

TRANSACTIONS.

MORE STREET, NOW MOOR STREET, LIVERPOOL; ITS ORIGIN AND EARLY ASSOCIATIONS.

By Henry Ecroyd Smith.

(READ 12TH DECEMBER, 1872.)

ALTHOUGH now occupying a very inferior position, the thoroughfare lying immediately to the northward of, and parallel with, James Street, possesses a history in connexion with the early progress and development of this great *municipium*, by no means inferior in interest to any within its extensive borders.

Having vainly endeavoured to discover in our own Transactions or elsewhere, any connected account of this locality, though the Society owns, in the oil painting before us, an excellent illustration of its appearance at the commencement of the present century,—the following notices of its story, compiled from various sources, are submitted by the writer.

To prevent misapprehension, it is advisable to premise, that our Moor Street was not the first to bear this designation,—Tithebarn Street having previously been so called. It has been supposed, but we think erroneously, that the latter thoroughfare, in common with the Moorfields to the south, derived its name from the *moorland* from which it had been reclaimed. Both were probably called after the great land-owning family of this neighbourhood, that of Moore or More,

Moor being simply a corruption. The name, as applied to Tithebarn Street, probably dates from the early settlement here of this family, (in or before the 12th century), whose mansion, More or Moore Hall—known as “The Old Hall” after the erection of Bank Hall, Kirkdale—stood upon the site of the present “Briscoe’s Buildings,” on the west side of Old Hall Street (nearly following the line of Old Milne Street), its extensive gardens, under the name of “Parlor Heay,” stretching downward to the river beach, and bounded upon the north by the Town Field.* After the erection of Bank Hall (cir. 1280) the now “Old Hall” was retained as a jointure house for the family dōwager.

“The first mention of Tithebarn Street as Moor Street is in a deed, dated the day of St. Gregory the Pope, 12th March, 1304, wherein we find that Adam, son of Ranulf of Letherpull, gives to Richard of Mapelduram two bovates of land, lying in the field which is called Dale field, near the Royal road (*id est*, the King’s highway) and the lands of Robert le Mercer; and there is also an assignment in the same deed of a burgage which lies in the tenement of John de Mora.”†

A Sir John de la More resided at More Hall, 20 Henry III, 1235; and the historian of the lives of Edward I and III, Sir William de la More, was made Knight Banneret by Edward the Black Prince on the field of Poitiers.

Upon the occasion of the very earliest ordinary meeting of this Society (18th October, 1848) the Treasurer, Mr. Thomas Avison, produced a deed dated 1636, relative to some property in Tithebarn Street, but under the name of *Moor* Street, which latter designation it seems shortly afterwards to have lost in favour of its present one.

* *Stonehouse’s Streets of Liverpool*, p. 21, *vide* Okill’s conjectural plan of the town in 1650, published in *Kaye’s Stranger in Liverpool*, and forming the frontispiece to *The Moore Rental, Chetham Society’s Papers*, Vol. XII, 1847.

† *Herdman’s Ancient Liverpool*, first series, p. 18.

There is no room for question as to the origin or *christening* of the second More Street,* inasmuch as *The Moor Rental*, edited for the Chetham Society of Manchester, by Thomas Heywood, F.S.A., amply testifies to its being laid out and long retained as a *private* street, by its owner, Sir Edward Moore of Bank Hall, eldest son to Colonel John Moore, of revolutionary notoriety, and a signatory to the death-warrant of Charles I.†

Sir Edward Moore was a Justice of the Peace and an owner of considerable property in the township, but failing to secure any great amount of respect from his neighbours, he attained no higher local honours that we are aware of.

His exclusion from the parliamentary and mayoral seats generated no small bitterness of spirit, lamentably evinced throughout the *Rental*, which he compiled ostensibly for the benefit and governance of his eldest son and expectant heir, William, who however died a minor. Inheriting a narrowness of mind, and numberless prejudices utterly unbecoming his family and position in society, he apparently could discern nothing in life but through the sordid medium of self and family aggrandisement; and the coarse invectives we find so frequently indulged in, *ad nauseam*, against all who opposed his personal and often grinding schemes, are only relieved by an amusing absurdity and quaint diction. Although dating from Bank Hall, St. Matthew's Day, 24th February, 1667, the greater portion of the volume is supposed to have been written in this and the *following year*. Regarding More Street, this rent roll, for such it virtually is, gives elaborated particulars of the holdings of twenty-two tenants, whose characters are painted with no delicate hand; but the selec-

* More or Moor Street; the former mode obtained with its founder, and it is still thus spelt in the earliest Liverpool Directory, published by Gore, for and in the year, 1766.

† The original MS. volume, then in the possession of Thomas Moore, Esq., was exhibited at a meeting of our Society, 5th Feb., 1857, by Mr. P. R. McQuie.

tions from this volume, now very scarce, have been made with sole reference to their illustrating the growth of the street and its condition at this period. The greater part of the Moore leases, for generations back, would seem to have been framed with a stipulation that the tenants should grind their corn at one of the Moore mills, and also with minor conditions, occasionally shirked, or, let us charitably suppose, unperformed with through *obliviousness*.

Before proceeding to the More Street roll, we find some incidental notices of it under other headings, viz. :—

Old Hall Street.—Make your leases according to my new leases in Moore Street, without boons, otherwise they will not build. Be careful of the clause, to grind at your mill; it is a great thing to your estate, and see your tenants observe it well. Take this notice from me—what you expect your tenants should do, let them be well bound to in their leases, otherwise riches and pride is so predominant over them in this town, together with a perfect antipathy they have against all gentlemen—much more your family, in regard they know your interest is always able to curb them. I know this by experience, that they are the most perfidious knaves to their landlords in all England; therefore, I charge you, never to trust them.

Water Street.—Young, Anne. She is dead, and her grandchild enjoys this house, whose father, by name Baly March,* is a notorious knave, and her husband, one Rob. Prenton, as bad. Both of them hath been against me in all elections, and this in particular hath several times abused me by bad language, behind my back, and said I was the worst landlord in England, as I proved to his face in Mr. Tho. Birch's house, near More Street end.

Owen, Mrs. Baly Owen's wife. She hath, besides this house, two houses more, one in the Chapel Street and the other in More Street. You must never expect anything to the value of a farthing from her, but what is for her own ends.

Castle Street.—Busbell, William, Mr. * * * Remember the west end of the backside belonging to this house in the Castle

* "Baly," a familiar contraction of *Bailiff*, a position answering to Town Councillor of the present day.

Street reaches to the Fenwick Street, near the bridge,* upon which Mr. Bushell is to build a good house of stone, answerable to the length, for height and other things, as doors, boarded floors, windows and slates, *sample to his own house, near the post and chains, in the More Street*, wherein now Capt. Nixon doth dwell.

Pool Lane.—Memorandum. First, if possible, to buy Baly Blundell's and the field betwixt it and the More Street; it belongs to Mr. Tarrelton's (of Aigburth) heirs. If you have it, you might pull down your house Mr. Alcocke built me on the Castle Hill, and there have a brave coming of the street end out towards the Castle; and you might pull down at the west end of Thomas Norbury's in the More Street, and so make a most convenient passage from thence into the More Street. This field is most convenient for you of any man in England, in regard of your land lying about it as it doth.

More Street.—*Imprimis.* Have for ever in mind that the ground whereon this street and houses now stands was a small close of ground, called the *Castle Street field*, which said field I and my ancestors have for many hundreds of years enjoyed. And have in mind that every inch, from the waterside to the post and chains, is my land. Have in mind that the passage through the said field, from the post and chains to the waterside, being in some places fifteen feet broad and in some places eighteen feet, which I now call the *More Street*, is none of the King's highway, but only for the benefit of me and my tenants, and their assigns; and as to all other people, it is only a passage of sufferance; and to that intent I was at that great charge for setting posts, and ribbing them all with iron, and fixing there two great iron chains, the which I usually on all occasions keep locked, thereby to keep the soil and passage absolutely in me and my heirs, that none shall go there without license. The great reason that caused me to be thus wary was—Capt. Fazakerley of the Castle, finding he had so convenient a way to the waterside, in one year had many hundreds of loads of coals brought to the Castle. But when I understood his design was to make a way for the Castle down my street, I

* This "dry bridge" spanned the "spinning place," and formed a part of the north end of Fenwick Street, at the junction of Bridge Alley. The level of the "spinning place" was that of the present "Old Ropery."

forthwith caused the post and chains erected, and made him glad to carry the coals through the Pool Lane to the ships, for the town made an order he should not carry them through the Water Street, to break all the pavements there; and since that he never had any coals in the Castle. Have in mind likewise that these chains and post usually upon Sundays and holidays and rain weather, *keeping them locked*, reserves the interest in those streets, solely and entire, to you and your heirs; so that a hundred years hence, if you please, you may make gates, or what other use you please, as usually you do your own enclosed land, and to hinder all but whom you please for going thereaways. I do intend to have an entail of my estate; and amongst other things, as mill dams and the like, *I will have the street put in*, that it is my land, and free to none but whom I please, or my assigns, to go thereaway. The reason why I am so strict is two, the first that carts may not always break the streets to the great charge of my tenants; but those that carts, make them pay something yearly towards paving them, as many places in England doth; nay, this very town of Liverpool, by a late order, makes all country carts pay twopence a load towards the pavement of the streets; and if they can make such an order of the King's highway, I hope I may either make such carts who comes thereaway pay, or make them go some other way. You may order those that lives near the posts to keep the keys and likewise to receive the money. Have in mind that I was at the charges of above twenty pounds for spademen, besides at least a hundred days, two carts a day of my tenants for carrying the rubbish away. I was glad the first time to cut at least eight feet perpendicular in the rock at the west end, and so for that height and sixteen feet broad, to drive it many yards before the workmen. And since that, I began upon the 15th day of October, 1688, with three carts and four fillers a day, to cleanse the street again, and they were sixteen days together, to my great cost. And notwithstanding all this, Mr. William Bushell, who is a good ingenious man, affirms to me I must be at the charge yet of taking the street down above half a yard from one end of the street to the other, and most of all that in the growing rock, which will cost at least twenty pounds more to stone-getters, besides my tenants' carts to carry it away. And have in mind.

after all, it is at mine and my tenants' charge to pave it and so to maintain it; and all the streets in the town but mine are at this day paved out of the town's box. Have in mind that from the water side, at the west end of the More Street, to the post and chains at the north end of Fenwick Street that goes into the Water Street, and from thence to the post and chains at the east end of Fenwick Alley that goes into the Castle Street, and from thence to the east end of Bridge's Alley, is all within my own liberty, and no man hath one foot within me. The second reason why I am so strict is, I find in whatsoever lies within the town's liberty, they are a thousand times more strict than any gentleman; and forthwith a jury of hot and simple fellows fines you daily and hourly either for some encroachment, the streets being dirty or not paved, and a hundred odd simple things more than I can here relate. But keeping your own interest, as before expressed, you need not fear their fines or amercements. There is no civility or favour to be had from a multitude. Let my sad experience forewarn you never to trust them; for, if you do, I dare pawn my life they deceive you. Read Alderman Andow's character, and some others I have set down, and then seriously consider of it. I have most of what I have here written concerning the street already under the town seal, and Mr. Michael Tarlton's hand to it, when he was deputy Mayor for the Earl of Derby. But if God permit that I ever be Mayor, or if I be not, if you ever be, I charge you to have a discreet paper drawn up; show how far to those post and chains my liberties reaches, and how it is all my land, and how I was at charges of all, and how I and my heirs may lock it up, and a great deal more to that purpose, and how the town hath nothing there to do; *vide* the paper Mr. Tarlton hath already set his hand and seal to—that will instruct you something—and read this direction well over. Such a thing drawn and set by order in the town's book, and you to have a copy of it under the seal of the town, will for ever, with God Almighty's blessing, keep a right understanding betwixt you and the town, the which God grant may long continue.

Spinning Place.—Bushell, William. This place now pays me no rent. It is worth forty pounds a year, if he slate it all over, as is intended. Whenever it fails, *vide* the Castle Street, Mr.

Will. Bushell's house there; for this being in lease with this Castle Street house, I have set the full directions there, both of the Spinning Place and the house next above, which Mr. Birch now lives. Remember that Mr. Bushell hath no way into this place, in rigour, but through a cross lane which should have been at the west end of Thomas Gallaw's house, and this he hath now inclosed to the backside of that house of his, which now Mr. Clayton lives in. Remember I permit him a way at present by the *bridge* out of courtesy, that I may have a way thereaway to the back cellar door of Fenwick hall.

Bushell, William, Bailiff. For the house, Mr. Clayton's (next the water.) He built this house, and sets it now for sixteen pounds per annum; but I know one, when this lease is expired, which is to Mr. Clayton for five years, will give him twenty pounds per annum. He only pays me two shillings old rent for it. Whenever it falls, let the old rent be raised to three pounds a year at least. Remember here is a place at the west end to erect a goodly house on, it being as good a place as is in the town to build a house on; besides it will set forth the street very much, in filling that vacancy. You may have forty to build thereon, it is so convenient; and reserve one pound a year old rent. The fine of this house will be worth a hundred and fifty pounds, and three pounds yearly old rent at least. Remember he had three lives in the field this house stands on, and I was glad to give him twenty-one years after, to give me the *remainder of the close upon which I have now built this street*. He pays one rent-hen* at Christmas in this lease; he hath in lease but thirty-three yards and four inches, beginning to measure from the waterside wall. Remember, in this lease is the cross lane named, to lie open, that is, measure from the stone wall west forty-three yards and four inches, and at the end of that there must be a cross land, which now Mr. Bushell hath enclosed with his backside of this house. Remember, if it lay open, it would be very advan-

* *Rent-hen*. Under the designation of *Cain*, the custom of paying in kind is still extant in certain Baronies of Scotland. "Cain fowls are sometimes called *Reek* ones—payable from every house that reeked;" that is, every house in which a fire was sustained.—*Lectures on Scotch Legal Antiquities*, by Cosmo Innes, Edinburgh, 1871. The *hened penny* was a royalty to the Lord of the Manor for land prepared for the cultivation, or for a quantity of, hemp. *Haened* means *henep*, another name for this imposition.

tageous, for these following reasons—first, Mr. Gallaway would build a hundred or two pounds more in his yard for warehouses, and little houses for his own seamen; secondly, it would make a brave way into the spinning place, that as the houses fall out of lease to you, I am confident you might have building in all their back sides fronting to the said spinning-place, and then, before your intentions are known, for under two hundred pounds may you buy one half of each of those crofts, which build all along upon the north side of the spinning-place, and so make the place, which now they spin in, *the street*. This with two hundred pounds may be compassed, and then you may have a street there worth many thousands of pounds. But remember you let the way by the bridge lie to the spinning-place too; if it should be a street it would make it far more convenient. But if ever you think to do this, trust nobody but yourself, and then you may most easily bring it to pass. Remember, that if ever any difference should happen concerning any of these houses in this lease of Mr. Bushell's, he has the original articles for the selling out of the whole street: *vide* them in this lease.

Galloway, Thomas, owner, the troublesomest fellow I ever met with. It's true he hath built a very excellent good house, and hath been built this three years, and hath no lease of it. The reason is, I promised to let him have three lives in it as he should name, and nothing will serve him but he will have my two eldest sons' lives; so I refuse it. I am resolved, if it cost me a hundred pounds in suit, not to grant it; and if by the law he can force me to it, then I am resolved to grant a lease of reversion of twenty-one years to my second son's children, if he have any, if not, to my third; so that he shall never enjoy it after their lease is expired. This fellow's wrangling already hath done me more harm than ever he is able to make me satisfaction. His base tongue, when in truth I never did him wrong, hath hindered me several houses building, and taken my good name away what in him lay. If it lie in your power, read this to him; and remember you make him pay three pounds old rent yearly, and a hundred pounds fine at least, or else never let him have it; this will encourage good tenants, and make such knaves as him afraid how they abuse their landlords, that never did them the least injury.

Gardiner, William, bailiff, a very honest man. He paid no fine, only built the house: it is a very good house. Let the old rent be raised to forty shillings per annum and the fine to sixty pounds. Remember, to this house I found him one gable end, which cost me six pounds.

Wainwright, Thomas, a very honest man. He paid no fine, only built the house. Let the old rent be raised to two pounds, and fifty pounds fine at least; for I gave him twelve pounds in building the gable ends, so that the rent will not come to near the use of my money.

Pemberton, John, the apothecary,* a base ill-contrived fellow. This man wronged this street five hundred pounds, for he, being the first house on that side going up, all the rest of the street engaged to build uniform with him, so that, had he built four stories, all the street had been so, and the houses towards the lower end of the street had been six stories high, to have made them *level with his of four stories*, in regard to the fall of the ground. I used all the civil means possible to get him to build higher; and when I saw he would not, I sent Alderman Andow and the Town clerk, Mr. John Winstanley, to let him know that, as we had always been friends, I desired the same continuance, and if he would not build it two stories higher, I would, all of my own cost and charge; but he positively denied me, and said he would not have it built an inch higher, his wife being the only woman against it, whom I had never disoblged in all my life. Nay, Tho. Seasbrick, the next neighbour, would, out of his own purse, have given *fifty shillings* for to have had him gone but one foot higher,—thereby to have made his upper story something like; the fall of the ground, with Mr. Pemberton's foot, would have made his above two foot; but his refusal spoiled Thomas Seasbrick's upper room, so that one must creep that goes into it. Most of the town judge him beside his wits, to deny so civil a notion, and thereby to spoil a fair street and to get the dislike of his landlord. He replied, he cared not. In three or four of the houses are lives dead, and I freely renewed others for nothing; whereupon this

* This John Pemberton issued a copper halfpenny, bearing his name and the date 1666. Rev., the Apothecaries' arms—Apollo destroying the serpent Python. *Vide Boyne's Tokens of the 17th Century.*

impudent fellow made the same request to me, but I denied him, and I hope you will do the same.

Owen, John, Bailiff. A very good house; but he pays me not one penny rent for it, having this house and another in the Chapel Street, with twenty-one lands and a half, all in the lease of his great house in the Water Street. *Vide* both his Water Street and Chapel Street houses. Remember, whenever they come out, lease these three houses to three several people; and for the twenty-one lands and a half, lay to your demesne of the Old Hall, as formerly they did. This Mr. Owen hath near forty pounds a year, and pays you no rent to speak of. Make this house forty shillings a year rent, and thirty pounds fine; but if to a stranger, much more. He neither pays you hens, rent, nor bonus for it. Lives in it, and all the rest of the houses and land above said, only Anne Owen, wife to the said John.

Downes, Elizabeth,

Mercer, Margaret. A joint lease for their two lives, and one Mary Knott, spinster. They built it. I gave them two gable ends, which saved them ten pounds at least.

Johnson, Robert, an arrant knave, one that grinds *from* my mill very often. He hath played me twenty slippery tricks; trust him not. Make him pay one pound rent and ten pounds fine, for he is but a poor knave, and mercy must be had to his children; only, for being such a knave, make him to slate his house, as the whole street is besides himself. He pays at present three hens at Christmas and three days' shearing.

The Well in More Street.—It cost me about six pounds the sinking of it, for I did it all of my own cost and charges, not one contributing one penny towards it. When first I caused the place set upon, where I intended to sink, several people behind my back laughed and jeered at me, that I would offer to sink for water upon the very top of an hill, and more especially for that they said the Castle trench being so deep, would hinder me from finding water, unless I caused it gone an excessive deepness. Notwithstanding, I made the sinkers of the well continue on their work, desiring of God, privately, if it pleased him, I might find convenient water there. And I pray you mark the event. Whereas many, or most of the wells in the Water Street are above twenty yards deep, it pleased God to

send me there, water at fourteen yards; and whereas there is a great number of drain wells in the town, most of them are so brackish or salt, as it is conceived by some vein in the earth that conveys the sea into it so that it spoils their ale, that strangers complains of a saltish taste; now my well hath nothing in the least of that saltishness, for I have heard two or three of my own tenants confess that this water, with four measures of malt, will make stronger and better ale than most of the draw-wells in town shall do with five measures, in regard of their saltishness. Besides, which is more than all this, whereas there is several scores of wells about the town and great store of other water plenty, yet none of it was ever known to bear soap, so as to wash with; but the whole town in general sends to a place called the *Fall-wall Well*,* a quarter of a mile near upon off the town, for each drop of water they wash with, or boil pease withal, so that it's a great part of a servant's labour to some houses for the bringing water from thence to use in their occasions. But blessed be the Lord God, this great trouble in part he hath freed most of the new tenants in More Street from; for this new well water boils pease as well as any water of England, and likewise bears soap very well, so that most thereabouts washes their clothes therewith. And another observable thing besides; most of the wells about the town, in the summer time, if any stress for brewing be laid to them, are dry. But this well serves all More Street, till they can make wells of their own; and many of the townspeople comes to it besides; and in reason there is water for them all, far above the springs of other wells. Besides all these things, I can assure you this very water

* Mr. Stonehouse informs us that the site of this well, formerly on the edge of the Heath, was near the angle of Rose and Roe Streets, but a little within the former, and is now covered by the north end of Bennett's buildings. The well stood immediately opposite to the gates opening to the stage of the Amphitheatre, and was crowned by a dome supported by arches. After its removal in or about 1790, a public-house was erected on the site, called the Fall-wall Tavern. Roe Street obtained its name from Mr. Wm. Roe, a merchant, whose mansion, occupying the site of the present Stork Hotel, Queen Square, was surrounded by a beautiful garden having a fountain in the centre, supplied from the same source as the Fall Well, which in common with the *Dyehouse* and other wells of the town, were frequented in the last century by women who, quite as a profession, drew the water, filled the carts, and retailed the fluid through the streets by means of a species of bucket called a "Hessian." It was surrounded by a substantial wall of stone.

proving so good, and such plenty of it, did very much encourage my new tenants thereabouts and hasten others to come to build there. Wherefore I charge you, in the name of God, that whenever you read this, whoever thou art of my name and blood, give God thanks in a particular manner for sending this spring to me, that am many years ago dead and rotten; and I charge you, in Christ's name, own it as his immediate gift, and desire of him to continue it to you and yours for ever, and that there may never want one of your posterity to be owners of the same to God's glory and their comforts, Amen, amen, amen. Remember, I was at the charge of building the wall about it; I paid near seven pounds starting for it. If you think convenient, you may build a room over the well, leaving it six feet high, for the maids to come about it. All the materials above ground the tenants contributed to, as rope, bucket, turn and the like, and will so continue.

John Monely, the seaman. A petey house. I gave him one gable end for nothing. Remember, this man and his wife were just like Mr. Pemberton, for when I saw they would not build the same height of Katherine Rose, the next house at the west end, I by some friend freely offered to be at charges of building it another story, for to have made it the same height as Mrs. Rose's house that joined to; and yet these people were so wilful and base, they would neither build it themselves nor let me do it. Therefore I charge you, if ever they have any occasion to use you, deal not with them till they have taken down the roof of their house and built the same height of Mrs. Rose's house, the same owner, Preeson,* was forced to do at his own house, and as I am informed, he was their only counsellor to hinder them from building higher.

Mrs. Rose, now married to one Diggles, a glazier. Both he and she have been extreme unthankful to me, and abused me much behind my back, therefore never let him glaze for you; and if ever he hath occasion to use you, deal with him accordingly. His bad report hath hindered me of two or three houses. This fellow he was a stranger, and by my counte-

* Alderman Thomas Preeson, who built the first houses of Preeson's Row, and resided opposite the fosse of the old castle. It was probably a son of his who was Mayor in 1696, and completed Preeson's Row with the materials obtained from the demolition of the castle in 1721.—*Stonehouse*.

nance I got him much custom, and she out of my own good will I paid six pounds for a gable end, when she had neither money nor credit to have built it, and ill words is all I get for my pains. But God reward them. Make them pay thirty shillings rent and thirty pounds fine at least. Hens, two.

John Monely, owner: an honest man and a better woman. He gave me seventy pounds odd money for building this house, and thereupon I undertook it, but lost at least thirty-five pounds by it; so it will be most just for you to demand a greater fine. Let the old rent be forty shillings, and sixty pounds fine at least.

Wade, Robert. This man should have built two dormer windows, as others did; but when he had got me fast, and he was loose, he would build none, but made the house like a barn, much to the disparagement of the street. If he have occasion to use you, deal not with him, till he hath made two dormer windows. Let the old rent be thirty shillings and forty pounds fine, and to make those two dormer windows.

Turner, Robert, mason. A pretty house and an honest man, but is so drunken that will be undone. I gave him one gable end that saved him at least six pounds.

Narbury, Thomas. A very honest man, and built a good house, and is so well pleased with his landlord that he intends to lay out two hundred and fifty pounds more under me in building. Make this house forty shillings rent and eighty pounds fine, so you use him reasonable, for if a stranger had it, it deserves at least forty pounds more in the fine.

Bushell, Richard. Both he and she very honest people; use them well. Make the old rent forty shillings a year, and whereas it deserves a hundred pounds fine, bate them fifty pounds for their honesty to their landlord. Remember, there is an excellent place to the westward of this house, in the street, wherein you must not fail to have another house built, which will deserve one pound a year rent, and be a great ornament to the street. What he now pays is one rent hen at Christmas.

Woodside, Robert. A good honest man, of a Scot, but his wife is as ungrateful a beast* as is in England, never having a

* A capital illustration of the social amenities (?) of the age. What a pity we possess no record of the opinions of the Moore-tenants, *per contra*!

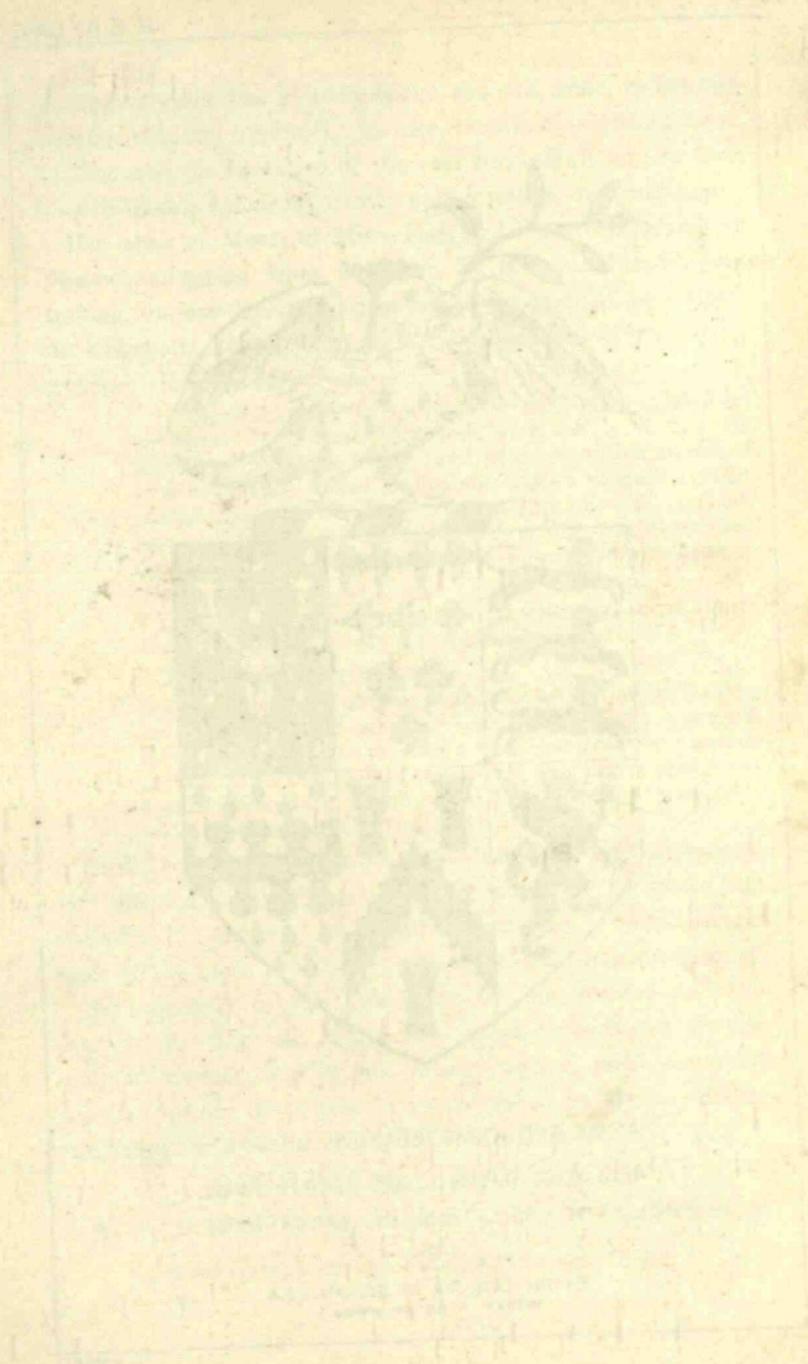
good word either for me or my wife, and notwithstanding this, I freely gave her a life for nothing, what at three years' value came to sixty pounds, notwithstanding she will speak as ill of me as if I were never so bad. Considering all this you may well have ten pounds a year rent and a hundred pounds fine, that is half rack and ten years' value for the other ten pounds. What they pay now is but one rent hen.

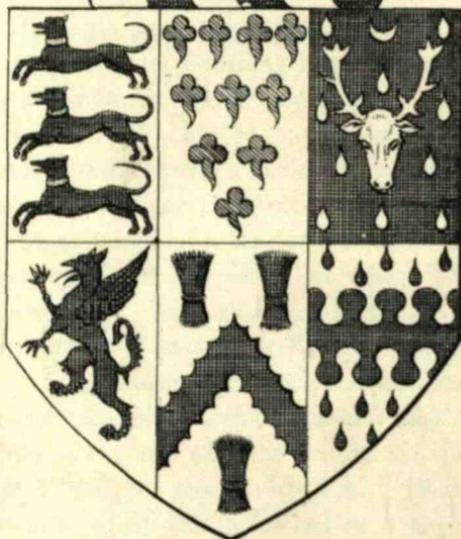
The vacant place at More Street end, next the river side. Here, for two hundred pounds you may wall in a place from the sea, and build a custom-house there. It would draw all the custom of the town into this street, and make your houses, that are now but at ten pounds a year, would rise to twenty pounds per annum. To effect this, agree with some of the customers, and give them a lease and twenty-one years after, and let them do it upon the king's account, because there is no king's custom-house in this town.* And whosoever is collector may live in it, either at a great or small rent, during the lease from you. When the wall is made, my tenants, who are now leading all their rubbish to the water side, will fill the wall with earth for nothing, which otherwise to get earth to fill it would cost a hundred and fifty pounds. Remember, whenever this is done, you must make a passage for horsemen and carts next the street end, for if you put the way beyond the wall, towards the sea, at three-quarter flood nobody can pass that way, and that will not be suffered. If ever you be great at Court, it may, with the help of the farmers of the customs, be easily procured, when the king by them is given to understand the great want of a custom-house in such an eminent port as Liverpool. Query, how far your land goes seaward—be careful of that; yet I think no body will question that; for it is usual to get of the sea, over against a man's own land, what he can. But query the law in that case. It is but a river, and not the sea, and so will not come within the king's prerogative nor the admiral's. It is the river of Mersey ten miles farther to the red stones, as may appear by records in the town, and Liverpool charter, in both of which it is termed the river of Mersey ten miles farther towards the sea, to a place called the Red

* *Vide seq.* for notices of the early Custom Houses. Government business was previously transacted at the Old Town Hall, at the south-east end of Joggler Street, a portion of the site of the New Exchange buildings.

Stones, which said stones are the bounds betwixt the two rivers of Mersey and Dee, that goes to Chester. Besides, I have seen a deed out of the records in the Tower, dated in Edward the Third's time, concerning the manor of Great Crosby. And there it said, *Great Crosby lying upon the river of Mersey*; so that the river goes beyond Great Crosby, which is several miles seaward of Liverpool. I only give you a hint how this is but a river, whereby a private interest may be greater as to the gaining of the river than otherwise. Remember, that for all the soil over against my sea bank, from Mrs. Horton's house to the town field, I have in my grant under the broad seal of England, from high water mark to low water mark, so that it is as absolutely your own as any land you have: *vide* my directions of the sea bank in Chapel Street.

In his introductory memoranda, as also anent the remarkable well of this his pet street, Sir Edward furnishes us with many curious particulars regarding local customs, in addition to those detailing the inception and gradual filling up of the *thoroughfare* which it ought to have been, instead of being treated like a nurseling, with the swaddling clothes of posts, chains, and locks. Upon the decease of this gentleman in 1678 he was succeeded by his second son, Sir Cleave, of whose management of the estate we know little; it was heavily encumbered, and through permitted foreclosure, passed in his time to James, 10th Earl of Derby, at a cost of £12,000. We need scarcely remark that its late increase of value, through the ill-advised extension of the Liverpool docks to the north end and the growth of the municipal borough of Bootle, is almost fabulous. Bank Hall, the family mansion, which was furnished in a most quaint and costly manner, was, without authority, ruthlessly pulled down by Lord Derby's agent. Not a vestige exists, but a tall mill-chimney marks the locality, the exact site being chiefly covered by the new Canada dock station on the St. Helens and North docks goods-railway. A farm house, with leaden spouts dated 1778, and having much carved stone-work on the garden and





ARMS AND QUARTERINGS OF THE
FAMILY OF MOORE OF LIVERPOOL.
FROM THE VISITATION OF LANCAHIRE.
1586.

BY THE LATE SIR W^m BETHAM, F.S.A.
ULSTER KING OF ARMS

out-house walls, has latterly borne the old name, to the misleading of many inquirers; its site, outside the ancient *moat*, lies between the localities of the real Bank Hall and its farm establishment, which lay nearly half a mile to the eastward.

The *arms* of More, of More Hall—of which we furnish an illustration, copied from a sketch by the late Sir William Betham, in our Society's possession—re-granted by patent, 9th Elizabeth, 1567, through L. Dalton, Esq., Norrey King at Arms, are thus described:—

1. *Argent* 3 hare-hounds current in pale, *sable*, collared *or*, for More. 2. *Argent*, 10 trefoils slipt, *vert.* 4, 3, 2, 1 for Turton. 3. *Sable*, a buck's head cabossed, within an orle of 10 escallop shells, *argent*, for Chamberlane. 4. *Argent*, a griffin rampant, *sable* for Griffin. 5. *Argent*, a chevron engrailed, betwixt 3 garbs, *sable* for Derby. 6. As the first, except that the first row on the dexter chief is charged with the arms of Ulster.

Crest—a moor-cock *argent*, with wings expanded, gutté depoix, combed, wattled, in its beak an ear of wheat.

Motto—" *Dieu et mon Port.*"

The gentleman sometimes complimented the lady by putting her arms on the first quarter. Some of this family quartered Broughton *sable*, gutté de sang, a buck's head cabossed, *argent*, for Broughton (which was perhaps the one engraved over the door of Bank Hall), for Hawarden of Wooleston, *argent*, gutté *sable*, a fess, nebulé of the second.*

In the course of time several modifications and alterations were effected in the blazonry above noted. The motto was altered to "*Comme je fus*," whilst for the ear of wheat in the beak of the moor-cock crest, a sprig of olive was substituted.

Subsequently to the completion of the *Rental* and the death of Sir Edward More, notices of More Street are few and far between, and in fact mostly casual, until we reach the descriptions of certain views published in Messrs. Fisher and Herdman's beautifully illustrated volumes.

More Street Theatre and Cockpit.

At the close of the seventeenth or the commencement of

* *Gregson's Fragments, vide Betham's Baronetage, II, 444.*

the following century, a building in this street, previously used as a barn, was fitted up for theatrical representations, by a company of strolling players, in consequence of the only theatre of the town, a frail timber building, having been taken down; this latter erection stood between what was called *Tarlton's New Street*, now Redcross Street, and James Street.* The new place of dramatic entertainment in More Street was advantageously situated in contiguity to a cockpit,† believed to be the one constructed by especial order of the local authorities above a century previously, as appears by the following curious resolution of the Corporation, and preserved in the town records:—

“ 1567. Item.—For the farther and greater repaire of “ Gentlemen and others to this towne, we find it needful that “ there be a *handsome cockpit* made; also that *butts* (*i.e.*, “ shooting-butts) and *stocks* be kept in due reparation.‡

Liverpool was by no means behind other English towns in public amusements, especially those of a popular class, and the debasing sport of cock-fighting was as eagerly patronized by the high as it was madly pursued by the low. Besides that in More Street, numerous “ pits ” formerly existed, and the following sites we are able to particularise, viz. :—

1. On the north shore, near the half-mile house.
2. In Cockspur Street (cir. 1787), used after a few years as a Protestant nonconformist meeting-house, and successively used as a chapel by the Methodists, Independents, Episcopalians, Kilhamites, Swedenborgians, Independents (second time), Baptists, Primitive Methodists, Baptists (second time), Christian Society—until the year 1839, when it was taken down and replaced by shops.§

* James Stonehouse, *Trans.*, V, 193. Originally Tarlton's fields.

+ Mr. Pictou erroneously alludes to the two buildings as one; he also attempts to discredit the existence of the earlier theatre.

‡ *Kaye's Stranger in Liverpool*, edition 1838, p. 33.

§ The Rev. Dr. Thom, 1852, *vide Trans.*, p. 38—43.

3. Near the Infirmary, "the New Cockpit."
4. Top of Shaw's-Brow, in the present open space above the town museum, where in 1861, upon the removal of old foundations in levelling, a pit was disclosed. It had probably formed part of the cellarge of a house and used for "mains," even within the last half-century. The chief point of interest attaching to this pit lies in its construction out of the solid sandstone rock. Mr. Stonehouse suggests that it formed part of the garden entertainments of "The Folly," which occupied the sites of Christian, Hunter, and other contiguous streets.
5. On the margin of Aintree race-course, now a temporary chapel of ease for the parishes of Sephton and Walton, and called St. Peter's. Upon the occasion of its opening for Christian worship, the first sermon was preached by no other gentleman than our worthy President, the Rev. Dr. Hume, who, we are assured, delighted his congregation by a most excellent sermon, in which, without absolutely specifying the *scenes* formerly prevailing in the building, he aptly and delicately contrasted its original character and uses with those to which it would henceforth be devoted.
6. Grosvenor Street, Rose Place, a tennis-court being added, which "became famous." Certainly the latter was used also as a drill-ground, by the local Volunteers, in the first French revolutionary war, 1793-6. The cockpit and tennis-court gave place to the licensed but unconsecrated episcopal church of All Saints. After a remarkable ecclesiastical career it is now used by the Roman Catholics, having been purchased by them in 1847 or 1848, and named St. Joseph's.*

Returning from this digression to the temporary theatre in

* *Liverpool Churches and Chapels*, Trans. IV, p. 166, et seq.

More Street, we find it removed after "some time" to a house in the *Old Ropery*.* Here the drama was represented until a regular theatre was built and opened in 1759, in Drury Lane, previously called Entwistle Street, a narrow thoroughfare which then ran into the Old Ropery.† The Theatre Royal, Williamson Square, was opened in 1772;‡ it was all but rebuilt and considerably enlarged in 1813.

Old "Fish Stones" and "Fish Market."

In Plate XX of Mr. Herdman's *Views of Ancient Liverpool*, (first series) the point of view is in Fenwick Street, and the spectator looks down the upper part of More, or as it had now become corruptly spelled, Moor Street, having the fish market on the left hand. "The building (he remarks) represented in "this plate, stood at the top and north side of James Street, "and occupied the site between James Street and Moor Street, "the front entrance being in Fenwick Street. The plate is "lithographed from an original drawing by the author, taken "a few days previous to its removal, and shews the front of "the market in Fenwick Street, and its perspective down "Moor Street."§ Upon the centre of its roof appears the fire-bell, suspended as described by Herdman and others.

The consecutive sites of the fish market in Liverpool have been:—

1. 1557.—Front of the High Cross, north end of Castle Street.||
2. 1667.—"*Fish house and yards*;" south side of lower end of Chapel Street.¶
3. 1764-86.—"*Fish stones*;" the space in Derby Square between Redcross Street top and Cable Street.

* Mr. Pieton, ignoring this playhouse, refers the dramatic advertisements in the newspapers of 1756 to that in More Street!

† Mr. Stonehouse, *Trans.* V, p. 193. *The Streets of Liverpool*, p. 57. A view is extant, taken by Robert Chaffers, in 1773.

‡ *Moss's Liverpool Guide*, 1801, p. 103.

§ *Ancient Liverpool*, pp. 51, 52. || *Gore's Annals*. ¶ *More Rental*, p. 18.

4. 1786-92.—“*Fish stones* ;” bottom of Moor Street, now occupied by the street and south end of the Goree warehouses.
5. 1792-1822.—“*Fish market* ;” top of Moor and James Streets.*
6. 1822-1837.—“*Fish market* ;” St. John’s market, north end.
7. 1837 to present date ; east side Great Charlotte Street.

The third fish market, or “fish stones,” as it was called, (No. 4) appears in Mr. Herdman’s Plate V (second series), a view of the lower end of Moor Street, looking down, which was secured in 1797. The author states†—“The original drawing, from which this plate was taken, had a memorandum on the back, stating that it was the *Custom house* in Moor Street. At the period the drawing was taken, it was used as dwelling houses, the custom house having been removed to the bottom of Water Street. This plate therefore represents the *second custom house in the town, the first having been a thatched cottage in High Street*. The white buildings seen in this view would, from their appearance, be erected some time in the 16th century, and it enables us to complete the view of each side of Moor Street, the other views being in the first series. This plate is also valuable, as enabling us to ascertain what the “*fish stones*,” erected in 1786, at the bottom of Moor Street, were like, they being seen at the west end of the street, having a cupola or belfry on the roof. The original drawing is in the Foster collection, and is a most valuable addition to our pictorial history.”

The Old Mansion.

In his Plate XII (first series), Mr. Herdman says—“is an interesting specimen of the early architecture of the town,

* Underhill MSS., p. 110, quoted in *Brookes’ Liverpool*, pp. 403-4.

† Pp. 32, 33.

“ situate in Moor Street, at one time a street of ‘goodly
 “ ‘buildings of hewn stone.’ The original sketch from which
 “ this plate is taken,* was described to the author as a view
 “ of a mansion belonging to the Earl of Derby, but at the
 “ period the drawing was made, divided into a number of
 “ small houses; there are similar specimens extant in Red-
 “ cross Street, having pilastres, with cornices and entablatures
 “ plain or pierced, with windows for a third story. What this
 “ mansion was used for is unknown; but in this street dra-
 “ matic entertainments were exhibited soon after the reign of
 “ the first Charles.”†

That some of the houses existing here in the seventeenth century were of a good and substantial character, like those of James Street, is evidenced by one being occupied as a residence by no less a person than Colonel Thomas Birch, for some time governor of the castle, and a member of parliament for the borough, 1649-58. Another good dwelling-house in this street had upon its front a tablet, bearing the arms of Fayreclough impaling Hyde, accompanied by the inscription, “Door, stand thou open to none but an honest man.” It is supposed to have been erected in 1665.

Old Houses, Moor Street.

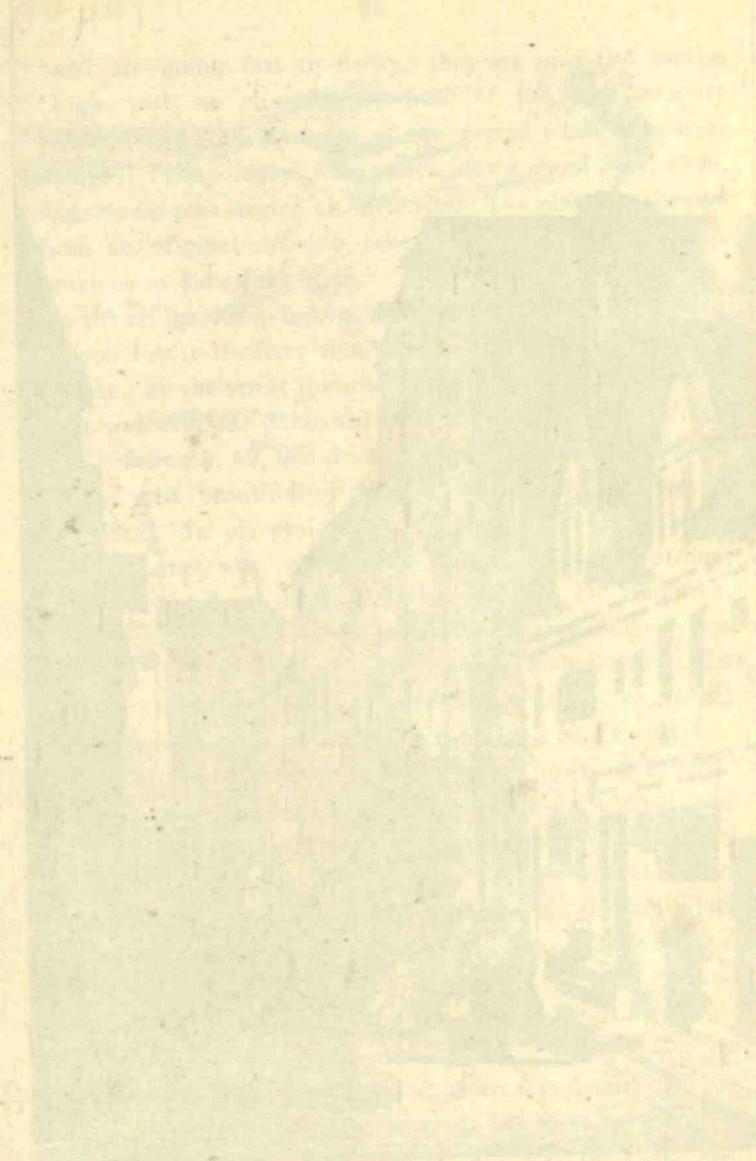
Plate XIII of Mr. Herdman's first series, represents a portion of the north side of the thoroughfare, looking down. “The old houses here represented are thus described by Mr. Kaye.‡ ‘The present Moor Street still perpetuates the
 “ baronet's name—Sir Edward More. It appears from the
 “ MS. to have been a capital street, and there are some
 “ ancient houses *still standing* in it, two of which, about
 “ half-way down, are, if we are not mistaken, the most
 “ ancient houses in the town. They are much dilapidated

* From the Collection of the late Mr. Jones, Athenæum.

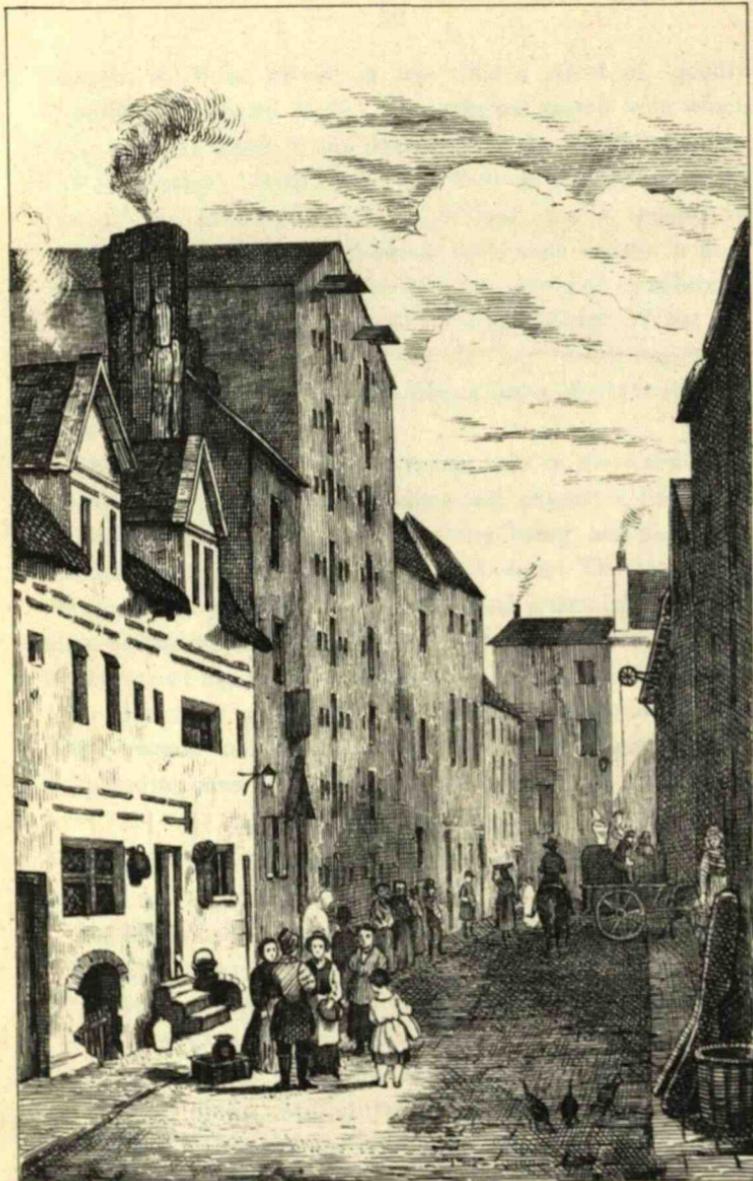
† We are unable to find any reliable confirmation for this often-quoted statement, as Mr. Herdman gives no reference to his authority.

‡ *The Stranger in Liverpool*, ed. 1836, p. 39.

1851



View of the street from the window of the house in which the author lived during his residence in the city of New York.



RIBY.

MORE OR MOOR STREET, LIVERPOOL,

L'POOL

As it appeared early in the present century. From an oil painting in the possession of the Society, probably a copy of SAMUEL AUSTEN'S drawing.

“ and are going fast to decay ; they are only two stories
 “ high, with an elevation in front of the roof, strongly
 “ characteristic of the taste of the period when they were
 “ built.’ These houses were taken down about July, 1839,
 “ and warehouses erected on their site. The plate is executed
 “ from an original drawing, taken by the author a few days
 “ previous to their demolition.”

In the oil painting before us we see these very interesting old domiciles in the foreground to the left ; the spectator here is looking up the street towards Fenwick Street, and the view is identical with one published in *Fisher's Lancashire Illustrated*,* facing p. 49, and drawn by Samuel Austin, the chief artist of this beautifully-illustrated work ; the engraver is J. Thomas. In all probability this painting, which is on thick oak-panel, was copied from Austin's original drawing ; it was presented to the Society in 1865 by Dr. Kendrick, having been purchased by him in Warrington some years previously. In reference to this view in Fisher's work, the following remarks occur :—“ The picturesque engraving which represents *More Street*, is submitted to the public as affording a specimen of the ‘good old town of Lyrpul.’ The antiquated edifice on the left-hand is usually considered to be the most ancient building in the town. The modern erections in this street contrast very strongly with the other parts. Contiguous to the old building, on the left, stand extensive warehouses of very recent date. The street is inhabited principally by market people and sutlers, and offers for the pencil of the artist all the interesting details of poultry, chicken-coops, panniers, &c.”

Above forty years have elapsed since this description was penned, and again a “strong contrast” has to be recorded, for the minor domiciles and the market folk with their panniers, poultry, and hen coops have vanished from the scene, leaving

* Published in 1831.

little save brick warehouses in possession, as dismal and dingy as they are soaring. Blocked opposite its western extremity, by the Goree warehouses, the fine prospect formerly obtainable here of the Cheshire hills, crowned by the Flintshire mountains, is wholly shut out, whilst the invigorating marine breezes which used to career unchecked from the adjacent strand, are almost equally excluded.

Latterly, the thoroughfare has lost all public interest, and the only additional item we have to note is a remark by Mr. Stonehouse, that previously to the opening of Brunswick Street, in 1790, no thoroughfare existed riverward, from the centre of the town, between Moor and Water Streets. Mr. Picton, neither in his brochure, *Ancient Liverpool*, nor the topographical volume of *Memorials*, just published, furnishes us with any item of interest but what we have obtained from other and earlier sources. In the last-named work Moor Street is dismissed with a few jottings from the *Rental*.

A printing establishment, worked by E. Owen, existed here in the middle of last century; its issues were chiefly of a religious character, and, so far as recorded, date only from 1753-8.*

Imperfect as the above compendium may prove, we submit, in summing up our case, that, in its early places of public entertainment, including the second theatre in the town; the second custom house, and fourth and fifth fish markets, each furnished with the useful town fire-bell, together with the mansion of Lord Derby and other local magnates—the now dull and despised Moor Street proves to possess not merely an historic name, but a history.

* *Vide Trans.*, N.S. I, Mr. Mott's Cat. of Books, and N.S. V, Mr. Dawson's Cat. of Pamphlets, published in Liverpool.