

STRAY NOTES

THE WARRINGTON CHESSMEN.—The Society's *Transactions*, vol. iv. p. 200, contains a notice of two chessmen of jet, found in the Mote Hill, Warrington, which were exhibited by Dr. Kendrick. A printed account of them and a lithographic representation were distributed to the meeting, but as this was held as far back as 15th April 1852 it is very doubtful if any copies are extant; it may be of interest, therefore, to note that the *Illustrated London News* of 8th May 1852 contains, at p. 383, an account of these chessmen accompanied by two illustrations. Possibly these are identical with the printed account and illustration distributed by Dr. Kendrick. F. C. B.

AN UNWORTHY CARMELITE.—Before the judges at Chester it was alleged that Christopher Burtonwode, brother in religion of George, prior of the Carmelite house in Chester, on Friday in the first week of Lent 23 Hen. VII [17 March 1507-8], entered the church at Frodsham and stole a copper cross gilt and a silver pix, being goods of the church in the care of Henry Brownwent and Richard Hogh, wardens. He denied his guilt, but on trial was convicted and (in virtue of the clerical privilege) was then handed over to the deputies of Dr. John Veysey, archdeacon of Chester; Chester Plea Roll 209, m. 44*b*.

CARTMEL PRIORY.—A curious story is told in the Palatine Plea Rolls (88, m. 10*b*) about some canons of this house. Three of them—James Greenhod, William Panell, and Miles Bary—were accused of putting poison in a fish called a trout and giving it to another canon, Henry Lathom, while carefully refraining from touching it themselves. Lathom became very ill, but recovered and then made this charge of poisoning against them. On trial, however, they were acquitted.

RIOT AT NEWTON-IN-MAKERFIELD.—On May Day 1498 a yeoman named Richard Arosmith, son of John, with a number of others attacked a chaplain named Charles Sothern and his cousin Richard Towres at Newton. Towres was left for dead, and those around carried him into the chapel and laid him before

St. Mary's image there. By and by Arosmith and his comrades broke into the chapel; but seeing their victim lying apparently lifeless said, "He has had enough," and went away. Arosmith's side of the story is not recorded in the pleadings, but on trial he was acquitted; Pal. of Lanc. Plea Roll 91, m. 7.

PRIORS OF BIRKENHEAD.—In Ormerod's *Cheshire* (ed. Helsby), ii. 459, the last priors of Birkenhead are given as Hugh Gardener, Thomas Chestur (1486), Nicholas Tassy (or Stace) (1499), Hugh Hyne (150 . .), and John Sharpe (1519). These names are from the Lichfield Registers. From the Chester Plea Rolls, however, it appears that Thomas Tassy was prior in 1486-7 and 1491 (191, m. 17*b*; 212, m. 6, 71), and Hugh had succeeded by October 1509 (211, m. 16*b*). In 1491 Nicholas Tasse of Clagh-ton en lez Graungez was described as a brother monk of Thomas, prior of Birkenhead; while John Tasse, of the same place, was a yeoman (191, m. 11). Possibly "Chestur" was an *alias* of Tassy. Nicholas was the prior in September 1508 when a Tranmere labourer broke into the house and stole a silver ring (210, m. 8).

THE ARCHDEACONRY OF RICHMOND.—In 1561 John Hurleton, archdeacon of Richmond, brought an action against John Hanson, clerk, demanding an account for fees received as "bailiff" of the plaintiff between 16th September 1554 and 22nd October 1559. The defendant denied that he was plaintiff's bailiff or receiver (Chester Plea Rolls 272, m. 5; 274, m. 15). The meaning of this claim seems to be that Hurleton, or Hurleston, had been archdeacon in the time of Edward VI, but had been expelled from the office under Mary, possibly as a married man.¹ Then Hanson was appointed and acted till the accession of Elizabeth brought Hurleton back; whereupon he tried to recover the fees received in the interval on the pretence that Hanson had been merely his bailiff, a pretence which Hanson, of course, repudiated. Hanson was also vicar of Rochdale, being expelled in 1564 for refusing to conform to the changes made by Elizabeth, and is said to have joined Bishop Scott in exile.² Hurleton retained the archdeaconry till his death about 1573, Ormerod's list (*Hist. of Chés.*, i. 117) being erroneous or defective at this time.

THE HESKETH QUARTERINGS.—The frontispiece of vol. lxii. showed a coat of Hesketh of Rufford with twenty-eight quarters, and on p. 66 the 24th of these was attributed to Brandon. Mr. A. C. Stratford of Jersey City, N.J., writes pointing out that it should rather be called Stratford, and citing Mr. Everard Green, Somerset Herald, in his favour.

¹ John Hurleston or Hurleston, S.T.B., instituted vicar of St. Bride's, Fleet Street, 14 Feb. 1551-2 on the presentation of the D. and C. of Westminster, was deprived by 30 June 1554 (Hennessey, *Novum Repert. Eccl. Paroch. Londinens.*, 1898, p. 113). He was restored to the Archdeaconry of Richmond by the Royal Commissioners for the Visitation of the Northern Province, in 1559 (See, *Eliz. Clergy*, 89). His will has been printed.

¹ who deprived Hanson

² John Hanson, M.A., Archdeacon of Richmond, occurs 20 Nov. 1558 (Porteus, *Mayes Standish*, 1920, p. 103, no. 14). He was presented to the vicarage of Bowdoin by Robert Vauxdray gent., 21 Oct. 1556 (Ormerod, *op. cit.*, i. 519) and to that of Rochdale by Cardinal Pole, 16 Nov. 1557 (Whitaker, *Hist. of Whalley*, 4th ed., ii. 418); he did not reside at Rochdale of which he was deprived in March 1560-1 (*ibid.*, 418-9). In or soon after Aug. 1562 (See, *op. cit.*, 176) he is styled late chaplain to Dr. Scott and had "glad, as is reported, over the seas" (*ibid.*, 184) and he figures in the lists of Nicholas Sander and Tierney's edition of Dodd's *Church History*.