

## LANCASHIRE AND CHESHIRE BRIEFS IN A RUTLAND PARISH.

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THE Registers of the Parish Church of Hambleton, in Rutland, begin in 1558, the first volume containing entries of baptisms, marriages, and burials down to 1653. The second volume comprises all entries from 1654 to 1715, and the third from 1716 to 1749. The second and third volumes include also a Register of Briefs from 1707 to 1748, conformable to the Act of 1705 (4 Anne c. 14) "for the better collecting charity money on Briefs by Letters Patent and preventing abuses in relation to such charities," whereby it was enacted, amongst other things, that from 25 March, 1706, all copies of briefs should be printed by the Queen's printers and all the returned briefs were to be deposited with the Registrar of the Court of Chancery.<sup>1</sup>

At Hambleton the register of Briefs received and collected was very methodically kept, and from the large number received I have been permitted, by the kindness of the late Vicar, the Rev. A. D. Phillips, B.D.,<sup>2</sup> to calendar such as relate to Lancashire and Cheshire. A note at the end of the second volume of the Registers sets out that "By the Act for the better Collecting Charity Money on Briefs by Letters Patent," etc., it is required (1) that Churchwardens immediately upon

<sup>1</sup> For the general subject of Briefs, see C. Walford, *Kings' Briefs*, 1882 (reprinted from *Trans. Royal Historical Soc.*, x, 1; W. A. Bewes, *Church Briefs*, 1896; and Sir H. L. Maxwell-Lyte, *The Great Seal*, 1926, pp. 277-80.

<sup>2</sup> He died 18 August, 1932.

receipt of the printed Brief are to endorse the time of arrival and forthwith to deliver the same to the Minister, who shall also endorse the time and set their names on ; (2) within two months after receipt the brief to be read ; (3) the blank being filled with the sum collected and time when and place where, etc., to be returned to the undertakers, taking a Receipt, etc., Penalty £20 ; (4) to keep a Register of all the Money collected to which all persons may resort.

No separate book was kept for this purpose, the briefs being recorded, as already stated, in the Parish Register. Usually the dates of reception and collection are given, but in one case (Lancashire) the second date is that of the return (not collection) of the brief, and in another (Cheshire) the date of collection only is given. The average amounts collected is 2s. 8d. for Lancashire and 2s. 7d. for Cheshire, which does great credit to the generosity of the Hambleton people.<sup>1</sup>

#### LANCASHIRE.

There are twenty-five Lancashire briefs, ranging in date from 1707 to 1748. Of these, six are for the rebuilding or repair of parish churches, twelve for parochial chapels, five for loss by fire, and two for loss by inundation. The brief issued in 1722 in respect to damage sustained by an irruption of the sea in December, 1720, is printed in full in Walford's *Kings' Briefs*, p. 44.<sup>2</sup> On this brief 9s.

<sup>1</sup> At East Budleigh, Devon, on eighty Lancashire briefs received between 1722 and 1826, the total amount collected was 20s., an average of 3d. But in thirty-six cases nothing was given. The highest amount was 1s. 7½d. : Brushfield, *Devonshire Briefs* (1895).

<sup>2</sup> It cites a petition of Edmund Ball, Oliver Rymer and Lawrence Abraham on behalf of themselves and about 400 other inhabitants of North Meols, Heskah-cum-Becconsale, Tarleton, Martin Mere, Pilling, Lytham, Warton, Westby-cum-Poulton, Cockerham, and Ince Blundell, most of whom had lost everything necessary for their subsistence. About 157 houses had been washed away, and 200 more were damaged. The sea overflowed more than 6,600 acres of land. See also Nicholas, *Blundell's Diary*, p. 188 (June 20, 1722).

was collected, the next highest amount being 4s. 6d. The lowest is 1s.

Year.	Place and Object.	Charge.	When Received.	When Collected.	Amount Collected.
1707	SHIRE, Lanc. Loss by Fire	Not stated	April 22	June 1	2s. 7d.
1716 <sup>1</sup>	LIVERPOOL. Loss by Fire	£3,005	Jany. 15	April 11	4s. 6d.
1722	INUNDATION in Coun. Palat. Lancaster	£10,227	April 27	April 29	9s. 0d.
1722	UPPER DARWEN. Chapel	£1,032	Sept. 13	Sept. 16	2s. 8d.
1725	ORMSKIRK. Church	£1,856	Nov. 17	Nov. 28	2s. 9d.
1727	WEST HOUGHTON. Chapel	£1,455	Mar. 28	April 9	3s. 1d.
1731	WYRESDALE. Chapel	£1,245	Aug. 25	Sept. 5	2s. 5d.
1732	WOODPLUMPTON. Loss by Fire	£1,053	Jany. 9	Feby. 4	3s. 10d.
1733-4	RUFFORD. Chapel	£1,165	Jany. 2	Jany. 20 <sup>2</sup>	2s. 11d.
1734	NORTH MEELS. Church	£1,292	April 20	April 28	2s. 9d.
1734	GRESSINGHAM. Chapel	£1,110	Aug. 20	Sept. 8	2s. 1d.
1734-5	POULTON, &c. Loss by Fire	£1,032	Jany. 15	Jany. 26	2s. 10d.
1735	PREESE. Loss by Fire	£1,379	July 2	July 13	3s. 1d.
1735	SHAW. Chapel	£1,111	Aug. 2	Aug. 10	1s. 11d.
1736	PENDLE. Chapel	£1,268	Dec. 7	Dec. 12	2s. 1d.
1740-1	HEAPEY. Chapel	£1,084	Jany. 1	Jany. 25	1s. 2d.
1742	CULCHETH. Chapel	£1,252	Aug. 20	Sept. 19	2s. 6d.
1742	ALTCARR. Chapel	£1,585	Nov. 12	Nov. 21	1s. 6d.
1742-3	FORMBY. Chapel	£1,154	Jany. 1	Jany. 16	1s. 11d.
1743-4	CROSTON. Church	£1,824	Jany. 1	Jany. 8	1s. 6d.
1746	GARSTANG. Church <sup>3</sup>	£1,910	Aug. 12	Aug. 17	1s. 6d.
1746-7	POULTON. Church	£1,047	Feby. 7	Mar. 22	1s. 6d.
1746	FLIXTON. Church	£1,108	Oct. 7	Oct. 26	1s. 0d.
1747	HEATON-C.-OXCLIFFE. <sup>4</sup> Loss by inundation	£5,312	Aug. 1	Aug. 9	4s. 3d.
1748	WOODPLUMPTON. Chapel	£1,246	Aug. 5	Aug. 14	1s. 4d.

<sup>1</sup> This brief was received at Drayton Beauchamp, Bucks, on Dec. 4, 1715. The date is therefore apparently 1715-16, it being collected in April 1716.

<sup>2</sup> Returned.

<sup>3</sup> In 1746 the River Wyre overflowed the churchyard and did much injury to the church. It was at first thought necessary to take down the building, but this was not done.

<sup>4</sup> An estuary of the Lune.

## CHESHIRE.

The Cheshire Briefs are eighteen in number, and range from 1710 to 1745. Of these, fourteen are for rebuilding or repairing parish churches, three are for loss by fire, and one for loss by hailstorm. The highest amount collected is 4s., and the lowest 1s. 6d.

Year.	Place and Object.	Charge.	When Received.	When Collected.	Amount Collected.
1710	ASHTON-SUPER-MERSEY. Parish Church	£2,710	April 23	July 30	4s. od.
1714	CHESTER. St. Peter's Church	£1,590	Not stated	June 26	4s. od.
1719	CHESTER. St. John Baptist Church	£1,269	Jan'y. 17	Feby. 14	3s. od.
1720	BURTON. Church . .	£1,548	Feby. 5	Mar. 9	2s. 8d.
1724	FRODSHAM. Church .	£1,108	July 26	Aug. 23	2s. 9d.
1726-7	BACKFORD. Church .	£1,532	Jan'y. 29	Feby. 5	2s. 10d.
1728	CHESTER. Trinity Church	£2,658	July 12	July 28	2s. 2d.
1728	WHITEGATE. Church .	£1,214	Sept. 12	Sept. 22	2s. 3d.
1729	WHEELOCK, and Hornsey (Middlesex). Loss by Fire	£1,205	Dec. 5	Jan'y. 11 1729-30	2s. 8d.
1733	CHRISTLETON. Church	£1,140	Oct. 8	Oct. 14	2s. 4d.
1736	MOBBERLEY, &c. Loss by Storm of Hail	£1,905	May 9	May 30	3s. 6d.
1738	MARTHALL, &c. Loss by Fire	£1,063	June 10	June 25	3s. 2d.
1738	KELSHAL, <sup>1</sup> &c. Loss by Fire	£1,191	Dec. 20	Dec. 31	3s. 3d.
1739	MACCLESFIELD. Church	£1,197	Feby. 10	Mar. 9	1s. 10d.
1740	CONGLETON. Church .	£2,120	Mar. 1	Mar. 22	1s. 8d.
1744	ROSTHERN. Church .	£1,102	April 20	April 22	1s. 6d.
1744	BARROW. Church . .	£2,011	Feby. 10	Feby. 24	1s. 6d.
1745	NETHER KNUTFORD. <sup>2</sup> Church	£2,780	Aug. 2	Aug. 11	1s. 6d.

Hambleton, or Hambledon, is about three miles east-south-east of Oakham. The population of the parish in 1921 was 224.

<sup>1</sup> Kelsall.<sup>2</sup> Knutsford.