

## STRAY NOTES.

THE LIVERPOOL REGISTERS.—The earliest registers at St. Nicholas's church date only from the Restoration, but earlier ones were kept as appears from the transcripts in the bishop's registry at Chester. All the extant ones have been printed by Mr. Peet in the Register Society's volume. In a suit of 1685—Thomas Sherwin *v.* Thomas Johnson and Edmund Livesey—it was deposed by Gilbert Livesey of Liverpool, merchant, aged 27, that the plaintiff was son of Captain John Sherwin, born 20 Sept. and baptized 25 Sept., 1656, as appeared by the register book kept for the chapel of Liverpool. He himself had the previous day taken this entry from the register book. (Pal. of Lancaster Chancery Depositions, bde. 110). Thus the older book was accessible in 1685. From other evidence it appeared that Captain Sherwin had married Katherine Aindow, daughter of Thomas Aindow (who died in August 1684), and that plaintiff was their son and heir.

HORROCKS OF TOXTETH.—William Horrockes of Toxteth Park, yeoman, in April, 1614, made a claim in the Lancashire Chancery court, stating that John Bird of Liverpool, gentleman, who was seised for life and 25 years following of a piece of land called Neene Acres, gave the same to him for four years from November, 1613. Possession, however, had not been given, and he desired an order of the court to obtain it. (Pal. of Lanc. Chancery Bills, 2). Thomas Hey, who had land near Pyliard Yate in Toxteth Park, in 1625-6, made a claim against John Wharrockes, who had married Sarah formerly wife of Henry Croft, who had been a servant of Alexander Molyneux, esq. (*Ibid.* 7). See further in *Notes and Queries* for 11 Dec., 1920.

THE REV. JOSEPH TOMPSON.—This clergyman, who acted as rector of Sefton during the expulsion of Dr. Moreton in the Commonwealth time, is stated by Calamy (ii, 377) to have been an Oxford man, "a good scholar, a man of wit and great ingenuity; possessed of a considerable estate, with which he did much good." He was, however, a Cambridge man, having matriculated in 1622 as of Queens' College (Venn), migrating to St. John's College very quickly, and taking the B.A. degree in 1625-6 (see *V. C. H. Lancs.*

iii, 64). In depositions of 1664 his age was given as 57, so that he must have graduated when about 21. In a claim made by Nicholas Rigby concerning a tenement in Langtree in 1667 in which he and one Alexander Tompson were defendants, it came out that he was brother of Alexander Tompson, who died about 1665 and was father of the other defendant. Alexander had been a prominent attorney at Wigan, and his age was given as 40 in 1636; he left a widow Anne, and several children besides the Alexander named. Henry Rowe, who had been his clerk, deposed that Alexander owed his brother Joseph £150; he had had several quantities of corn from him while he was rector of Sefton and had assigned the message to him to secure the debt, in February, 1656-7. See also *V.C.H. Lancs.*, iii, 64. Administration was granted in 1670 to the estate of Joseph Tompson of Ormskirk. The Standish registers record the baptisms of Alexander and Joseph, sons of James and Mary Tompson, on 22 March, 1596-7 and 11 July, 1604. There were other children. James Tompson of Langtree was buried 18 June, 1620, and Mary his widow on 7 July, 1624.

TOLLS ON WARRINGTON BRIDGE.—About 1395 the keepers of the passage of Warrington Bridge (Henry Dyconson and Henry Wyteserk) were accused of demanding excessive dues for transit. From men passing with horses and merchandize they should take  $\frac{1}{4}d.$  for each horse, but on the Sunday after St. Andrew 19 Richard II (5 Decr. 1395) they took  $6d.$  from two souters who had three horses laden with leather, for their passage. For men with cattle they ought to charge  $\frac{1}{4}d.$  for five oxen or cows, but they took from a number of drovers for 100 oxen and cows 5s., whereas they should have had  $6d.$  only. (Chester Indictment Roll 8, m. 46).

A CIVIL WAR INCIDENT.—In 1646 Richard Worsley and Hugh Taylor claimed in the Palatine Chancery Court the value of horses etc. requisitioned for the service of the Parliament in January 1642-3. The defendants (Oliver Collier and James Grundy) were constables of the township of Worsley at the time, and levied an assessment on the inhabitants to pay for the horses, which were sent to Manchester. The question was as to the moneys the defendants had collected and the way they had expended it, complainants stating that they had not been paid. It was stated that both the defendants were out of office when Captain Downes went on service against Lathom, and that Collier should have been a soldier in Downes's company, but did not give full time to his duties therein. (Pal. of Lancaster Chancery Depositions, bundle 42).

PILLING CHAPEL.—In August 1625 Gabriel Croft of Rawcliffe alleged that Henry Postlethwaite, clerk, came to his house and offered him £10 (of which £5 was paid) if he could procure him to be made reader, curate or minister of the chapel of Pillin. Gabriel, and with him one James Croke, entered into a bond for £20 to be forfeited should he prove negligent in promoting Postlethwaite's interests. He went to Thomas Dalton of Pillin, esq., who had the government of the town and the chief power in placing the minister and who freely assented to the appointment, sending for his tenants and the other inhabitants to see what allowance they would make the curate. They drew up a petition to the bishop of Chester accordingly, Croft himself taking it to Chester, where he induced the bishop to consent to Postlethwaite's appointment and to write to Sir Robert Bindloss, the impropriator, to see what allowance he would make. Croft then went to Barweek to see Sir Robert. The bishop also wrote to John Braddill of Whalley, esq., the king's receiver, to pay over the arrearages of a rent of 40s. a year allowed to the reader, amounting to some £16 or £18. Croft had several journeys to Wigan about the matter. After all his trouble, however, Postlethwaite refused the place and also refused to pay the balance of £5 which Croft considered due to him, and then proceeded to sue Croft on the £20 bond, as if the contract had not been fulfilled. (Pal. of Lancaster Chancery Bills, 8, No. 10.) The amount of arrears shows that the curacy had been vacant for 8 or 9 years. In 1621 an effort had been made to secure a curate, but apparently without success. (*V.C.H. Lancs.*, vii, 334.) The bishop of Chester was John Bridgeman, who was also rector of Wigan.

JOHN JACQUES, CLERK.—This minister was incumbent of Bolton-le-Sands during the Commonwealth period, but was replaced in 1660 (before the act of Uniformity) by William Ainsworth. Jacques was described as of Scarcliffe in Derbyshire, 56 years of age, in his depositions in 1672 in a suit brought by Robert Barker of Bolton-le-Sands concerning his father's will. (Pal. of Lancaster Chancery Depositions, bdle. 89.) As Calamy does not mention him he was probably not a nonconformist.

OFFENCES IN SHOTWICK PARK.—The following charges made by John Bronwynd, the parker at Shotwick, in January 9 Henry IV [1407-8] are interesting as a specimen of the English of the time and place. His exact words seem to be given, instead of the usual

Latin version. "Hamnet the Massi slogh a sower yn the Park of Shotwyk upon the Sunday next by for the fest of Mary Maudlayn yn the zere of hourlord the kyng that now ys the vi<sup>o</sup> [20 July, 1404], and with hym Hew Barsse of Salghall, and away hit bere. And also the forsayd Hew Bars has comen yn to the for sayd Park syn that tyme be dyversse tymes azaynes deffense of hour lord the Prinse. Also upon the Sunday be fore the fest of Seint Myghell yn the same zere [28 Sept.], at nyzte vj doys slayn be wo the parker wot never. And also Thomelyn the Baxter of the Forzate Strete of Chester has hewen and away lad vj cartful of gorstys azaynes the defense of hour lord the prince yn the same zere by fore sayd." Hamnet and Thomelyn were fined. (Chester Indictment Roll 10, m. 26.) A sower is a buck in its fourth year.

THE WALLASEY OXGANGS.—The following record, headed "A Terrier of the Glebe of Wallezey, 1733," copied from the original, which is among other papers at Wallasey rectory, supplements the figures given in the last volume of *Transactions* (lxxiii, 146):

<i>Oxgangs.</i>		<i>Computed acres.</i>	
P. c. Seacombe	.. .. 48	Seacombe	.. .. 90
		Poolton	.. .. 171
Liscard	.. .. 50½	Liscard	.. .. 200
Wallezey	.. .. 54	Wallezey	.. .. 270
		Wall: gras	.. .. 100

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There is no definite ratio between the oxgang and the acre.—E. Cuthbert Woods.

IMITATION SORCERY.—A strange tale was told in a Chester indictment in 1380. It appeared that some ten years earlier a certain John Lowe of Clifton and Agnes wife of Robert Lowe were accused of breaking into the house of Thomas Lowe and stealing 47s. 8d. in money, etc. Robert brother of William Lowe was said to have received and abetted. Thereupon William Lowe of Clifton in July, 1370, made a deep pit in his barn and placed therein a man (name unknown) who was clad in black garments and disguised to represent the devil. Then calling in many of his neighbours William used all the spells and conjurations his imagination could devise and caused the man to rise from the pit. Then he questioned him as to John Lowe's guilt; and the man rising up in the likeness of Belzebul said that John was not guilty. And he put many other questions, which the witnesses could not remember. (Chester Indictment Roll 8, m. 8.) It does not

appear whether or not this device had any success in refuting John's accusers.

CHARTER BY WILLIAM MALBANK II.—The following charter, of the time of Henry II, is briefly referred to by Williamson (Ormerod iii, 330). It is now in the British Museum—Add. charter 43964. "William Maubancus to all his friends, French and English, etc. I make known to you that I have received from Robert de Bracy the Black, my nephew, the homage and services due for three fees, namely (1) Wistaniston, with 4 bovates in Willaston, 8 bovates in White Pull and 4 bovates in Rowheschetewyk in Vyrhale for one fee; (2) Finghwalle in Vyrhale and Rap, each the fourth part of a fee; Gattisclive and Boristok, the half of a fee; (3) Norhbury and Wyriswall by Whitchurch (*Album Monasterium*), one fee. He and his heirs shall do to me and my heirs the service of three knights, with ward, relief and scutage when it may happen; and I have affixed my seal hereto in presence of my knights and my whole court. These are witnesses: Walter de Dunstanvill, Reginald de Coubray, Edwin de Banc(er)vill, Reginald [son of] Archinebawd, Alured de Cumbray, Richard de Lestra, Robert son of Peter, Philip Maubanc, and Roger the clerk who wrote this charter."

CHESHIRE SHERIFFS.—On the Chester Plea Roll 12, m. 16d, is the following statement: "Mem<sup>d</sup> that William de Preers took the office of sheriff of Cheshire to farm from Michaelmas 27 Edward (I) for one year for 210 marks; by the pledge of Robert de Preers, Philip de Eggerton, James de Pulle, Richard de Fouleshurst, Adam Malbon, John de Ecton, Thomas de Erdeswyk, Richard de Roop, John del Heth, Robert de Harecort, William de Sporstowe, Nicholas de Froddesham, William de Horton, William de Bostoke, Robert Wodenot, William the Hunter, Roger Dunville, Hugh de Thornton, Thomas de Whelok, Richard de Crawenache, William Launcelin, Gilbert de Ayston, Warin de Croxton, Gilbert Dodefin, Robert de Brescy, William Daniel and Roger de Sporstowe." According to the P.R.O. Official List at Michaelmas 1301 Preers was succeeded as sheriff by Robert de Brescy; but on Plea Roll 14, m. 1, it is stated that Robert de Brescy took the office of sheriff from the feast of Easter last (1301) for half a year, viz. to Michaelmas, paying 100 marks. Sureties . . . . . de Aldelyme and Hugh de Calvilegh. [Roll torn].

RAVEN OF ELWORTH.—In the library of St. John's College, Cambridge, there is hanging a board about 2 ft. by 18 in., inscribed on the outer case: "Achievement of Raven of Elworth Hall, Sand-

bach, co. Chester, *c.* 1660. A gift to the Library . . . from Thomas Plant." The shield of arms itself is about nine inches high and is surmounted by an esquire's helmet and crest, with mantling. There are twelve quarters thus:

1. Or, a raven proper standing on a ball gules [Raven].
2. Ermine, on a chief az. a demi-lion issuant or, armed and langued gules [? Bromborough].
3. Azure, 2 bars arg.; over all a bend gu. [Legh of Booths].
4. Or, a lion rampant gu., armed and langued sa. [Legh of Swinehead].
5. Per pale arg. and sa. 3 boars passant in pale counterchanged, armed or, langued gu. [Swinehead].
6. Sable, 3 lozenges or [Baguley].
7. Argent, a fess dancetté gu. [Cheadle].
8. Sable, a chevron between 3 crowns or [Corona].
9. Sable, a fess gu. between 3 garbs or [Sandbach].
10. Gules, 3 cross-crosslets fitchee and a chief or [Ardern].
11. Argent, a chevron sa. between 3 stags' heads cabossed gu.; on the chevron a crescent gu. for difference [Parker].
12. Same as 1.

Crest: On a wreath or and sa. a raven proper, standing on a ball gu. Mantling arg. and gu.

These particulars are taken from a written description inserted in the case and signed Ralph Griffin, 12 May, 1921.