

## STRAY NOTES.

“PILFOUT.”—In the Bodleian Library (Ashmole 1352) is a small pocket atlas consisting of twelve leaves of parchment on four of which are four little maps, two being of the coasts of France, one of the coast of England with part of Scotland, and one of the coast of Ireland. On the other leaves there are a table of movable feasts for 1451 to 1478, a calendar, etc. Internal evidence shows that this little atlas was compiled in 1450, and as it is entirely printed from wood blocks, and not from type, there seems to be no good reason for thinking that it was not printed and published at that time.

The volume is fully described by Mr. I. G. Philip in *Antiquity* for December, 1937, pp. 486-9, with further notes in the issue for June, 1938, pp. 219-34. Mr. Philip inclines to ascribe the printing and publication of the volume to the early part of the sixteenth century. The coast-map of England and part of Scotland is reproduced in the lower half of the plate facing p. 489 of the December issue, and in order to be understood must be turned upside-down. “Chestre” appears, then “Lerpoull” (Liverpool), followed by “Pilfout,” “Quicoitbit” (Kirkcudbright) and other names in Scotland.<sup>1</sup>

The identification of “Pilfout” baffled Mr. Philip, but, as others have also pointed out, it seems clearly to indicate the well-known harbour of Peel of Foudray, which lies behind Walney Island, near Barrow-in-Furness. Saxton in his map of Lancashire (1577) terms it “The Pyle of Foudray.” In G. Collins’s *Coasting Pilot*, Part 1 (1693), p. 16, we read: “*Pillafoodra* is a place where good ships may go in, but the going in being dangerous to those that are not acquainted, I leave those that have occasion to go there to take a Pilot, which they may have at Liverpool. This place lyeth out

<sup>1</sup> There is another copy of this little atlas in the British Museum. See vol. 31 of these *Transactions* (1879), facing p. 92, where the coast-maps of England (with part of Scotland) and of Ireland are finely reproduced in the original colours. The coast-map of England (with part of Scotland) shows more at the top than the Bodleian copy does, no doubt through the block having been better applied to the parchment.

of the way of trade, and so is but little frequented, and not as yet surveyed by me." In Collins's map or chart No. 29 this harbour is called "Pile of Foudry."

"Peel," now usually misspelt "Piel," has reference to the castle on an island at the entrance to the harbour. There is a full account of the castle in the *Victoria County History of Lancashire*, vol. 8, pp. 309-11, and a map showing the harbour on p. 305. Professor Ekwall somewhat tentatively explains "Foudray" by an Old Norse word meaning the human fundament, the island being of a rounded shape, with a pronounced cleft in it (see his *Place-Names of Lancashire* (1922), p. 201, and his *Concise Oxford Dictionary of English Place-Names* (1936), pp. 181-2); but the present writer would suggest that "Foudray" may possibly have reference to the Old Norse law once prevailing in the western islands of Scotland (until 1748) under which a local judge was called a "foud" and his jurisdiction a "foudrie," as explained in the glossary at the end of Peterkin's *Orkney Rentals* (1820).

ROBERT GLADSTONE.

ANCIENT PRESCOT FONT.—The ancient font of Prescott Parish Church was returned in 1936 after a long absence. It had been displaced in 1755 by the elegant marble tazza bowl presented by Daniel Willis of Halsnead. Transferred to Roby on the erection of St. Bartholomew's Church in 1850, it remained in use there until the rebuilding of that church, and the installation of a new font, in 1875. Subsequently it lay in Roby Churchyard, where it was examined by Dr. J. W. Ellis and described by him in a paper entitled "The Mediæval Fonts of the Hundreds of West Derby and Wirral," published in these *Transactions*, vol. 53, 1901. Dr. Ellis regarded it as of twelfth-century date. It was later taken into the church and placed beneath the tower. On several occasions, from 1891 onward, proposals had been made for its restoration to Prescott, and the work has now been carried out as a memorial to Canon H. Mitchell, Vicar of Prescott 1886-1919. It has been provided with a new base, a feature which it previously lacked.

F. A. BAILEY.

BANASTRE TARLETON, CRICKETER.—The following items appeared in the London press during the summer of 1784 :

“ Sat., May 22nd, a great Cricket Match was played near White Conduit House by the Cricket Club of Noblemen and Gentlemen at Willis’s. The Prince of Wales and a great number of Nobility and foreigners of distinction were present. Lord Winchilsea the best bat, Col. Tarleton the best bowler.” (*General Evening Post*, 25 May.)

“ May 27th, a Grand Cricket Match was played on White Conduit Fields. Amongst those present was . . . Col. Tarleton . . . A pavilion was erected for refreshments, and a number of ladies attended.” (*Morning Chronicle*, 29 May.)

“ Tues., July 20th, was played in Islington Field a match of Cricket between Col. Tarleton and Capt. Monson, which was determined in favour of the latter.” (*General Evening Post*, 22 July.)

This “ Col. Tarleton ” was undoubtedly Colonel Banastre Tarleton (later General Sir Banastre Tarleton, Bt.) of Liverpool. He is known to have been an intimate friend of the Prince of Wales (afterwards George IV), who was present at the match of 22 May. Furthermore, Wisden’s *Cricketers’ Almanack* records that “ Gen. Sir Banastre Tarleton, Bart. (1754–1833) ” played for Brighton.

Tarleton’s military and political careers are recorded at length in *D.N.B.* and the various local histories, but now he is found to possess another—perhaps a greater—claim to fame. He was the first Liverpool man, and one of the first Lancastrians, to make his name in first-class cricket !

S. A. HARRIS.

“ BERGERODE.”—The meaning of this word, which appears on Saxton’s Map of Lancashire (1577) and on later maps, alongside the estuary of the River Wyre, has puzzled many. Professor Ekwall, in his *Place-Names of Lancashire* (1922), p. 264, assumes it to be the name of the Fleetwood peninsula, and offers no explanation. The word, however, clearly applies to the estuary itself, and is a compound of *berge* (i.e. barge) and *rode* (i.e. road). The “ barge ” of early times was a small sea-going sailing vessel, next in size above the “ balinger,” as shown by a reference of 1422 to “ our grete

shippes, carrakes, barges and balyngers" (*vide* Oxford Dictionary). The word was also used more generally to describe any small ship, and in this sense has been superseded by "bark." A "road" (or roadstead) is defined as "a sheltered piece of water near the shore where vessels may lie at anchor in safety." The aptness of the name *Bergerode*, in this sense, applied to the Wyre estuary, is borne out by the description of it in Baines's *Directory of Lancashire*, vol. 2 (1825), p. 463, as a place which "it is understood may be entered by vessels in stormy weather when neither the Lune nor the Ribble can be reached with safety," and in Clarke's *New Lancashire Gazetteer* (1830), p. 188, as "a secure harbour for vessels of moderate burden." As both these works point out, the Wyre was proverbial for the safety of its navigation, there being a local adage, "as safe as Wyre."

F. A. BAILEY.

THE HESKETH DEEDS AT RUFFORD OLD HALL.—These deeds, which were deposited in Rufford Old Hall on the occasion of its being presented to the National Trust by Lord Hesketh on 25 July, 1936, were examined by Professor J. A. Twemlow, the Rev. F. O. Blundell and the late Mr. F. H. Cheetham. The following is a summary of the account given before this Society on 29 October, 1936.<sup>1</sup>

The documents are sixty-three in number and fall into two main groups. The first group consists of twenty-six deeds mounted on sixteen large sheets of stout paper, which were examined (and abstracts made) some twenty-five years ago by the late Dr. W. Farrer and the late Rev. W. G. Procter, Rector of Rufford. No less than seventeen of these are connected with Cockersand Abbey, but only two are dated. Nine appear from internal evidence to be of early thirteenth-century date, and six are without indication of their precise period. Of the other nine, two are undated, but may be as early as the end of the twelfth century; the others are of the reigns of Edward II, Edward III and later sovereigns.

<sup>1</sup> What follows is abstracted from the article by the late Mr. F. H. Cheetham in the *Southport Visiter* of 3 Nov., 1936, in accordance with Mr. Cheetham's own suggestion (ED.).

The other group consists of thirty-six deeds in numbered envelopes, ranging in dates from 1310 to 1639, but by far the greater number of them belonging to the reign of Henry VII. They all, of course, relate in one form or another to the Hesketh family of Rufford. They were all examined by Dr. Farrer, and many were made use of by him in the *Victoria History of Lancashire* and elsewhere, but he left no abstracts of them and his references, mostly in footnotes, are often very brief. Many of these—and some of the first group—were transcribed more than two centuries ago by Christopher Towneley, whose transcripts (in the British Museum and elsewhere) are not infrequently used by antiquaries, though few have been printed either in full or in abstract, and the location of the originals is not generally known. More than half of them relate to transactions in land, principally in Croston, Mawdesley, Rufford, Tarleton, Great Harwood, Hutton, Howick, Longton, Bretherton, Shevington and Wrightington.

Among the more interesting documents in the second group is a deed of 15 May 1429, describing at some length, in French, an act of homage by John Nowell, on Billinge Hill near Blackburn, to Thomas de Hesketh, for lands held by knight-service in Great Harwood, in the presence of the High Sheriff of Lancashire and “a great muster of all men in the wapentake of Blackburnshire.” Two deeds relate to the deposition of title-deeds in monasteries for safe-keeping. The first, dated 8 February, 1499/1500, records that Thomas Hesketh and William Styrkeland delivered a certain deed to the Prior and Convent of the Monastery of St. Thomas at Upholland. The other, dated in December, 1522, witnesses to the depositing of a number of deeds by Thomas Hesketh with the Abbot of the Monastery of Our Lady at Whalley.

In addition, there is one document belonging to neither group, but placed by itself in a separate covering. This is a confirmation by Queen Elizabeth in 1573, at the request of Sir Thomas Hesketh, of a grant by Edward III to William de Hesketh, in 1339, of a weekly Friday market and a yearly fair on 1 May in his manor of Rufford. It bears a fragment of the Queen's great seal.

