

~ ECCLESTON PARK, NEAR PRESCOT—FORMERLY  
PITMAN'S FARM.

THAT portion of Eccleston now known as Eccleston Park owes its name to Mr. Francis Peek and Mr. William Richard Winch, who were both Merchants of Fenchurch Street, London. Mr. Peek in 1890 was described as a Tea Merchant. They purchased this land in 1872 with a view to a joint building speculation. This estate at that date was known as *Pitman's Farm* and consisted of "all that messuage or farmhouse and farm called " 'Pitman's Farm,' with the appurtenances and the several " 'closes' or parcels of land belonging thereto situate . . . at " Eccleston in the Parish of Prescott in the County of Lancaster, " containing together forty-five acres, two roods and seventeen " and a half perches. . . ." It is to be regretted that Messrs. Peek and Winch changed the old name of Pitman's Farm to that of Eccleston Park Estate. This estate was later purchased by James Crooks, Esq., J.P. (later Sir James) of Eccleston Park, and nearly all of the land has since been sold or leased for building purposes. What remains is now in the possession of his son, Capt. Frederic Crooks, J.P., F.S.A., of Huyton.

Pitman's Farm up to 1805 belonged to the Eccleston family. It was sold in 1805 by Thomas Eccleston Esq., of Scarisbrick, and his Mortgagee, to James Wareing of Prescott, Gentleman. An Indenture made the 26th Sept., 1805 names "all that messuage " and Tenement with the appurtenances commonly called or " known by the name of Pitman's Farm with the outbuildings, " garden and several closes or parcels of land thereto belonging " situate . . . in Eccleston in the said County of Lancaster and " commonly called or known by the several names of the Crofts, " the Black Croft, the Three Acre, the Oven Croft, the Crabtree " Croft, the Barn Hey, the Stable Meadow, the Workhouse Hey, " and the Long Meadow—containing together in the whole by " estimation nineteen acres and a half of Land of the large " measure there used or thereabouts be the same more or less, " and late in the possession or occupation of Mr. John Chorley " as tenant thereof. . . ."

The reason why Messrs. Peek and Winch changed the old name of Pitman's Farm to that of the Eccleston Park Estate is not known.

A settlement of the *true* "Manor and *Park of Eccleston*" was made in 1686 (V.C.H. Lancs. iii, p. 365 n.). In the Eccleston family deeds of the eighteenth century there are references to "the Capital Messuage called the Hall of Eccleston and Park called Eccleston Park." An extent and rental of the estates of John de Eccleston made in 1373 are preserved at Scarisbrick. The former gives a number of field names and mentions "a certain hey called the Park, which contains six acres" (V. C. H. Lancs., iii, p. 363 n.).

F. C.