

## TARPORLEY IN 1755

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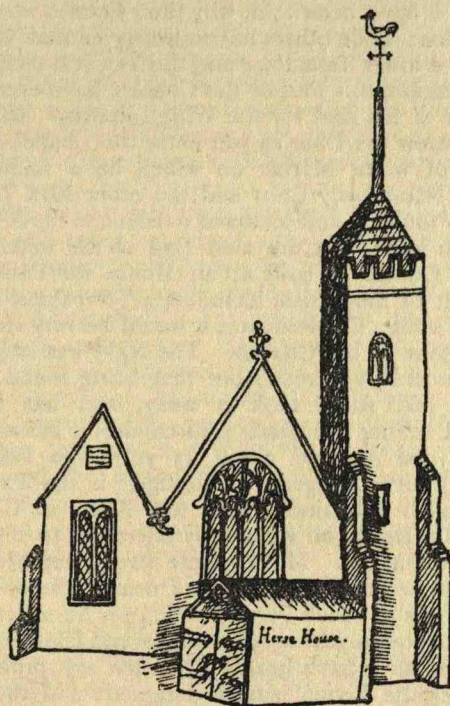
THE Rev. William Cole, "the Cambridge Anti-quary" (1714-1782), visited Cheshire in 1755 in order to see his friend the rector of Tarporley, and being detained in the place by the accident he speaks of, he amused himself in congenial fashion by studying the history of the district and making a search of the parish registers and a drawing of the church. The results are contained in vol. xxxv. of his "Collections," now in the British Museum (Addit. MS. 5836). Ormerod has used them a little, but the account seems worthy of a fuller reproduction, since it is not often that so keen-sighted and painstaking an observer as Cole can be found recording his experiences of Cheshire in the eighteenth century. The description is dated September 8, 1755, and reads thus (fol. 165):

### TORPORLEY IN CHESHIRE

GOING to visit my good Friend Mr. Allen Rector of Torporley and one of the Senior Fellows of Trinity College in Cambridge, I had the Accident the Morning after I got off my Journey to fall from my Horse in Little Budworth Parish, just between the 2 Houses belonging to Mr. Egerton of Olton in Delamere Forest, July 19, 1755: so that I had, by breaking my Leg in the Fall, Leisure sufficient to consult the Parish Register belonging to Torporley, it being 11 Weeks before I could begin my Journey into Buckinghamshire: and as I was confined to my Chamber great Part of the Time, which stood just west of the Church and very near it, a small Part of the Rector's Garden being between the Parsonage House and the Lane, which divides the said Garden from the Church Yard, I had Opportunity, as soon as I was permitted to get out of Bed, from the Window to take the west End of the Church: and tho' afterwards I went into the Church several Times, yet I could not with any Conveniency take any of the Inscriptions therein, for Fear of taking Cold and standing too long: which was a great Mortification to me, as the Chancel

and Side Isles have many very curious and elegant Monuments in them, erected chiefly by Sir John Crew for himself and the Family of Done into which he married;<sup>1</sup> as also for several of the Rectors.

The Church consists of a square Tower, standing at the west End of the south Isle, in which hang 5 Bells, a Chancell, 2 side



THE WEST END OF TARPORLEY CHURCH IN CHESHIRE, 1755.

Isles with Chapels at each End of them. The Altar is on an Eminence of several Steps and surrounded on all sides by elegant mural Monuments of Marble: on the north Side of it are 2; that nearest the Altar is very neat and small in an oval Form and having a half Length Figure of the last Sir John Done in the Dress of K. James the first's Time by whom he was knighted: just below it and at the Steps of the Altar, tho' on the Eminence,

<sup>1</sup> According to Ormerod (*Cheshire*, ii. 249) two daughters of Sir John Done (*d.* 1629) married Ralph Arderne and John Crew, Sir John Crew being son of the latter.

is a very large one for Sir John Crew of white Marble against the north Wall, with a full Figure of Sir John lying on a Table of Marble reclining on one Elbow. Sir John was a good Antiquary and Herald; as appears from many Pedigrees and Observations in MS. which I have seen: was very zealous for the Revolution;<sup>1</sup> for which peice of Service this Part of the Country are under no great Obligations to his Memory; inasmuch as he was the Cause, as I have been told, why their Estates were given in to the full Value: while others not so hearty in that Cause, had theirs rated at a lower Taxation; and the Tax still continuing on the same Valuation, this Part of the Country have ever since felt the ill Effects of his Zeal for the Whig Interest. In the north Chapel, just below the Door as you enter the Chapel, is a large Altar Tomb of white Marble on which lie 2 Ladies at full Length; one being Lady Crew and the other Mrs. Jane Done her sister, who founded and endowed a Schole in the S.W. Corner of the Church Yard. At the west End of the middle Isle or Nave, on the Outside is built up an House for Parish Herse; for the Circuit of the Parish, including 4 Townships, being very large, without such a Convenience, it would be very troublesome to bring Corpses to the Church. The Nave was lately divided from the Chancel by a Screen; but that being found to be incommodious, Mr. Allen took it away, and has laid them together; and ceiling the whole Church also, it has a very good Effect. Mr. John Arderne, about 25 years ago Fellow Commoner of St. John's College in Cambridge,<sup>2</sup> is the Patron of it, and being much acquainted with Mr. Allen at College, on Mr. Beresford's Death, he voluntarily offered it to him, without any Application at all. Mr. Arderne lives near Stockport at Harden and sometimes at Pepper-Hall near Richmond in Yorkshire, the Heiress of which Family of Pepper he married and by her, who died about a year ago, he has several Children: for one of whose Sons, as I have heard Mr. Allen say, probably some Time or other the Living may be designed; and therefore the present Incumbent spares no Expence to make the Parsonage House and all belonging to it, handsome and commodious: tho' indeed Mr. Arderne has but 4 Turns out of 6 in Patronage: the Dean and Chapter of Chester and Mr. Duckenfeild who is a Dissenter,<sup>3</sup> having the other two: Dr. James Arderne the worthy Dean of Chester leaving his Turn to the Chapter. There are 2 or 3 other Families of the name of Arderne in this Parish, who are related to the principal Branch Mr. Arderne, of Harden, who came

<sup>1</sup> See the inscription on his monument, *ibid.*, ii. 230.

<sup>2</sup> Admitted in 1728; R. F. Scott, *Admissions to St. John's Coll.*, iii. 56, 411.

<sup>3</sup> Nathaniel Duckenfield, afterwards 5th baronet, according to Ormerod, *Cheshire*, ii. 250, iii. 819.

to this Estate on the Death of Sir John Crew without Issue; as also these others of that Name, who had a small share of it also: they are all Farmers of their own Lands: Sir John Crew left a widow, who was his second Lady of the Name of Aston, who afterwards married Dr. Chamberlain of London. Dr. James Arderne Dean of Chester gave all his Lands, about 300 pounds *per Annum* in this Parish, to the Church of Chester: his Epitaph may be seen in the Memoranda of that Cathedral. The Family Seat of the Done's and Crew's and now of the Arderne's is about a Mile from the Church, called Utkinton Hall, and was formerly a Place of good Eminence; it is now contracting and turning into a Dairy Farm House, and the Chapel built by Sir John Crew I saw this Year 1755 new modelled into 2 or 3 Rooms: there is now a large Collection of Books in the Library; but chiefly wrote by Puritanical Divines and those of Oliver's Stamp, both before and after the great Rebellion; the Done's and the Crew's being both much attached to those Opinions. In it I saw, no Doubt brought there by Sir John Crew a good Antiquary, a most valuable and curious Peice of Antiquity; being a very long and large Roll of Parchment with the Portraits drawn to the Life in their proper Habits and Colours, a Procession of all the Lords of Parliament at the latter End of King Henry the 7th's Reign: the Abbats of mitred Houses came first all dressed in Purple Robes and Cowles, with their Names, Arms of their Abbeys conjoined with their own over each Abbat's Head; then followed the Bishops of the several Sees and episcopally habited with their Names, Arms and Sees Arms in the same Manner and Warham ArchBp. of Canterbury mitred and very Pontifically accoutred, supported by 2 Persons, brought up the Rear of the Spiritual Lords: then came the Prior of St. John of Jerusalem, the Barons and other temporal Peers and the whole concluded with the King himself in his Parliamentary Robes. It is no small Curiosity; and as such I had a desire to have prevailed with Mr. Allen to have suffered me to have taken it Home with me in Order some Time in the Winter to have carried it with me to London to shew to the Royal Antiquary Society and to have done my Endeavour to have got it engraved. See it more exactly described, Vol. 30, p. 1.

Torpurley stands in the mid Way between Chester and Namptwich, about 10 Miles from each, on a sandy Rock: it was a disused market 'till Sir John Crew built them a very handsome Market House and procured them a Market on Thursdays; w<sup>ch</sup> however is not yet greatly frequented.

The Church is dedicated to the Honour of St. Helen, as was that other Church which Mr. Allen had before he was Vicar of Shudy Camps in Cambridgeshire; I mean that of Colne in the County of Huntingdon: which was his first benefice: so that it is probable that he will begin and end with St. Helena.

On a black marble slab just within the Rails of the Altar, rather to the south Side and almost before the Altar is this Inscription which my man Joseph Burgess took for me, having a Desire to have this Inscription as I remember to have seen Mr. Beresford once at Cambridge.

Here lie the Remains  
of  
*Edward Beresford B.D.*  
Sen'r Fellow of *St. John's*  
*College in Cambridge*  
and  
*Rector* of this Parish xx Years.  
He departed this Life May iv.  
A: D: MDCCLII.  
A: Æ: LIV.

Mr. Beresford was a Bachelor and a very worthy good Man, doing a great Deal of Good in his Parish: for the last 10 Years of his Life he had hardly the Use of his Limbs, being carried to and from Bed, by an hereditary Gout: yet he died not of that, but of an Apoplexy in his Chair by the Fireside one Evening after Supper, being a short necked Man and full of Blood. He has a Sister, the wife of Mr. Egerton Rector of Chedle in Cheshire,<sup>1</sup> who is as lame with the Gout as her Brother was: he was a very handsome, florid, well-looking Man, when he took his Bachelor of Divinity's Degree at Cambridge.

Then follow extracts from the registers, including:—

1655.—Saml. Clarke Pastor of Leighton-Beaudesert in Bedfordshire married Sarah Dauter of Nathaniel Lancaster Clerk B.D. and Rector of this Church, 3 Apr.

After these come accounts of the rectors of Tarporley, chiefly from the registers. The following, of the then more recent incumbents, contain personal recollections, and afford an example of Cole's method (fol. 180):—

Ralph Markham . . . had [the rectory] on a Promise of Resignation to Mr. Beresford; which, however, he did not comply with; probably as Mr. Beresford was Fellow of a

<sup>1</sup> Thomas Egerton, younger son of Sir John Egerton of Wrinehill, was rector of Chedle from 1723 till his death in 1762; Earwaker, *East Cheshire*, i. 224.

College, he must have resigned his Fellowship for it, and therefore might be the easier on the Disappointment 'till he came to the Seniority, when he might hold them together; and I think I have heard say that Mr. Markham allowed him somewhat during his holding it. He run out his Income so much, that he was confined for a long Time in Chester Goal for Debt; and I am not certain whether he did not die there: however that be, he gave way to Fate and was buried in this Church May 3, 1732, leaving a widow behind him and 2 Sons quite unprovided for; but now, by the Help of good Friends, both in Holy Orders. The eldest Ralph was baptised 18 Febr. 1725, and is now Curate or Minister of the Chapel of Wore in Shropshire. He was of a very weakly Constitution and having the small-Pox in a very bad Manner it deprived him of his Eye Sight for the greatest Part of the Time which he should have employed in his Education, the greatest Care of which lay wholly upon his Mother, who was a very sensible and clever woman and instructed him all that lay in her Power; and moreover got him what Learning she could procure for him at Nantwich under Mr. Adderley the curate there, who was formerly of Trinity College in Cambridge: so that having a natural Genius for Poetry and Painting, it was judged by his Friends that he might employ himself in those Sciences and by their Means procure himself an Help towards forwarding his Education at the University: accordingly he published a 4to volume of Poems on various Subjects, which was printed at Chester without his Name; and for the same End he also had a Picture of the Infernal Regions, as described by Virgil and which he had painted, engraved by Subscription, which brought him in a small Supply for his Occasions; however, not sufficient to maintain him at the University, whither his poor Constitution also prevented his going; so upon a proper Application to the present worthy Bishop of Chester, who finding him sufficiently qualified for Holy Orders, tho' he had never had an University Education or Degrees, conferred them upon him: however conditionally that he should repair thither when able and take his Degrees; and accordingly he admitted himself at Peter-House; but never has been there; and probably never will; unless he should suddenly get somewhat better to maintain him there than the poor Curacy of Wore: he is a very worthy young Man and deserving of better Fortune. His younger Brother Robert was baptised 16 June 1727 and was first of St. John's College in Cambridge; but upon a Propriety Fellowship in Baliol College being vacant he was advised to apply for it and obtained it.<sup>1</sup> He has also the New-Church on Delamere

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<sup>1</sup> This is not quite accurate; Robert Markham, admitted to St. John's in Cambridge in 1745, M.A. 1752, was incorporated at

Forest of the Gift of Mr. Cholmondeley of Vale-Royal, with whom he chiefly resides, and who is a good Friend and Patron to both the Brothers.

Edward Beresford B.D. and Fellow of St. John's College in Cambridge succeeded on Mr. Markham's Death, and held his Fellowship with his Living, to his Death, which was occasioned by an Apoplexy in his Parsonage House at Torporley, and was buried in his Chancel there on the Steps of the Altar, under an handsome black marble Slab May 11, 1752, aged about 55. He had been most cruelly handled with the Gout for many Years, and for the last 10 Years of his Life was a perfect Cripple and quite helpless, and wholly confined to his Chamber. He was a very hospitable and humane Man and much beloved by his Parishioners; and dying a Bachelor, his Effects went between his Brothers and Sister who is the wife of Mr. Egerton Rector of Chedle and Son of Sir . . . Egerton; one of his Brothers lives near Derby on an Estate of his own. His Epitaph may be seen in the 166th Page of this Volume, being the only one I took while at Torporley.

John Allen B.D. and one of the Senior Fellows and Bursar of Trinity College in Cambridge, was born at Uttoxeter in Staffordshire; in which County also he has a Sine-Cure. His first Preferment from the College was the Vicarage of Colne in Huntingdonshire, which he quitted for that of Shudy-Camps in Cambridgeshire, where in a small thatched house in which you could hardly swing a Cat, but by him most neatly fitted up, and elegantly furnished, he has frequently entertained the best Company of the County, who never were better pleased than to enjoy his chearful and honest Conversation both at their own and his House. In 1744 he was the Senior Proctor of the University, and on the Death of Mr. Beresford, the Patron Mr. Arderne, his old University Acquaintance, who had not seen one another of years, voluntarily offered him the Presentation in the most handsome Manner: and Mr. Allen, to requite in some Manner the Generosity of his Friend, has already laid out in Buildings and Repairs the whole Profits of the Living to this Time 1755; and no Doubt will do more on proper Occasions: He divides his Time equally between Cambridge and Torporley; at the first he spends his Winters, and his Summers at Torporley. As Fellow of a College he must necessarily be a Bachelor and is now about 55 Years of Age, and is an hearty and well-looking Man; and above all is much esteemed by all the neighbouring Gentry and Clergy, whom according to his natural Taste and Disposition, he elegantly and hospitably entertains as they call upon him.

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Oxford from Brasenose College in 1753. He was afterwards rector of Chetwynd, and of St. Mary's, Whitechapel, from 1768 till his death in 1786; R. F. Scott, *Admissions to St. John's Coll.*, iii. 116, 554.

He is an exceeding good Historian and an excellent Antiquary and Herald; and as such has made Collections towards an History of his Native County of Stafford, and tricked out the Arms in the Church Windows of various Churches in that County, and elsewhere: which Collections he has given to Dr. Wilkes of Wolverhampton, who is preparing an History of that County for the Press. His father lived at Bromshall, where he had an Estate, near Uttoxeter.

The following paragraph, added at a later time, fills up the page: "Poor Mr. Allen my worthy Friend, died easily and rather suddenly Saturday Jan. 17, 1778, the same Day that Mr. Pepys of Impington died at Bath. This was told to me this morning Jan. 26 by Mr. Sam. Knight, who had been at Cambridge the evening before with Mr. Whisson of Trinity, who had received a letter from Mr. Pepper Arden with Advice of it. In the *Cambridge Chronicle* it is said that he died on *Sunday* at Chester, after a short Illness, aged 78 years.

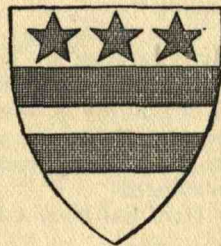
"Crew Arden, A.M. of Trin. College, son of the Patron, succeeded him in March 1778."

On the opposite page Cole has written the epitaph, with these remarks:

As I long knew my worthy Friend's religious Principles, I was no ways surprized when Mr. Lort sent me the following Epitaph, on Sunday Morning Sept. 20, 1778, to Milton from Trinity College, by my Servant, whom I had sent to him.

*Inscription on Mr. ALLEN'S Tomb in St. John's Church Yard, Chester.*

Deus propitius esto mihi  
 Joanni Allen, Peccatori,  
 Rectori de Torporley,  
 et Socio maxime Seniori  
 Trin. Coll. Cantab.  
 Nato apud Uttoxeter.  
 Jan. 14, 1699.  
 Sepulto Jan. 23, 1778.  
 Quod Quisque Vestrùm  
 mihi pie optaverit,  
 Illi feliciter eveniat  
 Vivo et mortuo.  
 Amen.



[Argent two bars sable,  
 in chief three mul-  
 lets of the second.]



I like the Turn of Thought extremely, and envy him that he first caught it: my own is not to be compared to it, tho' in the same Style and composed many Years ago: it is at p. 180, vol. 7 of these Collections. It is too long, but I know not how to shorten it.

On an earlier blank page a letter of Mr. Allen's has been copied, and may be reproduced because of the local gossip it records (fol. 168*d*):

To the Rev. Mr. COLE Rector of Blecheley<sup>1</sup> near  
Fenny Stratford, Bucks.

TARPORLEY, May 26, 1767.

MY DEAR FRIEND.—I put on a Resolution to write to you before you begin your Expedition into Cambridgeshire, and to inform you, that tho' I am very weak both in my Loyns and my Ankles, yet my Mind is more affected than either, with the Loss of poor Heyrick. An intimacy of near 50 Years standing<sup>1</sup> had subsisted between us; so that his Death is really like a Stroke of the dead Palsey on one Side. I thank you for your charitable Opinion of him, and hope you won't want Sollicitation to pray for his Soul: for tho' perhaps he was fitter for this World, than any other State, yet God will draw a Score upon his Faults, which were owing to Blood, rather than Corruption of Heart. I assure you, I am at present disconsolate, and sing, *Oh! how are the mighty fallen!*

The Poem, you mention, I have never seen: for I had not a Copy sent me; and I would not buy it, as the real Author disclaimed it to me. He is a Brother Antiquarian, and has wrote an History of our antient City, or rather of his own obscure Family: a very Prig in Magazines, Courants &c. His Name is Cooper, and he stiles himself M.D. but his true Title should be M.W. *i.e.* Man Widwife [*sic*]; for that is his present Calling.<sup>2</sup>

What makes you, that wallow in valuable Collections, so ravenous after my Trumpery? I have told you, you shall have 'em: but for a particular Reason (a selfish one you'll suppose) I cannot say just when. Remember, my Friend, you never would indulge me with the Loan of yours, tho' under the strickest Engagement of being neither transcribed or communicated.

Here has been a House, kidnapped by a Manchester Trader,

<sup>1</sup> Cole was rector of Bletchley 1753 to 1767, when he resigned.

<sup>2</sup> For William Cowper, M.D., F.S.A., see Ormerod's *Cheshire*, i. 374. The poem, *Il Penseroso*, is mentioned.

would have suited you, upon the River Dee, at a Place called Farndon, within Sight of which I am writing: a Bridge and Tower upon it divide it from Holt in Denbighshire. I wish you much in this Neighbourhood; but there's no engaging for any Place 'till you have seen it.

When is the time of your Moving? I suppose you'll make a Sale whenever it happens: if you have no particular Passion for the blew China Vase on your Chimney Peice in your Parlour, with a Brass Foot, I will compliment it with a better Dress, and shall be obliged to you for it.

Let me hear from you when you come out of Cambridgeshire: you can't be too particular about that Place, than about yourself. True Friends are very scarce: don't let us cease to love each other. I am, my dear Joy (to speak in our Neighbour's Phrase), most affectionately yours,

J. ALLEN.

Mrs. Richardson desires her best Respects.

Cole appends a copy of his answer to "Dear John," but there is no need to print it here. The "poem" is referred to thus:

Methinks you are both very incurious in never looking into the Poem, so handsomely inscribed to you, as well as severe in giving such an account of your Client. To give you my Opinion about it (for I sent for it directly on seeing your Name tacked to it), the only tolerable Thing belonging to it, is the Inscription or Dedication to your Reverence: *Il Penseroso* itself is as high Bombast and Fustian as ever I red.

Enclosed was an epitaph suggested for Allen's deceased friend, Nathaniel Heyrick, B.D., senior fellow of Trinity College, Cambridge, and rector of Loddington in Northamptonshire from 1742 till his death on 13th May 1767, aged seventy. Part of it ran: "He was a polite scholar, an excellent preacher, and a most facetious companion. His style of wit and humour was so truly original and so peculiarly his own that the following observation was never more properly applied: None but himself can be his parallel." Allen in reply sent an amended inscription.<sup>1</sup> An account of Mr. Heyrick

<sup>1</sup> The epitaph eventually placed in the church was comparatively short and simple.

follows, in which it is stated that he succeeded his father<sup>1</sup> as rector of Loddington, and had brothers Toby (Vicar of Over, Cambs) and Samuel. He was "an excellent player at Whisk," but "took such Liberties with his Tongue" that he frequently gave serious offence to his friends. The following may be extracted, as characteristic of the man and his times, although it has no local connection:<sup>2</sup>

[Mr. Heyrick] was acquainted with the best of the Country [*i.e.* in Northamptonshire]; and with such only would he be acquainted: altho' his Intimacy and Friendship with the Earl of Halifax was somewhat cooled by a Peice of Drolery and Humour which my Lord resented at his Hands, as Party Matters then ran high in Northamptonshire; and tho' Mr. Heyrick, out of Compliment to his Lordship, voted with the Whigs, yet in his Mind he was a determined Tory. They were travelling up to town in my Lord's Post Chaise, and just at the Brook, about a Mile or 2 before you get to Dunstable, there had been a Highwayman just then hung up in chains: as they came nearer it, Mr. Heyrick in his slow drole Way, bid his Lordship take Notice of that Fellow that hung dingle dangle with his Legs in the Air on the Gibbet: and on my Lord's enquiring whether he knew who it was, Yes my Lord, says Mr. Herrick, I knew him very well: it was one of the last Set of Justices which your Lordship put into Commission of the Peace for the County of Northampton. My Lord resented it so much, that from thence to the Sugar Loaf in Donstable there were very few Words passed between them; and when they got there, his Lordship put his Head out of the Chaise Window and ordered the Postilion to stop, and the Footman to get down and open the Door of the Chaise, and then addressed himself to Mr. Heyrick, Sir, says he, I think you always put up at the Sugar Loaf: I go the Crown.

Cole also received from Allen considerable extracts from Williamson's Collections, and notes of his own and Sir John Crew's concerning the antiquities of the county and district, and lent a book of Pedigrees. From this last a pedigree of Done is copied. An

<sup>1</sup> Samuel Heyrick (see Foster's *Alumni*) became rector of Loddington in 1702; he died in 1741.

<sup>2</sup> These Heyricks were of the same family as Warden Heyrick of Manchester, being descendants of John Eyrick of Leicester, who died in 1589. See the pedigree in J. H. Hill's *Market Harborough*, 118-124.

entry "March 17, 1694-5, Sunday about 4 in the Afternoon, pious, innocent and grave Mr. Sherard Rector of Torporley died," is supposed by Cole to have come from some Almanacks of Sir John Crew's. The following note is accompanied by a drawing of the Renaissance panel described :

In Oct. 1761 Mr. Allen sent me 3 small Oaken Pannels of old Wainscote which came out of an House just by the Church, belonging to Mr. Browne the Apothecary ; who was pulling them down and going to burn them, when Mr. Allen thought they would suit a Gothic Building in my Garden at Blecheley in Buckinghamshire, which I call the Hermitage. One of them has an antique shield with a ragged Staff in Cheif per Fesse from which by a Knot hang the following letters *WW. D. Decretorum.* Who this Doctor of Decrees was, except it might be some former Rector of Torporley, I know not. Above it in a Scrole is *Sit Laus Deo.* On the other 2 Panels, being all above a foot square are 2 Men's Heads: on the Collar of one is a [Cross fleury] and the Letter C, and above it on a Scrole *Tibi Honor,* and above the other *Tibi Laus.*

Seeing Mr. Allen at Cambridge in December 1761, he told me, that one Wm. Whitter or Wittar Dr. of Decrees, signed as a Witness to some Deeds he had seen at Torporley.<sup>1</sup>

Cole adds: "I have them now in my Hermitage at Milton near Cambridge. July 26, 1773."

After leaving Tarporley our antiquary paid a visit to Chester, and was on the whole favourably impressed by the Cathedral :

It is a Building of no great Eminence as a Cathedral ; tho' not without the Aspect and Appearance of its present Dignity ; having a capacious Choir and Lady Chapel with a large Nave ; and all built of the red sandy stone of the Country, which makes it have an ordinary and even ruinous Appearance on the Outside ; tho' very neat within and in good Repair. The Choir is fitted up on both Sides with antient Stalls and Tabernacle Work, as they call it, over them, very elegantly : I mean, lofty Spire Work in the Gothic Taste : on the south Side is a small Organ Case to the Choir, over these Stalls, which the Verger told me was now useless and only served as a Seat : the great Organ is over the Door as you enter the Choir, as in other Cathedrals. The

<sup>1</sup> See *Ormerod*, ii. 235, 308 ; rector of Tarporley, 1499-1543.

Bp.'s Throne is at the east End of the Stalls on the south Side, of a square Figure, made of Stone and very curiously carved; and the Dean and Chapter have lately and very commendably repaired it throughout, adding Heads to the great Quantity of neat and small Images in Niches all round it, and gilt them all: their Heads were knocked off in Oliver's lawless and sacrilegious Times and the Throne other ways abused; which might be more liable to their fiery Zeal, as it formerly was the Shrine, as I am informed, of the Saint to which the Church was dedicated. On the Stone Roof of the north Transept I observed the Arms of Cardinal Wolsey; and near the Entrance into the south Isle by the side of the Choir, I also observed a very old Chair of Stone curiously carved *à l'antique*, and which I took for the Abbat's Chair; it seemed to me to be a Peice of great Antiquity, tho' now flung aside as a Peice of old Lumber and Rubbish. The south Transept is made Use of and divided by Partitions from the Rest of the Church, as a Parochial Church dedicated to St. Oswald; and being fitted up in a slovenly Manner by Pews of all the different Sorts one can imagine, has a very mean Appearance. From the north Isle you enter the Cloysters, which are square and perfect, but gloomy: and from the north Transept you go thro' a neat square Antichamber supported by 4 of the neatest and smallest stone Pillars I ever saw, into the Chapter House, lately fitted up with Wainscote and the beautiful ornamental Pillars all round it, newly furbished up and scraped: so that it is one of the neatest Rooms of the Sort in all England: in this Chapter House, I think I was told, that the famous Hugh Lupus first Earl of Chester, the magnificent Founder of this Abbey, was buried. On the northwest Corner of the Church, by the Cloysters, the present worthy Bishop is building an entire new Palace, which is an handsome long Building of free Stone, fronting the Abbey Court, where several of the Prebendaries have and are now building very neat and elegant Houses for themselves; and when all are completed it will be a most elegant and beautiful Square.

Cole adds a note, describing the Palace as completed,<sup>1</sup> for he dined there with the bishop on August 6, 1757. The bishop told him he had expended £2200 on it, nearly three years' income of the bishopric. "The private Chapel is plain and was used as such by the Abbats: it has a neat Picture of our Saviour in painted Glass in the east Window above the Altar, in small, and the Figures of the Apostles and other Saints, seemingly done

<sup>1</sup> See the plan of Chester in *Ormerod*, i. 180, for its position.

and put up since the Restoration. *Vide* p. 219 of Vol. 27." He then goes on with his description of the Cathedral, affording a characteristic sketch of a Whig prelate from the point of view of an eighteenth—or rather perhaps seventeenth—century Tory.

Our Ladie's Chapel behind the Choir is made use of for six o'clock Prayers in the Morning: on the south Side in this Chapel and just behind the High Altar lies a very ancient grey marble Slab, disrobed of its Brasses and Inscription; but has the Impression in the Stone of the Figure of a Bishop with his Mitre and Crosier, long before the Erection of this Episcopal See. At the upper End of the north Isle on the south Side just by the High Altar, is an old and ordinary Monument of Stone, Altar Fashion, in which they tell you that the Emperor Henry the 4th lies intombed: and opposite to it under the north Wall in an Arch, lies a very antique Stone, no Doubt, designed for one of the oldest Abbats of this Church.

The Altar Piece is of a fine Piece of Tapestry, having a Scripture History represented on it: By it on the north Side or Corner, Bishop Stratford has a very neat white marble mural Monument, and his Bust in white Marble on the Top of it. Just within the Altar Rails on the north Side on a small square Peice of white Marble is inscribed

S. P.  
Ep'us Cest:  
1752

This is designed for Samuel Peplow late Bishop of Chester, who died there in 1752, and who is to have a Monument erected for him, as the Verger informed me, against the Pillar in the S.E. Corner by the High-Altar, near Bishop Hall's Monument. The Occasion of Bishop Peplow's Rise in the Church was Party Merit: he being Vicar of Preston in Lancashire in 1715 when the Pretender's Friends were Masters of that Town, and when he could not be persuaded to pray publicly for him, but courageously prayed for King George; who afterwards rewarded his Zeal in his Cause with the Wardenship of Manchester College and this Bishopric. The Bishop lived constantly in his Diocese and rarely went to Parliament; and being a married Man and having a Family, he set his Heart upon raising a Fortune for them; and consequently lived in a mean unhospitable Manner and let his Episcopal House run to such Decay, that the present Bishop found it absolutely necessary to pull it quite down and rebuild it. Bishop Peplow left his Son the Chancellor a great temporal Estate, and heaped the cheif spiritual Preferments upon

him that were in his Disposal: his Dauter Mary had also a good Fortune and is now married to Mr. Joddrell of Cheshire.

Cole then supplies a contrasting sketch of Dean Arderne, who has been mentioned above in the account of Tarporeley. His monument states that "tho' he bore more than a common Affection to his private Relations, yet gave he the Substance of his bequeathable Estate to this Cathedral. Which Gift, his Will was should be mentioned; that clergymen may consider, whether it be not a sort of Sacrilege, to sweep away all from the Church and Charity into the Possession of their Lay-Kindred, who are not needy." Thus £300 a year in lands in Tarporeley came to the Cathedral, and one turn in five of the presentation to the rectory of Tarporeley. The Dean, "being a Cambridge man and a Writer . . . and being moreover a Person, whose Character pleases me," says Cole, "I shall put down in this Place what occurs to me concerning him," and proceeds as follows:

James Arderne descended from a very antient Family in Cheshire, was born in that County and after having run thro' his Schole Discipline and Studies, was admitted a Member of Christ's College in Cambridge, into the *Matricula* of which University he was entered on July 9, 1653: at St. John Baptist's 1656, he took his Degree of Bachelor of Arts and proceeded Master at the usual Time: and being a Person of good Parts and of great Ingenuity, he was admitted as a Member of a Club or Society in 1659 who used to meet every Night at the then Turk's Head in New-Palace Yard in Westminster, where many *Virtuosi* of the Common-Wealth Stamp would commonly repair and where James Harrington, the famous Author of the *Oceana* was wont to preside; and it was observed that their Discourses upon Government were the most ingenious of any at that Time, when, as to all human Foresight, there seemed no Possibility of Monarchy ever being established again in this Kingdom. However upon the happy Restoration he took Orders and on 5 April 1666 was presented to the Donative or Curacy of St. Botolph Aldgate in London, which he held till his Promotion to the Deanry of Chester, when he privately resigned it to Dr. Ric. Hollingworth. In the years 1673 and 1674 he was a Fellow-Commoner in

Brazen-Nose College in Oxford, partly for the Sake of the public Library, and partly for the Conversation of the Divines and others of the University of Oxford, where he had been formerly in 1658, incorporated Master of Arts, as he was also in 1673 Doctor of Divinity, both which [Degrees] he had regularly taken in his own University. He was Chaplain in Ordinary to King Charles the 2d. who promoted him to the Deanry of Chester, where he was installed in July 1682. On the Death of Bishop Cartwright in April 1689, it was commonly reported that King James the 2d. did then nominate the Dean to succeed him in the Bishopric of Chester: but whether that be true or not; certain it is, that King William gaining his Point in establishing himself King of these Realms on the Exclusion of his Father-in-Law and own Uncle, he appointed another Person to that See. In 1688 he made his Will, by which he left the Substance of his bequeathable Estate to the Cathedral of Chester, in Order to Provide and maintain a public Library in that Church, for the Use of the City and Clergy there, together with all his Books and a Turn of Presentation to the Rectory of Torporley in Cheshire, where his Estate lay, to the Dean and Chapter. At length, after he had run, as Anthony Wood expresses it, with the Humour of King James the 2d. and on that Account suffered several Indignities and Affronts from the Vulgar of, and near Chester, when that King withdrew himself into France in 1688, he gave Way to Fate on 18 of September [Mr. Willis says 18 August] 1691; whereupon his Body was buried in the Cathedral of Chester, on the south Side near the Bishop's Throne.

He then gives the inscription on the tomb of Elizabeth Gastrell, 1747 (*Ormerod*, i. 295), and continues:

This year 1755 the Dean and Chapter have erected on the south Side of the Cathedral Yard several convenient Linen Warehouses, for the Use of the Irish Traders in that Commodity, who come over at Midsummer and Michaelmass to vend their Manufactures: tho' many People disliked it and tho't it below their Dignity to accommodate Tradesmen so near their Cathedral Church.

The Walls round the City of Chester are very perfect and were designed so conveniently, as that the Inhabitants can walk upon them; which renders their City much more convenient, airy and pleasant to them: and the Piazza's or Rows, as they call them, within the City, by means whereof the Citizens walk in their streets under shelter in the worst of Weather, make this City have a more singular Appearance than any I ever yet saw: tho'



it must be confessed that the Convenience of walking dry is more than counterbalanced by the necessary Gloominess of their forward Apartments, and by the continual ascending and descending the Steps which are made to get into them. For my own Part, when I was at Chester, I was too lame, being just got up after a broken Leg: so could neither walk about the City, or stay so long in the Cathedral as my Inclinations would have led me to have done otherwise: however I could not resist taking Notice of the two former Inscriptions there, they being of a Turn so peculiar and singular in this Age.

The City is very large and populous and almost equally divided by two principal Streets which cross one another in the middle: and bating the Rows, which certainly are no Ornament, however useful they may be, it is well built and shows a great number of handsome Houses, and the Streets are better paved than in any great Town I have been in: which makes some Sort of Amends for the Vileness of their Pavements which lead to it from every Quarter.

I was told St. John's Church was more worth looking into than the Cathedral, but as moving about, otherwise than in a Coach, was very inconvenient to me, so I was deprived of the Pleasure of seeing that old Collegiate Church; as also the Castle and magnificent Hall in it, which I was told, almost vies with Westminster Hall for Vastness and Capacity.

The pen-portrait of the then Dean of Chester has been omitted here, and it must suffice to allude to the letters between the friends Allen and Cole contained in the "Collections." The index recently compiled by Mr. George J. Gray gives every facility for studying them.