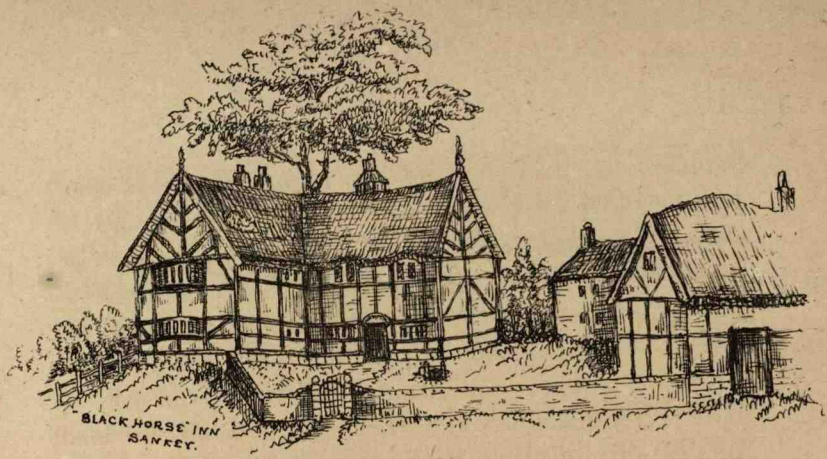
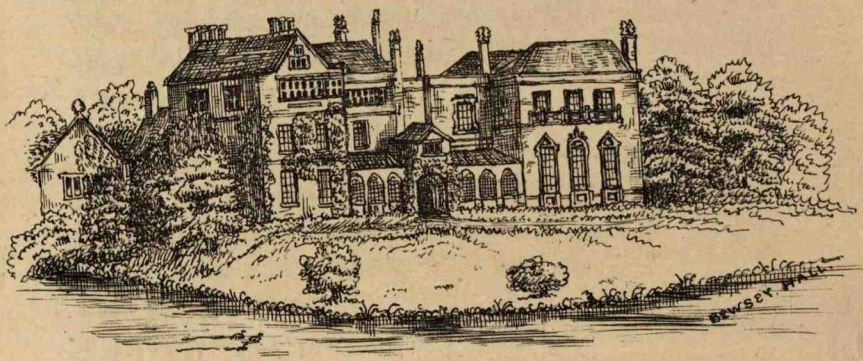


BLACK HORSE INN
SANKEY.



BEWSEY

GATEWAY, BRADLEY HALL.

FROM DRAWINGS IN POSSESSION OF JAS. KENDRICK, M.D.

WARRINGTON LOCAL SKETCHES.

By James Kendrick, M.D.

As the Historic Society has gratified me by accepting the accompanying *vignettes*, (taken from original drawings in my possession,) they will be made more generally interesting by the addition of some explanatory remarks, for which, where they are my own, I beg the kind indulgence of my fellow-members. But I have not hesitated to make use of the printed remarks of others, where they have been suited to my purpose; though, as I believe, with full acknowledgment. In particular, I am indebted to F. J. Furnivall, Esq., M.A., of Trinity Hall, Cambridge, for permission to reprint from his edition of *Bishop Percy's Folio Manuscript* the ancient ballad of "Sir John Butler," the former owner of *Bewsey Hall*, the subject of the second vignette. This contemporary evidence to the truth of a simple local tradition more than four centuries old, is an interesting, if not an important, contribution to our local history, and accompanied, as it is, by an Introduction from the pen of our former member, the late Dr. Robson, it imparts an unquestionable value and interest to at least one of my little *Local Sketches*.

I.—The Black Horse Inn, at Sankey Bridge, Warrington.

In my series of local sketches, I give this the precedence, from the distinct allusion made to this house at the eventful period of the Civil War, by Edward Burghall, Vicar of Acton, near Nantwich, in his Diary, entitled "Providence Improved."

Under the date of April 3rd, 1643, he gives an account of the defeat of the Parliamentarian general, Sir William Brereton, at Stockton Heath, one mile S. of Warrington, on the Cheshire side of the Mersey, by James, seventh Earl of Derby, who then held the town for the king, or was at least present there with a strong body of troops. Two days, however, after this defeat, we find Sir William Brereton with his force on the north side of the river, having probably forded it at Hale, and advancing upon the west side of Warrington, by the route of Sankey Bridge. At 4 p.m. on Wednesday, 5th of April, 1643, the Parliamentary forces of Cheshire conjoined with others from Wigan, attacked Warrington, and in the words of Burghall, "beset the Town about, and fiercely assaulted it, "having gotten Sankey Bridge, a fair House of one Mr. "Bridgman's, and some of the outer Walls, and within a "short space of Time were likely to have the whole: which "the Earle perceaving set the middle of the Town on Fire; "protesting he would burn it all ere they should have it; "which the Parliament Forces perceaving (seeing the Fire "still increasing), to save it from utter desolation withdrew "their Forces after they had been there 3 dayes and more, "and so departed for that time." This "fair House of one "Mr. Bridgman's" is now the "Black Horse" represented in the first vignette; and the initials R. B. 1632 are still discernible on an oak beam in the front of the house. Its occupant at the date of the above occurrence was Edward Bridgman, a royalist, who was one of the members for Liverpool in 1625 and in 1627 for Wigan.

A well-known and highly useful member of our Society, Mr. Beamont, in a contribution to the column of "Local "Notes, Queries, and Replies" of the *Warrington Guardian* newspaper, tells us, "In 1625, Edward Bridgman was mem- "ber for Liverpool, and was very active in that office. He "had for his colleague Tho. May, the parliamentary historian.

"In 1626 and 1628 he was member for Wigan. There is in "our Warrington register this entry :—' 1627. June. Edward "'Bridgman, Esq., and Eleanor Brooke, of Little Sankey, "'vidua.' She had been the wife of Sir Richard Brooke, "and was the mother of the celebrated Peter Brooke, who "was probably living with her and his stepfather, at Sankey, "when he was returned to the Long Parliament as member "for Newton. Edward Bridgman, it is believed, was the "brother of Bishop Bridgman, and, if so, we may claim the "bishop and his son Orlando as connected with Warrington."

In 1647 Edward Bridgman, as a Royalist, had to compound with the Parliament for his estate by a fine of one hundred pounds, and we have evidence to shew that in 1649 he was still resident at Warrington, and probably in his "fair House "at Sankey Bridge."

Although the forces of the Parliament were driven away from Warrington, as above narrated, in the month of April, they succeeded with additional help in capturing it on the 26th of May following, after a siege which lasted a week, and from this date Warrington was strongly garrisoned by the Parliament, and an important Military Committee remained here until the period of the Restoration.

II.—Bewsey Hall.

Appended to a Map of the Bewsey estate, apparently made early in the last century, is a drawing of a house, no doubt intended for a representation of Bewsey Hall at that period. It is shewn as if composed of a centre and two gabled wings. A moat is also shewn, with an arched gateway on the bank, but no bridge is given, as if a former drawbridge had been taken away. Later in the century, one-half of the building was probably taken down (though the cellars are said to remain underground,) and to the portion left standing a modern suite of apartments at the north end, as represented

in the second *vignette*, was probably appended. There is a tradition that these modern dining and drawing-rooms were specially erected for the reception of Charles Edward, the Young Pretender, on his expected visit to Bewsey in 1745, but were very luckily not required for this purpose. They remained standing until about forty years ago, when they were taken down.

The earlier history of Bewsey Hall, together with its local traditions, are embodied by Dr. Robson, in the Introduction to the Percy ballad, "Sir John Butler," which it is my good fortune, by the kindness of Mr. Furnivall, here to introduce from his already scarce edition of *Bishop Percy's Folio Manuscript*.

Sir Iohn Butler.

In a "Booke of Survey of the Baronye of Warinton in the "countie of Lancaster, Parcell of the possessions of the Right "Honorable Robert Erle of Leicester, baron of Denbigh," as taken on the 19th of April in the twenty-ninth year of "our "Soverein Queen Ladye Elizabeth" (1587), we find the following description of Bewsey Hall:—

"The Mannerhowse of Bewsey is situate on the west side of the Town "and Lordship of Warrington, and is a mile distant from Warrington "Town, and is the South East Side of Bewsey Park. The house is "environed with a fair mote, over which is a strong drawbridge. The "house is large, but the one half of it being of very old building, is "gone to decay, that is to say the Hall, the Old Buttery, the Pantry, "Cellars, Kitchen, Dayhouse and Brewhouse, which can not be "sufficiently repaired again without the charge of 100*l*. The other "half is of new building and not decayed, being one great chamber, "four other chambers or buildings, a kitchen, a buttery, and also three "chambers and a parlour of the old building are in good repair. There "is also an old chapel, but much decayed. The seat of the manorhouse "with the garden and all the rest of the grounds within the mote "containeth 3 roods 20 perches.

"The park is three measured miles about; almost the one half of it "is full of little tall oaks, but not underwood. It is indifferent well "paled about. There is in it little above six score deer of all sorts; the "soil of the park is very barren."

The park and demesne lands together contained 304 acres large measure = 644 statute.

The family of Botyller, Boteler, and many other variations of spelling, becoming Butler in the reign of Henry VII, was

seated at Warrington in the time of Henry III. A William Butler was then in ward to Earl Ferrars, and sometime about 1240 bought the manor of Burtonwood from Robert de Ferrariis.* Here he built Bewsey Hall, and thereafter took the style of Butler of Bewsey instead of Butler of Warrington.

It is not intended to go into the family history of the Butlers. As lords of various manors held in capite, they had to lead the retainers in the Welsh and Scotch wars; and Froissart has a characteristic narrative of the rescue of John Butler of Bewsey by Sir Walter Manny in the French campaign in 1342.† This seems to have been the prosperous time of the family. A priory of Hermit Friars of St. Augustin in Warrington was probably founded by them towards the close of the thirteenth century. The chancel of the parish church dates about 1360. Sir John Butler rebuilt Warrington Bridge, which had been washed away by floods, 1364. He seems also to have founded the Butler Chantry in the church.‡ His grandson, another Sir John, died about 1432, leaving a son a year old and a widow Isabella, whose petition to Parliament may be seen in the *Rotuli Parliamentorum*.§

Seven years after her husband's death she was forcibly carried away from Bewsey Hall by one William Poole, gent. of Liverpool, "in her kirtle and smok" to Birkenhead—another petition says the wild parts of Wales—and there compelled to enter into a forced marriage. What the end of it was we are not told, but her son John grew up and married, first Anne Savile, and secondly Margaret Stanley, sister of the first Lord Stanley, and widow of Sir Thomas Troutbeck. Here we come into much entanglement. Some accounts make Lady Margaret the wife of Troutbeck after her marriage with Lord Grey. Sir John Butler had two sons—William by Anne Savile, and Thomas by Margaret Stanley. William died about the time of his coming of age, and Thomas finally succeeded as heir in the year 1482. Sir John died in 1462, and he seems to have been the hero of the ballad, of the traditions of the neighbourhood, and of the narrative of Dodsworth.

The Old Church, as it is always called by the inhabitants, the High Church of Warrington as named in the ancient charters, seems even then to have lost the name of the saint to whom it was dedicated—St. Elphin—in Domesday Book. It has been rebuilt within the last few years, and consisted then (1860) of a nave, north and south transepts (private chapels), chancel and central tower. The chancel and tower arches were good

* *Gent. Mag.*, Dec., 1863, p. 755.
† Froissart, vol. II, p. 9, cap. 86.
‡ *Lancashire Chantries*, (Cheth. Soc.), p. 67.
§ *Rot. Parl.*, 4, 497-8.

decorated work of about 1360. The north transept was the chapel connected with Bewsey Hall, and had the name of the owners—the Athertons. In the sixteenth century it was the Butler Chapel or Chantry. It contained in the centre a magnificent altar tomb, apparently of the time of Edward IV, which still exists.* The LORD and LADY are recumbent, life-size, he in armour, and the sides of the tomb are ornamented with statuettes in relief, of various saints, but there is no inscription, nor any appearance of there ever having been one. In an arch in the north wall of the chapel was a monument, in black marble, of a recumbent female ; and to the east of this, in the position usually ascribed to the founder, was a cinquefoiled arch which held a stone coffin, the contents of which had disappeared before the chapel was pulled down. This chapel, except the cinquefoiled arch, was of late perpendicular work, and most likely built by the widow of Sir Thomas Butler, 1520-30. The name of the Butlers had vanished from their resting place, but the memory of the lord and lady and their unfortunate end, was handed down from generation to generation in connection with this monument, no doubt receiving additions or suffering mutilation according to circumstances.

The tale, as generally told, was that certain of the lord's enemies bribed his steward, and that the faithless servant placed a light at a window over the hall door, to give notice to the assassins, who crossed the mote, and found the door open. They made their way to the lord's chamber, and were met and opposed by a negro servant, who fell in defence of his master, whose murder soon followed. The heir, a baby, was carried by the nurse in her apron, covered with chips, out of the house, under the pretence that she was going to light a fire. Two large dark patches on the oaken floors, one in a narrow passage leading to the lord's room, the other within the room, near the door, were left as evidence to all following time, and it was said that every room on that floor, the second, was more or less stained with blood.

A new servant had always to get accustomed to the visits of an apparition, a rattling of chains along the narrow lobby, and three raps at the bedroom door at midnight, till use made the thing pass as a matter of course. The traitor steward was promised great exaltation, and they hanged him on an oak as they came away through the park. A tree pointed out as the *infelix arbor* was cut down some forty years ago.†

* The whole of the chapel has been pulled down, but the tombs have been preserved; the only part of the old pile left is the chancel.

† This tree was certainly not so old as the time of Elizabeth. As an attendant spirit (on the domain however, more than its lords) was a white rabbit, which made its appearance when trouble or change was impending; it is said to have been seen within the present century.

Such was the tale sixty years ago. It had, perhaps, been modified by being introduced as an episode in a poem published with Dodsworth's account in 1796, the first effort of the author of the interminable epic *Alfred*—Mr. John Fitchett. Pennant, who travelled after the middle of last century, heard that both the lord and lady were slain; and a century before that, Roger Dodsworth had taken the pains to put in writing what he had heard, and his narrative is still in the Bodleian Library.

Dodsworth's account is as follows:—When King Henry VII came to Latham, the Earl of Derby sent to Sir John Butler, who was his brother-in-law, to desire him to wear his cloth for a time—a request which the Lady Butler answered with great disdain. This gave rise to great malice on the part of the Earl, which was increased by various other matters, till with the assistance of Sir Piers Legh and William Savage, they corrupted his servants and murdered him in his bed. His lady, who was in London, dreamed that night that Bewsey Hall swam with blood. She indicted twenty men for the murder; but after marrying Lord Grey, he made her suit void. Upon which she left him and came back into Lancashire, and said, "If my lord "will not help me, that I may have my will of mine enemies, "yet my body shall be buried by him," and caused a tomb of alabaster to be made, where she lyeth upon the right hand of her husband Sir John Butler. The faithful servant was the chamberlain named Holcroft, and the traitor was his brother, the porter at the hall, whom the assassins hanged in the park.

Dodsworth's tale, no doubt, represents the tradition as it existed in the middle of the seventeenth century, but it is altogether at variance with facts. During the whole of the reign of Henry VII the lord of Bewsey was Sir Thomas Butler, who succeeded (as already stated) to the estate in 1482, and died in 1522. He certainly went quietly to his rest, after providing amply for the foundation of a grammar school in Warrington. His father, Sir John, according to the *Inquisitio Post Mortem* still extant in the Bodleian Library, died in 1463, leaving, besides Thomas, who succeeded, a brother William, ten or twelve years older. They were wards to the king, and the younger one is said to have been of the Stanley blood; in fact, there are documents still in existence showing the interest Lord Stanley and his son Lord Strange took in the latter just before the battle of Bosworth Field.* But not a tittle of evidence has turned up to show that there was any murder at all. The record of the outrage on the previous Lady Butler is given in the *Rotuli Parliamentorum*, but every thing connected with the murder of the last Sir John seems to have vanished like Macbeth's witches.

* *Gent. Mag.*, Sept., 1863.

There had certainly been bad blood between the Leghs and Butlers for some generations, which continued for two or three generations after; and this Sir Piers Legh of the tale is said to have been compelled to build a church at Dishley, near Lyme, to expiate the guilt he had incurred in the bloodshed. His monumental brass, where he is represented as wearing a priest's robes over his armour, is still to be seen in Winwick Church; and as he died in 1527, aged 65, he could only have been an infant at the date of Butler's death. It seems out of the question to connect Lord Stanley, his brother-in-law, with it; and nothing is known about William Savage. As to the blood-marks, that portion of Bewsey Hall is not older than the sixteenth century, and was most likely the part described in the "Surveye" as having been then newly built, so that we meet only with phantom evidence, which we can neither grasp nor realize.

Whether the Lord Grey was of Codnor, of Groby, or de Ferrariis is uncertain; and it is doubtful whether Lady Margaret Butler was the widow of Troutbeck when she married Sir John, or whether, as another account states, she married Troutbeck for her third husband.

We believe no other copy of this ballad has been heard of, and besides its fragmentary state, the language has evidently been modernized; but the peculiar account of Lady Butler's absence from home, and "her good brother John," clearly the first Stanley of Alderley, would lead to the supposition that it must have been written soon after the murder, long before Lord Stanley was created Earl of Derby. The introduction of Ellen Butler, as a daughter of Sir John, may have been a mistake, or put *euphoniæ gratia* for the real name Alice, who would have been fourteen or fifteen at the time. Sir John is represented as nephew to Stanley, which must be incorrect; it may, however, be from the ballad-maker's confusion of ideas, as Lady Butler afterwards calls Stanley her brother.

The end of the Butlers was sad enough, but we have no space for it here. Descendants in the female line are still in existence, and a keen genealogist might trace them to our own time; but their place knows them no more, the very name is forgotten, and when the fine altar tomb was opened some years ago, a very few mouldering bones and the fragment of a heavy two-handed sword were all that it contained.

The knight was dust,
His good sword rust,
His soul is with the saints we trust.

[Note.—Much of the "entanglement" felt and expressed by our learned friend, Dr. Robson, in the concluding part of his Introduction

to the above ancient ballad is capable of removal, by a communication of later date by Mr. Beamont to the column of "Local Notes, Queries, "and Replies," of the *Warrington Guardian* newspaper for October 8th, 1870. After a long and careful analysis of the evidence for and against the story given in the Bewsey ballad, Mr. Beamont thus concludes:— "Upon the whole matter it is fair to conclude that a foul murder was "committed upon the Lord of Bewsey, but it is probable that the "murdered man was not Sir John Boteler, who died in 1463, but his "father, who died on 12th September, 1430. This last Boteler had, "though his son had not, a daughter named Ellen, who was old enough "to raise an alarm when her father was attacked, and he was actually "nephew by marriage to the second Sir John Stanley, of Lathom, who "survived him. It was upon his widow Isabella that the outrage, led "by William Pulle, whom Lady Boteler in her petition describes as an "outlaw, for man's blood shed was committed, and it is not a violent "presumption to suppose that the blood he had so shed was shed in the "murder of Lady Boteler's husband at Bewsey. If the records of the "Crown Court at Lancaster should ever be indexed and made accessible, "then the mystery of the Boteler murder may be cleared up."]—J. K.

Sir: Iohn Butler:

BUT: word is come to warrington,
& Busye hall is laid about;
Sir Iohn Butler and his merry men
stand in ffull great doubt.

Busye Hall is surrounded, and Sir J. *Butler in* danger.

when they came to Busye hall
itt was the merle* midnight,
and all the bridges were vp drawen,
and neuer a candle Light.

At midnight his takers came;

there they made them one good boate,
all of one good Bull skinn;
will*iam* Sauage was one of the ffirst
that euer came itt within.

on a bull-skin boat

hee sayled ore his merrymen
by 2 and 2 together,
& said itt was as good a bote
as ere was made of lether.

crossed over the moat.

* merke, dark.—F.

" waken you, waken you, deare ffather! — Ellen Butler rouses her father.
God waken you within!
for heere is your vnkle standlye — His uncle Stanley is there.
20 come your hall within."

" if *that* be true, Ellen Butler,
these tydings you tell mee,
a 100li. in good redd gold — No money will save him.
24 this night will not borrow mee."

then* came downe Ellen Butler — Ellen comes down to the hall.
& into her ffathers hall,
& then came downe Ellen Butler,
28 & shee was laced in pall.

" where is thy ffather, Ellen Butler? — " Where is your father?"
haue done, and tell itt mee."
" my ffather is now to London ridden, — " Gone to London, I swear."
32 as Christ shall haue *part* of mee."

" Now nay, Now nay, Ellen Butler, — " No, he is not;
ffor soe itt must not bee;
ffor 'ere I go fforth of this hall, — we must have him."
36 your ffather I must see."

thé sought *that* hall then vp and downe† — They search,
theras Iohn Butler Lay;†
thé sought *that* hall then vp and downe
40 theras Iohn Butler Lay;

ffaire him ffall, litle Holcrofft! — find him,
soe Merrilye he kept the dore,
till *that* his head ffrom his shoulders
44 came tumbling downe the fflore.

" yeeld thee, yeelde thee, Iohn Butler! — and summon him to yield.
yeelde thee now to mee!"
" I will yeelde me to my vnckle Stanlye,
48 & neere to ffalse Peeter Lee."

" a preist, a preist," saies Ellen Butler, — " A priest to shrive my father," says Ellen.
" to housle and to shriue!
a preist, a preist," sais Ellen Butler,
52 " while *that* my father is a man aliue!"

then bespake him wil*liam* Sauage,— — " No priest but my sword," says Savage.
a shames death may hee dye!—
Sayes, " he shall haue no other preist
56 but my bright sword and mee."

* MS. them.—F.
† These two lines only are in the MS, but they are marked with a bracket and *bis*.

the Ladye Butler is to London rydden,
shee had better haue beene att home,
shee might haue beggd her owne marryed Lord
att her good Brother Iohn.

Lady Butler is in London.

& as shee lay in leeue London,
& as shee lay in her bedd,
Shee dreamed her owne marryed Lord
was swiminnge in blood soe red.

She dreams that her lord swims in blood,

shee called vp her merry men all
long ere itt was day,
saies, "wee must ryde to Busye hall
with all speed *that* wee may."

calls up her men

and rides homeward.

shee met with 3 Kendall men
were ryding by the way:
"tydings, tydings, Kendall men,
I pray you tell itt mee!"

She meets Kendal men,

and asks tidings.

"heauy tydings, deare Madam!
ffrom you wee will not Leane,*
the worthyest *knight* in merry England,
Iohn Butler, Lord! hee is slaine!"

"John Butler is *slain*."

"ffarewell, ffarwell, Iohn Butler!
ffor thee I must neuer see.
ffarewell, ffarwell, Busiye hall!
for thee I will neu*er* come nye."

Now Ladye Butler is to London againe,
in all the speed might bee;
& when shee came before her prince,
shee kneeled low downe on her knee:

She turns back to London,

"a boone, a boone, my Leege!" shee sayes,
"ffor gods loue grant itt mee!"
"What is thy boone, Lady Butler?†
or what wold thou haue of mee?"†

and prays the King

"What is thy boone, Lady Butler?
or what wold thou haue of mee?"
"*that* ffalse Peeres of Lee, & my brother Stanley,
& will*iam* Sauage, and all, may dye."

to kill her lord's three slayers.

* O.N.—*Leina*, to conceal.—F. *Leane* is a Cheshire pronounciation for *layne*, conceal. This provincialism occurs in the previous stanza, where *way* rhymes to *mee*, and elsewhere in the ballad (l. 83-8). How far south it extends I don't know, but about Frodsham it is very peculiar.—*Dr. Robson.*

† These two lines are bracketed and marked *bis* in the MS.

" come you hither, Lady Butler,
come you ower this stone ;
wold you haue 3 men ffor to dye, "What! 3 for 1?"
all ffor the losse off one ?

" come you hither, Lady Butler,
with all the speed you may ;
if thou wilt come to London, Lady Butler, No. Do you marry Lord Gray.
thou shalt goe home Lady Gray."

ffinis.

III.—Gateway, Bradley Old Hall.

Within a distance of three miles from Bewsey Hall, stood the ancient manor house of Bradley, environed by its still perfect moat, and approached by the picturesque gateway or bartizan, which forms the subject of my third vignette.

The estate of Bradley came into the family of the Leghs of Lyme by the marriage of Sir Peter Legh, who was knighted after the battle of Agincourt, with Joan, daughter and heiress of Sir Gilbert de Haydock, the former possessor of Bradley. It is, therefore, not unlikely that a part of the old hall, now supplanted by a modern farmhouse, was of a date anterior to this marriage, but there is no doubt that the greater part of it, together with the gateway, was erected by the son of this Sir Peter Legh, of the same name, and knighted also, after the battle of Wakefield, in 1460. In 1465, when he was fifty years of age, he commenced a MS. rental of his property, which is still in existence, and in it we find, probably in his own handwriting, though in Latin, the following account of Bradley Hall, now extinct, and of the gateway here delineated :—

" The aforesaid Peter Legh holds the manor of Bradley " in the vill of Burtonwood within the parish of Warrington, " to himself his heirs and assigns for ever that is to say a new " fair hall with three new chambers and a fair dining room " with a new kitchen bakehouse and brewhouse with a new

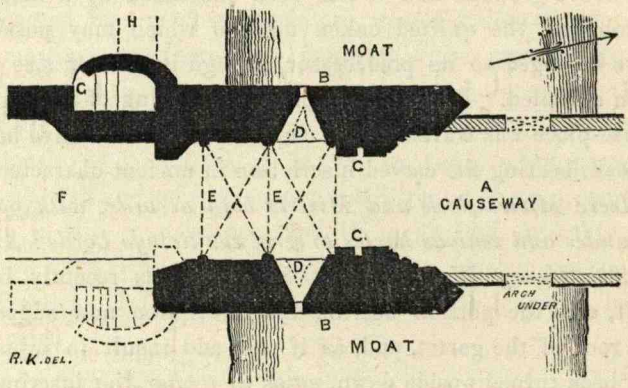
" tower built of stone with small turrets and a fair gateway " and above it a stone bastille well fortified with a fair chapel " all of the said Peter's making also one ancient chamber " called the knight's chamber all which premises aforesaid " with other different houses are surrounded with a moat with " a drawbridge and outside the said moat are three great " barns namely to the north part of the said manor house " with a great shippon and stable with a small house for the " bailiff and a new oven built at the eastern end of a place " called the *Parogardyne* with all the members and demesne " lands to the said manor house belonging or appertaining " with one large orchard enclosed with hedges and ditches on " the south part of the said place called the *Parogardyne* " with an enclosed garden beyond the old oven."—(*Translated from the Extract from the original MS. given by William Beamont, Esq., in "Warrington in* 1465," *Chetham Society, vol.* xvii.)

No remains of the ancient manorhouse of Bradley are now left above ground, and it has been succeeded by a modern farmhouse, the quilted oaken door of which may possibly have belonged to its predecessor, though its former size has been curtailed. Until very recently, the ceiling of the hall or house-place was traversed and supported by a massive beam of oak, bearing the carved inscription in ancient characters— " *Heere Mister doth and Mistris both accorde, with godly* " *mindes and zealous hartes to serve the livinge Lorde: Anno* " 1.97. *Henry Wesley.*"—but the beam has recently been split, and the portion bearing the inscription now supports the roof of the garret, and, as if to "add insult to injury," has been turned upside down, so as to render the inscription very difficult to read from the floor of the chamber. On the staircase are two coats of arms carved in stone, built into the wall, and in one of the rooms a bedstead is pointed out to visitors as that upon which Richard, duke of Gloucester,

(afterwards Richard III) slept, when he spent a night at Bradley, on his march through Lancashire to repel the Scots, in the year 1482.

Of the "fair chapel" spoken of in the Rent-Roll nothing now remains. It may possibly, as well as the "bastille," have been comprised in the noble gateway, for the corbels and portions of arches still left, as also some fragments of the upper windows, are of an ecclesiastical rather than military character. We are told by Mr. Beamont in his pleasing Introduction to "Warrington in 1465," (Chetham Society's *Transactions*, vol. xvii,) "that the ancient font of the chapel "is still preserved in the chapel at Lyme, and bears on one "of its four sides the arms of Haydock."

The front of the ruinous but picturesque gateway at Bradley is well represented in the vignette, and, as will readily be imagined, has often proved attractive to the artist and photographer. So precarious is its present condition that I



GROUND PLAN OF THE GATEWAY.

REFERENCE.—A, the Approach, formerly by a drawbridge; B, B, the Moat; C, C, Grooves for the portcullis; D, D, Embrasures, or narrow windows; E, E, remains of a double-groined Arch; F, a paved Causeway; G, a stone Staircase, communicating by an arch with H, a Passage leading towards the moat.

have judged it expedient to record its ground-plan at the present time by a wood-cut with references. This will also facilitate the detailed description which I propose to give.

The moat at Bradley, 10 yards in width, is still in excellent preservation, and crossed by a stone arch and causeway in lieu of the drawbridge recorded by Sir Peter Legh. The holes through which the chains of the bridge passed to the counterpoise were, on the authority of the present tenant, still visible a few years ago, but are now gone. They no doubt communicated with a cavity in the interior of each pier which flanks the gateway, and which from the grooves still remaining (C C) was also protected by a sliding portcullis. The main features of the arch are shown in the vignette, but it is singularly contracted at the base like the heels of a horse shoe. Immediately within the portcullis is a square space (E E), 12 feet by 10 feet, from the walls of which six corbels of white stone, with corresponding fragments of groined arches project; whilst on each side are large recesses (D D) furnished with embrasures or windows with trefoiled heads and vestiges of iron stanchions. Externally each window is surmounted by a longitudinal dripstone with pendent ends. An interior gate, the massive stone jambs of which still remain, appears to have completed the interior construction of the gateway.

But exteriorly, and on the west side of the gateway, a short flight of steps (G) appears to have communicated by an arch with an underground passage, of three feet in width, leading to the edge of the moat. These steps are enclosed in an archway of original masonry, and at the top are vestiges of a strong door, level with the surface of the ground enclosed by the moat. In my own opinion this can scarcely have been a passage for ingress or egress, but rather a safe means of obtaining water from the moat by the residents of the manor-house.

It will probably have been observed that I have hitherto

given no description of the "bastillum" or prison, which we are assured by the ancient rent-roll originally stood over the gateway at Bradley. But in truth nothing of it now remains, nor of the massive stone staircase which no doubt led to it. In the absence of this evidence, I venture to express an opinion that the latter may have stood at the south-eastern angle of the building, corresponding with the stone steps still existing at the south-western angle. A large amount of *debris* lies here at the present time, though none of it calculated either to rebut or establish my surmise. Moreover, the ecclesiastical character of the corbels and groined arches of the entrance gateway, together with that of the still remaining windows and fragments of others still lying about, leads me to suggest that the "fair chapel" (*capella pulcra*) and the bastille or prison (*bastillum lapideum*) of the MS. rent-roll may both have stood over the gateway. Allowing for the requisite machinery of the drawbridge and portcullis, there would still remain an available space of 14 feet by 12 feet for the domestic chapel, and of 12 feet by 6 feet for what must have been at the most a merely temporary prison.

But, be this as it may, there is sufficient in what I have said to call for a further cautious investigation of this crumbling ruin—an investigation which might possibly lead to measures capable of the preservation from further injury or decay of this most valuable local and historical relic.