said chapel of Holland, yet there is no maintenance at all for a preaching Minister belonging to it : whereas now the whole profits of the said Rectory of Wigan is taken and seized by virtue of this Ordinance of both Houses of Parliament for the sequestering of delinquents’ estates, and the Committee for sequestration have no power by the said Ordinance to distribute or dispose any of the profits belonging to the said parish Church of Wigan unto any Church or Chapel within the said parish, and the people (by reason of these sad distractions) are utterly unable to maintain a minister at their own charge : THEREFORE for the providing of fit maintenance for a preaching Minister at the said Church or Chapel of Holland, and for the ease of the inhabitants of the said Chapelry, according to the provisions of the said Bill : The LORDS and COMMONS assembled in Parliament do hereby order and ordain that Mr. Richard Whittfeild, a Godly, learned, and orthodox Divine (now Minister of the said Church or Chapel of Holland), and the Ministers of the place successively, shall have, hold, receive and take, all the tithes lands, rents, duties and profits whatsoever, within the ancient precincts of the said Chapelry of Holland : that is to say, the yearly rent of nineteen marks antiently paid for the corn-tithes of the several towns of Holland and Dalton, and all other tithes and profits whatsoever within the said towns and the town of Orrell, and such parts of the several towns of Billing and Winstanly as are situate within the known or reputed precincts of the said Chapelry of Holland, which the Rector of the said parish Church of Wigan had received or heretofore enjoyed in right of the said Rectory or Parish Church of Wigan.”

The Ordinance goes on to state that those persons (who are named) who had covenanted to pay the Rector £600 per annum in lieu of the tithes as

the price of his consent to this Bill,¹ are discharged from liability to him in this matter, and that they are to pay any monies or profits in their hands to the Committee for Sequestration.

It further gives the Minister at Holland the same right of remedy against defaulters in the payment of tithes and duties as were possessed by the Rector of Wigan, and provides that of such duties as were due to the King from the undivided Parish of Wigan, the Minister of Holland should pay one-sixth.

Further, the inhabitants of Holland were made responsible for all necessary charges for the Church or Chapel, and were discharged the like, and all offices and duties and attendances at Wigan (Lanc. Commission, Fishwick, Chet. Soc.).

In the year 1650 a Commission was appointed to inquire into Church matters in the County of Lancaster, and the following is the report of an inquiry held on June 20th in that year.

“Wee present that the p^rish Church of Holland was form^ly a chappell belonging to the p^rish Church of Wigan untill by a late ordinance of p^rliamt is was made a p^rish Church, and there is neither parsonage nor vicaridge belonging to it only wthin the said townshipp there is glebe land of the value of 40s. p. ann., and in smale tythes twenty shillings p. ann., and Mr. Richard Baldwin is p^rsent incumbent there, a very able minist^r, a man of honest lyffe and conversacon, but kept not the last fast day appoynted by act of pliamnt, and receives the profittes of the glebe lands, p^rfittes of the smale tythes and twelve pounds thirteen shillings and ffower p. ann. of the p^rfittes of the tithe corne, and the residue of the said tythe corne was form^ly received by the Erle of Derby, but now sequestred and received by the agents for sequestracon: and that the said pish church of Holland is three myles distant from Wigan Churche, and from Billing Chapell two myles after the rate of 320 poles to the myle, and from Duglas chappell three myles after the same rate, and fitt to be continued a pish, and to have the hamell of Orrell and soe many of the howses and teñtes wthin Billing and Winstanly, as are scituate and lye nearer unto the said Church of Holland than to the pish

¹ The tithes and profit seized for delinquencies of said Bishop O'Bridgman.

church of Wigan or church of Billing, shall be lykewyse continued as pt of the same p'ish of Holland."

Mr. Richard Bowden (Baldwin) is said to receive the tithes of these townships or parts of townships, value £46 per annum.

It seems from the report that the Commissioners considered that the distance from Holland to Billing Chapel is two miles, whilst the distance from Billing Chapel to Holland is stated to be two miles and a half. A sign-post in Up-Holland village at the present time gives the distance as four miles, which is further from the mark than either of the Commissioners' estimates.

The Mr. Richard Bowden (Baldwin) here mentioned is in all probability Mr. Samuel Bowden, whose name appears in the Register of Baptisms in May 1654 as "Samwell Bowdene, Rector of Holland," and later on there is the entry of his death and burial, the former on May 19, 1661, the latter on May 21: "Sammuell Baldene, Rector of Holland, dyed 19th. 21 May."

At the Restoration of King Charles the Second the Church relapsed into its former state as a Chapel-of-Ease to Wigan Parish Church, the Ordinance of Parliament not having received the Royal assent. It remained in this condition until November 30th 1882, when it was constituted a Parish Church, with a District assigned to it consisting of the townships of Up-Holland and Billinge-Higher-End, and parts of the townships of Orrell and Winstanley. Dalton, which beforetime had been served from Holland, was separated from Holland, and from Wigan Parish Church, and made into a New Parish by an Order in Council on November 29, 1870.