

FIRST MEETING.

Collegiate Institution, 13th November, 1851.

DAVID THOM, D.D., Vice-President, in the Chair.

PROCEEDINGS.

The Minutes of the last Meeting were read and confirmed.

The Certificates of nine Candidates for Membership were read for the first time.

The following was enrolled a Member, without election or entrance fee, in accordance with Bye-law of 28th November, 1849 :—

John Williams, Esq., late Mayor of Chester.

The following were duly elected :—

1. *Honorary Member.*

Wm. Bell, Ph.D., 17, Gower Place, Euston Square, London.

2. *Ordinary Members.*

Robert Hugh Brackstone, 47, Wood Street, London.

John Binning Donaldson, 14, Low Hill Terrace, Liverpool.

The following DONATIONS to the Society were laid upon the table :—

1. From the *Societies.*

Proceedings of the Society of Antiquaries of London, No. 28.

The Sussex Archæological Collections, vol. iv.

Archæologia Cambrensis, or Journal of the Cambrian Archæological Association for July and October, 1851.

Transactions of the Kilkenny Archæological Society, for 1850.

2. From the *Authors*.

Collectanea Antiqua, vol. ii. part 6, by Chas. Roach Smith, F.S.A.

Etchings of Anglo-Saxon Antiquities, extracted from Do. by Do.

Miscellanea Palatina; consisting of Genealogical Essays, illustrative of Lancashire and Cheshire families, and a memoir on the Cheshire Domesday Roll. By George Ormerod, D.C.L., &c.

Treasure Trove in Northumberland, by John Fenwick, Esq.

History of Liverpool, part vi. By Thomas Baines, Esq.

3. From the *Editors*.

Ancient Charters, and other Muniments of the Borough of Clitheroe; edited from the original documents, with Translations and Notes. By John Harland, Esq.

Autobiography of Wm. Stout of Lancaster, wholesale and retail grocer and ironmonger; a Member of the Society of Friends,—A.D. 1685–1752. Edited by John Harland, Esq.

The Restoration of All Nations, or a Vindication of the Goodness and Grace of God; by Jeremiah White, Chaplain to Oliver Cromwell. Edited by D. Thom, D.D., Ph.D.

4. From the *Artists*.

A map of the Borough of Liverpool, for computing distances for the fares of Hackney Coaches, 1851. Executed for the Corporation of Liverpool, by Maclure, Macdonald, and Macgregor.

Lithograph of the Ancient Stone Coffins, cut in the rock, at Heysham, Lancashire; by the Rev. J. F. Lee, M.A., Grammar School Lancaster.—Lithograph of a portion of the Walls of Ancient Verulam; by Ditto.—Etching of Roman Sepulchral Remains, found in the Church-yard of St. Stephen's, near St. Albans, 1848, by Ditto.—Etching of part of a Column found at St. Albans; by Ditto.—Etching of the doorway of the Church of Belgrave, Leicestershire; by Do.

5. From *other* Donors.

- Jos. Mayer, F S A.,
Proprietor. An Anastatic fac-simile of the Chronicle of Thomas Sprott, privately printed by Joseph Mayer, F.S.A. ; with a copy of the original in Roman letter, and an English translation by Dr. Bell.
- John Fenwick, Esq. Slogans of the North of England, by Michael Hislabie Denham, Esq.
- John Caton Thompson, Esq. Blome's Britannia, 1673.
- J. H. Johnson, Esq. The New Testament, by Bonham Norton, 1673. Pharmacopeiæ Londiniensis, 1683. Chronological Chart of Anglican Church Architecture.
- James Kendrick, M.D.,
Warrington. The History of Manchester, by the Rev. W. Whitaker, 1773.
- John Harland, Esq. Newspaper Cuttings of various Antiquarian Articles.
- Mr. James Stonehouse. The Art of War, by Nicholas Machiavell, 1560.
- Mr. Thomas Brakell. An American Bull-frog, preserved and stuffed.

The following Articles were EXHIBITED :—

- By P. R. M'Quie, Esq. A volume entitled "Cælum Philosophorum, seu liber de secretis Naturæ;" per Philip-pum Ulstadium. Lugduni, 1557.
Two ancient drinking bowls of stone, with carved circles, and oriental inscriptions. One of black stone is from the shore of the Black Sea ; the other of variegated marble is from Jerusalem.
- By Dr. Hume. Three jagged spears of wood. One is said to be from Caffraria, with feathered head and arrow notches ; another is from New South Wales ; and the third, of very curious construction, from Western Africa.
- By Andrew J. Lamb, Esq. An ancient Fibula of peculiar construction, believed to have been found in Whittlesea Mere.
- By Joseph Mayer, F.S.A. The following drawings to illustrate his Paper :—viz., 1. Peel Hall, near Tarvin, Cheshire.—2. Another view of Ditto.—3. Inscription on Ditto.—4. Gayton Hall, near Heswall, Cheshire.—5. Stair-case at Ditto.—6. Heswall Church, Cheshire.—7. Three curious monuments in Ditto.

By Richard Brooke,
F.S.A.

The Poll Book of Free Burgesses of Liverpool, who voted at the election for Liverpool in 1780, when the contest took place between Bamber Gascoyne, Jun., Esq., Richard Pennant, Esq., and Henry Rawlinson, Esq., which terminated in the election of Mr. Gascoyne and Mr. Rawlinson.

The Book of Addresses, Squibs, Pasquinades, Songs, &c., written on the occasion of that election. We learn from it that the principal electioneering houses of the candidates were the Fleece (Banner's), and George's Coffee House, Castle Street, for Mr. Gascoyne; the Golden Lion (Forshaw's), for Mr. Pennant; and the Talbot, Black Horse, and Rainbow, for Mr. Rawlinson.

The Poll Book, &c., for 1796, when the candidates were General Tarleton and Colonel Gascoyne, who were elected, and John Tarleton, Esq., who was unsuccessful.

The Book of Addresses, Squibs, &c., of that election.

MISCELLANEOUS COMMUNICATIONS.

Mr. Brooke stated, that between 30 and 40 years ago, a ceremony somewhat similar to the election of a Mock Mayor in Newcastle, Staffordshire, used to take place annually in Liverpool. On every St. Luke's day, 18th October (on which day the Mayor of Liverpool was then elected), a number of working men, acting as a kind of Mock Corporation, used to meet at Page's Tavern, in Roscoe Street, for the purpose of electing a Mock Mayor. They were called the Mayor and Corporation of "Asses' Green," from the circumstance of an uninclosed tract of ground being then in front of the tavern, extending thence to the west side of Rodney Street, and forming part of it. After the election, which took place after dark, the new "Mayor of Asses' Green" underwent the ceremony of "Chairing." He was carried in procession, attended by drums and fifes, with colours, and occasionally torches, and accompanied by a considerable crowd; and the procession proceeded through Roscoe Street and Leece Street, into Rodney Street, and when it arrived about half-way between Leece Street and Knight Street it made a halt, and "the Corporation" and populace sang "*God save the King.*" They used to halt close to Mr. Brooke's residence; and as they were invariably well conducted, and as he considered the ceremony harmless, he was accustomed to give "his worship" a small gratuity. The procession then used to move on along Rodney Street to Knight Street, down the latter to Roscoe Street, and back to the Tavern. Mr. Brooke also stated, that he had no reason to suppose that the ceremony of electing the Mock Mayor of Asses' Green was an ancient one. It has now

been discontinued for many years; the last time that he could recollect seeing the procession was on St. Luke's day, about 30 years ago.

Mr. Neill mentioned, that of the original members of the Liverpool Athenæum, established in 1798, only three now survive.

Dr. Hume read a letter from the Town Clerk, intimating that the Library and Museum Committee of the Town Council had agreed to provide accommodation for the Society's Collection, at the apartments of the Free Public Library and Museum.

A letter having been read from John Ireland Blackburne, Esq., of Hale, suggesting that at least two meetings of the Session should be held during the day, for the accommodation of non-resident members;

It was moved by HUGH NEILL, F.R.A.S., seconded by RICHARD BROOKE, F.S.A., and resolved,—

"That the Society, approving and recommending the principle of the suggestion, refer the matter to the Council for consideration, and for the arrangement of details if necessary."

PAPER.

THE ALLEGED ROYAL VISITS TO LIVERPOOL.

By Joseph Mayer, F.S.A.

It is always at a disadvantage that any one sets up a doubt, or even hints at the want of historical evidence to support an old, and generally received tradition; nor ought we to wonder at this, for one half the world never ask themselves the question whether it is likely to be true, or whence the narrator had his authority for the assertion. On the contrary, they content themselves with the probability of the occurrence, and so taking it for granted, tradition often becomes, in course of time, embodied into written history, and is handed down by after writers on the subject as fact. Just such is the case in the subject now before us; where various writers on the early history of Liverpool, after failing to make it a British or a Roman Station, boldly drag in Royalty to fill up the gap, which they wished could have been occupied by a British Chieftain or a Roman Emperor.

But surely this is not the true end and aim of History—to bring forward mere imaginings and suppositions, to be set forth in such light as to be like a "Jack-o'-Lantern" leading us into a quagmire;

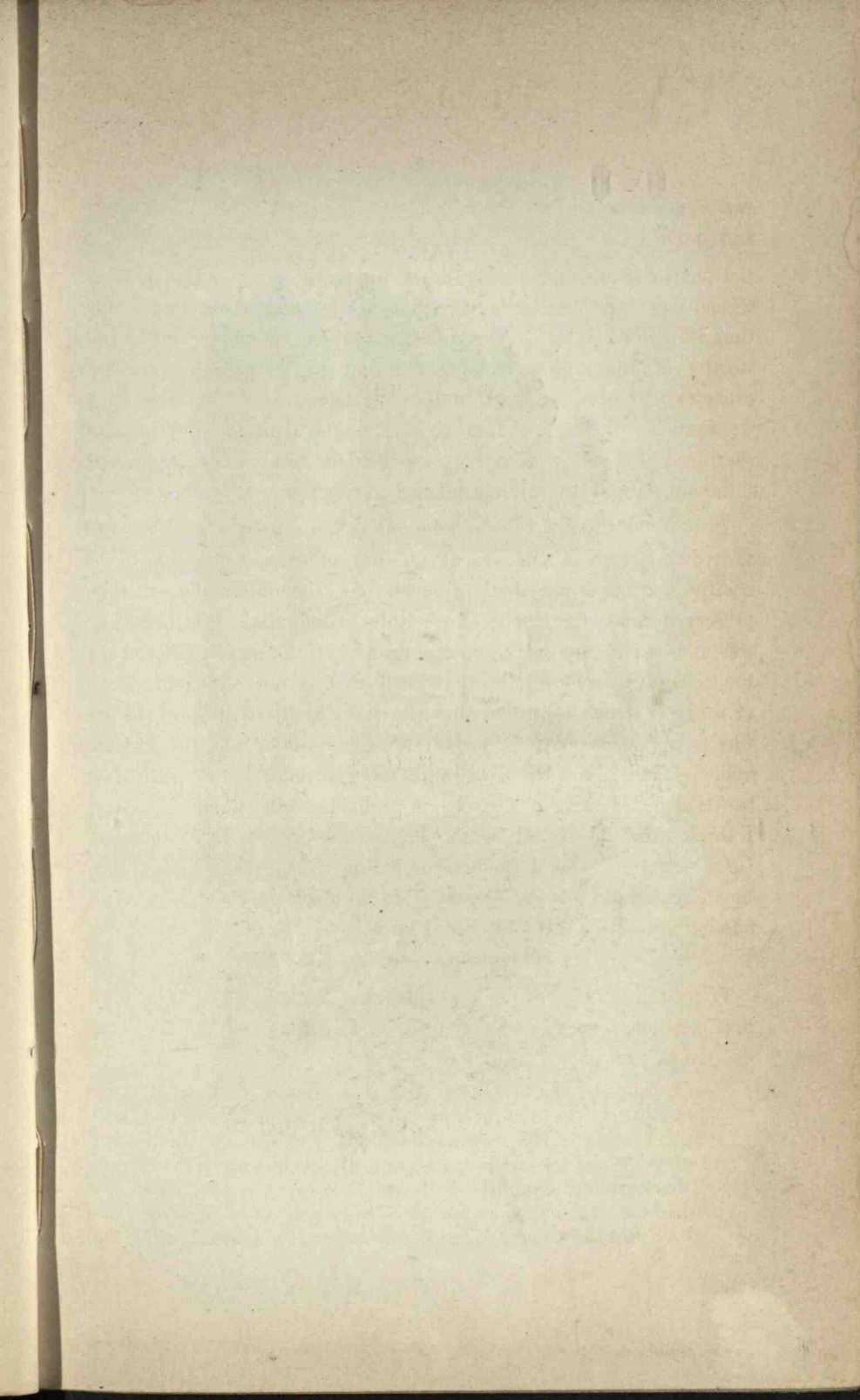
and then, on the return of thought, we find that we have been misled, and stand upon a flimsy coating of unconsolidated rubbish.

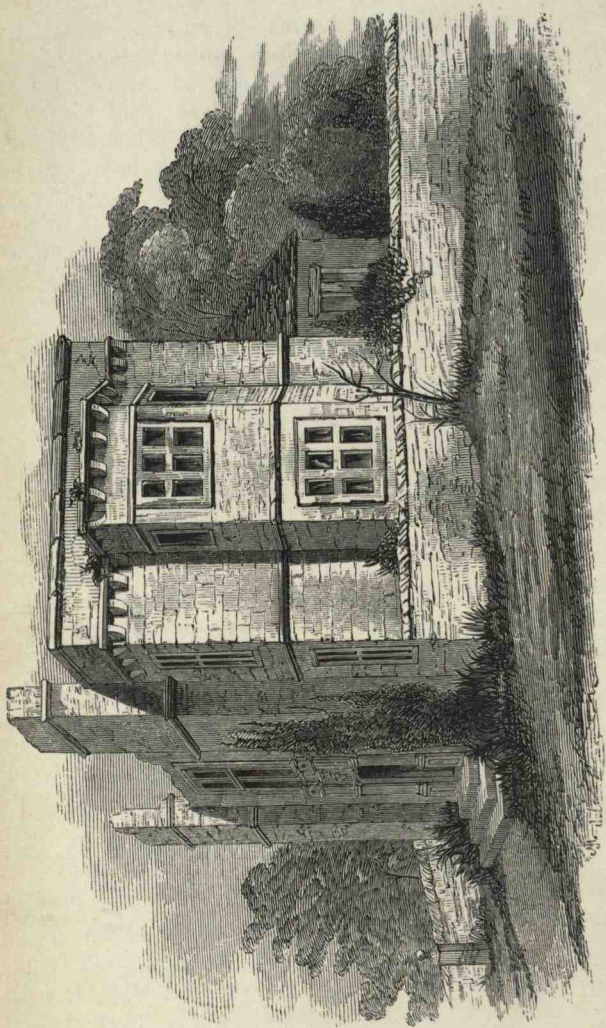
I shall not presume to lay down any rules for guidance in Historical writing; but I must say that at the present day too much time is thrown away in argument on subjects that are quite unworthy of the higher ends that ought to be held in view by every one who undertakes to write on History. And however fond we may be of doing honor to our home, truth should not be sacrificed at the altar of doubt; as it is far better to be accused of "the sin of ignorance" than blamed for negligence.

In most of the histories of Liverpool, King John is said to have visited this town in the year 1206, but of that event we have no positive record, as we shall presently see; the only document now preserved being one in the Close Rolls, which states that the King was at Lancaster on the 26th of February, 1206, and at Chester on the 28th of February following. But that is not sufficient documentary evidence to prove that the King visited Liverpool on his way from Lancaster to Chester; for Liverpool is not at that time named at all. That the King might have stayed at his hunting-seat, in the Royal Forest of Toxteth, is probable; but it is more likely, I think, that he stayed at the homestead of some neighbouring Lord, where he would be entertained in a befitting manner as a Sovereign, than that he should visit the Castle of Liverpool, even admitting that Castle to have been in existence at the time, which we have very poor grounds for asserting.

It was in 1208—two years after this alleged visit—that John first became possessor of the town of Liverpool, as the following document shews:—

"John, by the Grace of God, &c.—Know ye that we have granted, and by our present Charter have confirmed, to Henry Fitz-Warine of Lancaster, the lands which King Henry, my father, gave to Warine, his father, for his services, to wit: Ravinesmoles, Amnolnesdal, and the French Lea, *which we have given to him in exchange for Liverpool and Uplitherland*, which the aforesaid Henry, my father, had given with the





KING WILLIAM'S ROOM, PEEL HALL,
CRESSHIRE.

[From a Sketch by Joseph Mayer, Esq.]

Drawn and Engraved by Llewellyn Jevitt]

aforesaid lands, to the aforesaid Warine, his father, *and which the said Henry hath remised to us and our heirs.* To be holden to him and to his heirs (on payment of) 20/ yearly, at the feast of St. Michael, for all service and exaction, saving to us and our heirs the wardships and marriages of the heirs of the said Henry, in manner as our ancestors used to have the same, when Warine, the father of the said Henry, did the service of a falconer to our ancestors. Wherefore the aforesaid Henry, and his heirs after him, may have and hold the aforesaid lands, with all their appurtenances, of us and our heirs, by the aforesaid service, in wood and plain, in ways and paths, in meadows and feedings, in moors and marshes, in waters and mills, and in pools, well and in peace, freely and quietly, peaceably and honorably, fully and entirely, in all places and things, with all liberties and free customs, to the aforesaid lands pertaining, as is aforesaid.

“ Witness,

“ William, Earl Warenne,
 “ William, Earl of Derby,
 “ S. de Quency, Earl of Winchester,
 “ William Bruhere,
 “ Gilbert Fitz Reinfare (Reinfrea),
 “ Thomas Basset,
 “ Allan Basset,
 “ Robert de Groséley (Grezley),
 “ William de Cantilupe.

“ Given by the hand of Henry de Wells, Archdeacon of Wells, at Winchester, on the 28th day of August in the 9th year of our Reign.”

We now begin to find that the King saw the great advantages that would flow from establishing a town at the entrance of the Mersey, as he would by this means make that part of the coast secure against the attack from an enemy. Accordingly, in the same year, he ordered his vassals in Toxteth to settle in the new Town, and as an inducement thereto, gave them the following grant:—

“ CARTA REGIS JOHANNIS.

“ Rex om'ib^z qui burgagia ap' villam de Liv^rpul h're volu'int &c. Sciatis quod c. cessim^s om'ib^z qui burgagia ap' Liv^rpul cep'int q^d ha'nt omnes libertates et lib^ras c. suetudines in villa de Liv^rpul quas aliquis lib. burg. sup' mare h't in t^ra n^ra.

Et i'o vob. mandam^s q^d secure et in pace n'ra illuc veniatís ad burgagia n'ra recipienda et hospitanda. Et in huj. rei testim^o has litt'as n'ras patentes vob. transmittm^s. T. Sim. de Patesh. ap' Wint. xxvij die Aug. anno r. n. jx^o.—p. Sim. de Patesh."*

TRANSLATION.

"The King to all who may be willing to have burgages at the town of Liverpul &c. Know ye that we have granted to all who shall take burgages at Liverpul that they shall have all liberties and free customs in the town of Liverpul which any free borough on the sea hath in our land. And we therefore command you, that securely and in our peace you come there to receive and inhabit our burgages.—And in testimony hereof we send you these our letters patent. Witness Simon de Pateshill at Winchester the twenty-seventh day of August in the ninth year of our reign. By Simon de Pateshill."

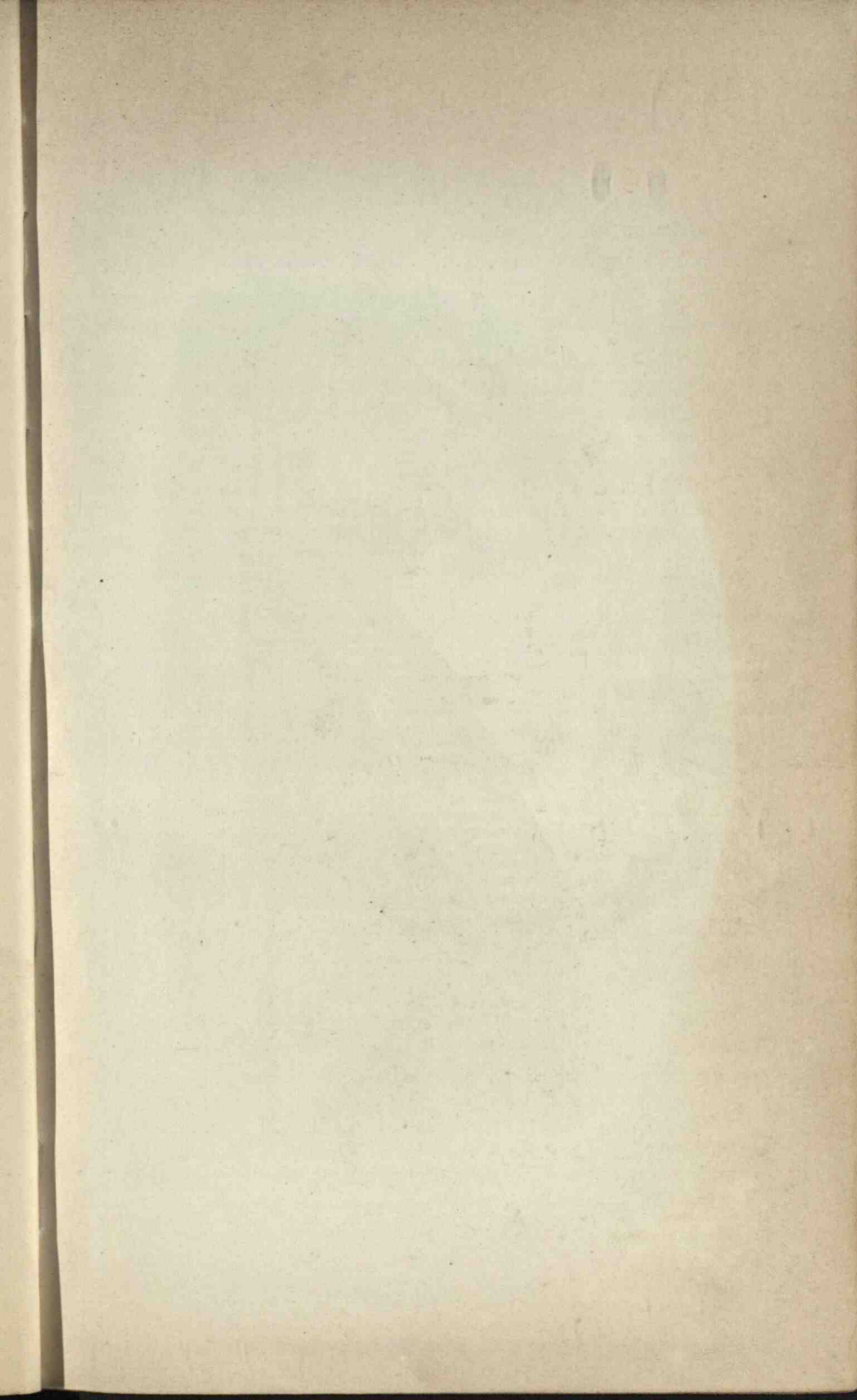
Thus it was made a free Burgh. We must mention, however, that it is asserted that in the 4th year of this reign, 1203, certain repairs were made of the Castle of Liverpool; but so inexpensive were they, that it must either have been lately erected and required few repairs, or else the record alludes to some small tower of defence; as, in the same year, we find there were much larger works done at West Derby Castle.

I have therefore come to the conclusion, that from the evidence adduced, there is very little foundation for the belief that his Majesty, King John, visited Liverpool at this time; and certainly he did not do so on his return from Ireland at a later period of his reign.

Now let us see what authority we have for the assertion that King William the Third visited Liverpool, on his way to Ireland and the Battle of the Boyne, in 1690.

In the first place, we have plenty of documentary evidence that Liverpool was not such a place as would tempt a King to go out of

* Copied from a Transcript in the Records of the Corporation of Liverpool, which was taken from the original Record of Chancery remaining in the Tower of London. Rot. Pat. 9 Joh. No. 30.—J. M.





STAIRCASE, PEEL HALL, CHESHIRE.

Llewellyn Jewitt, del. & sc.]

[From a Sketch by Joseph Mayer, Esq.]

his way to see it, at a time when the dismemberment of part of his Kingdom was threatened, and his subjects in Ireland in rebellion against him. The safety of all depended upon prompt and decisive measures being taken on the spot. Nay, would he not have been blamed for imprudence in delay, had he spent his time in visits of condescension when he ought to have been in the field, inspecting his troops; which were then waiting for him at Hoylake, the place of embarkation. Liverpool at that time was not considered a safe harbour "by reason of the strong tydes that run here;"* besides which, there were many reasons why Liverpool was not chosen as the place of rendezvous—amongst which was the uncertainty of obtaining provisions for the army in that neighbourhood, as the country was for the most part an uncultivated waste for many miles round on this side of the Mersey; entirely without roads and the necessary means of conveyance. This appears to have been well known to the authorities of that day, and we find some time before that orders were given to the Commissariat, as follows:—

"Instructions to be observed by Godphrey Richards, Purveyor of their Majesties Train.

"You shall wth all convenient speed repair into England p^ticular into county of Lancaster and y^e adjacent there to bargain for and buy att the chepest rates & in y^e most convenient place or places for shipping off & transportation to Belfast in this pvince such & so great a quantity of good cleane dry and wholesome oates as may be a convenient supply in y^e season for y^e Horses of their Majesties Train. And if y^e may not be had in & about Lancashire for & at a reasonable Price you are to use all Expedition in repairing to Milford haven and the country adjacent ther to buy y^e said quantity of y^e said grain in which yo^u shall use yo^r utmost care, skill, & Diligence.

"And for a supply of money to buy or purchas the said quantity of oates yo^u shall have & recieve a lett^r of creadite directed to y^e Hono^{ble} S^r Henry Goodrich Knight & Barr^{tt} Lt Genrall of their Majesties Ordinance & y^e rest of y^e principall officers of y^e same to supply yo^u with any sum to any place

* See Collins' Great Britain Coasting Pilot.

for y^e purpose aforesaid not exceeding three Hundred Pounds starling. And in regard expedition is to be used in y^e s^d service for y^e better pformance thereof yo^u shall also reseive a warr^{tt} for one of y^e ships now in their Maj^{ties} service to Transport y^e said oates into y^e s^d Towne of Belfast of 35 Tuns or thereabouts.

“You shall also observe such further ord^{rs} & Instructions as from tyme to tyme yo^u shall recieve of me or shall be sent yo^u by S^r Henry Goodrich & the rest of the Principall Officers of y^e Ordinance before mentioned. Given att y^e head Quarters at Lisborne this 8th of January 1689 in y^e first yeare of their Maj^{ties} Raine &c.

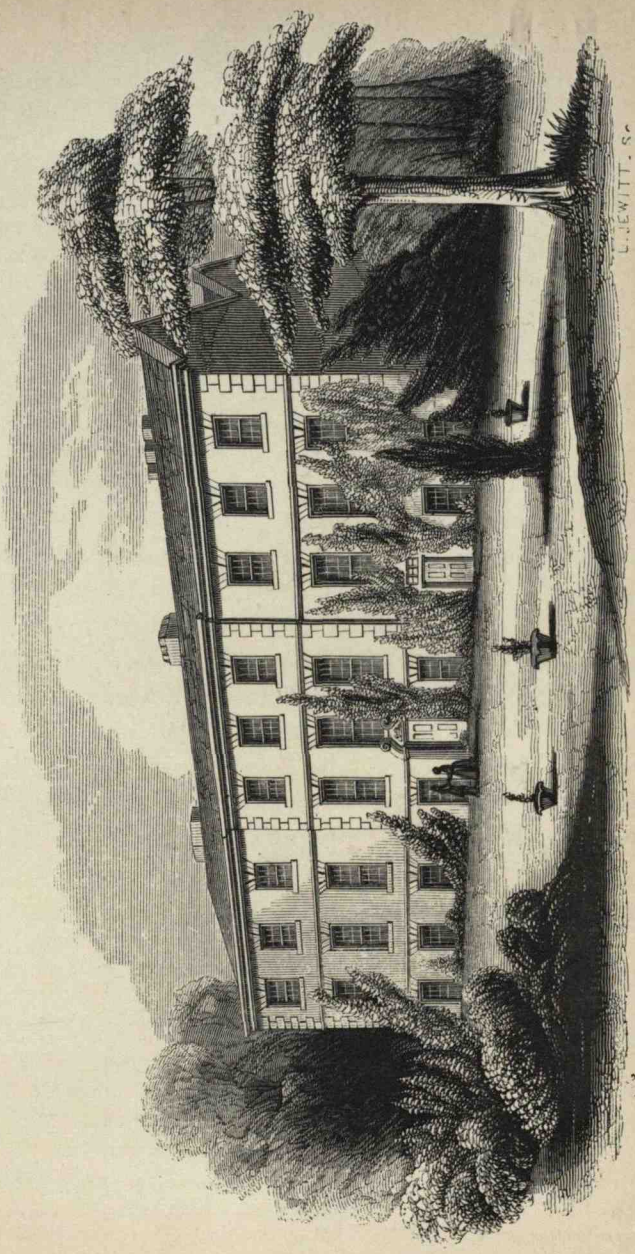
“SCHOMBERG.”

Let us now trace the records of the Royal progress, and we shall find it stated that King William left London on the 4th of June, 1690; slept at Peel Hall, the seat of Colonel Roger Whiteley, near Tarvin, on the 9th; and the next day we find him at Chester, and being Sunday morning, attending Divine Service at the Cathedral. From thence, the same afternoon, he travelled to Gayton Hall, near Parkgate, the mansion of William Glegg, Esq., where he stayed on the night of the 10th;* and the next morning, commanding Mr. Glegg to kneel before him, he struck him on the shoulder with his sword, and putting out his hand, raised him as Sir William Glegg. Departing from Gayton, he at once proceeded to the Leasowes; and the troops striking their tents, were put in motion, and embarked on board the Royal Fleet (at a point since called the King's Gap) lying on the Lake, and sailed out with the tide at noonday.

The following order corroborates the date of the King's staying at Gayton:—

“By virtue of his Majesty's order, dated at Gayton the tenth day of June, 1690:—I doe discharge you William Reymer (formerly) Edward Tarlton master of the James of Liverpoole from his said Majesties service, and you are hereby discharged

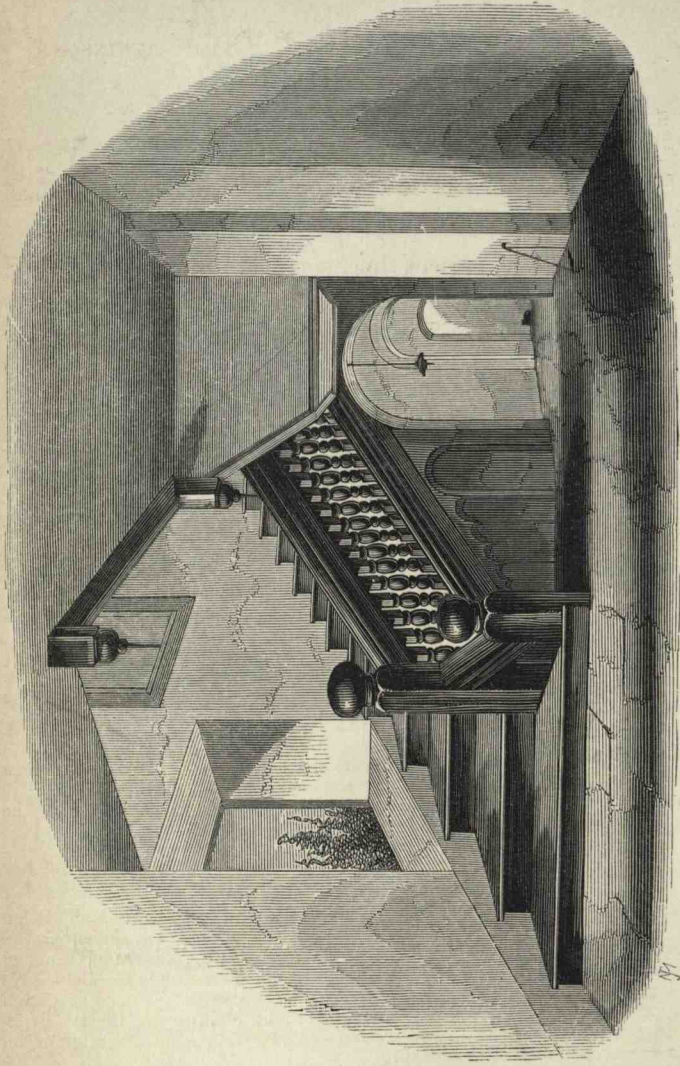
* It was during his stay at Gayton that the King granted to Sir William and his heirs for ever, the free fishery of the River Dee, which right is now exercised by his descendants.



GAYTON HALL, CHESHIRE.

Drawn and Engraved by Llewellynn Lewitt]

[From a Sketch by Joseph Mayer, Esq.



STAIRCASE, GAYTON HALL, CHESHIRE.

Llewellyn Jewitt. del. & sc.]

[From a Sketch by Joseph Mayer, Esq.]

from the day of the date hereof. Given at my office at Hoylake this Eleventh day of August Anno domini One thousand six hundred and ninety.

“SAM^{LL} ATKINSON.”

“To William Reymer (formerly)
Edward Tarlton master of the
James of Liverpool.”*

This Edward Tarlton was the person who piloted the King's vessel from Hoylake to Carrickfergus.

We have, down to the present time, some idea of the state of the roads in those days, and see the time it took to go from one place to another on the King's highroad. How then would it be possible, as has been alleged by various writers, that the King with his retinue could pass either from Chester to Liverpool and then to Gayton, or from Gayton to Liverpool and then to Hoylake in one day, over a cross country, where there were only agricultural roads, and having on either supposition, to cross and recross the river Mersey? The accomplishment of so much would be almost an impossibility at that time, and a good day's work at the present time, with all the advantages which we now possess of good and nearly direct roads from one place to the other. I think, on looking at the large tract of country which would have to be traversed by the King, and the

* Copied from the original document in the possession of Mr. Thomas Moore, a descendant of the Tarltons. But, for the above service and others rendered the King, we find that Edward Tarlton never received his due reward; and his widow, petitioning the Parliament, received the following order—though never paid:—

“Transport Office, Aug. 20, 1695.

“No. 252.

“Whereas by an Act of Parliament passed in y^e seaventh year of his Ma^{ties} Reign y^e Comm^{rs} of Transportacon are Impowered and Directed to make out authentick Debentures for all and every the Ships hired for Transporting Forces, Ammunition and Provisions, for reduceing y^e Kingdom of Ireland to its due obedience to his Ma^{tie}. We y^e said Comm^{rs} doe certifie that there is due to the Ship Wheel of fortune, Ralph Standish M^r the sume of fourtey three Pounds & Eight Shillings as appears by an acct^t stated in y^e Books of this office, and is hereby to be p^d to Mrs. Ann Tarlton or her assignes for y^e use of y^e owners of said ship.

“Entered in y^e Auditors Office
p^r order y^e Comm

JOHN HENLY.”

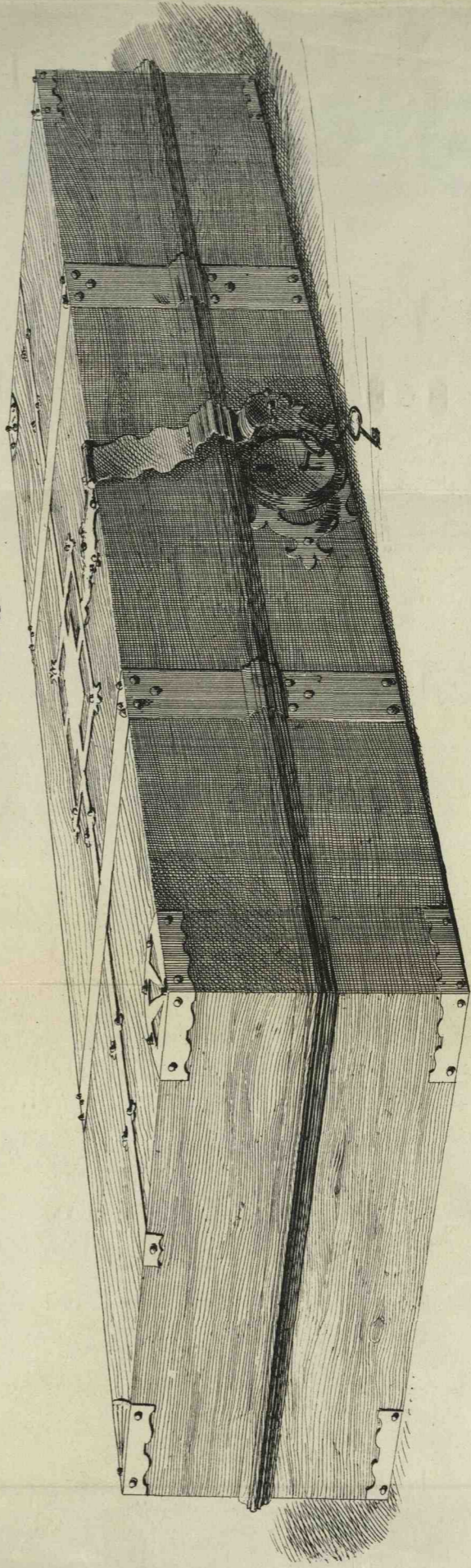
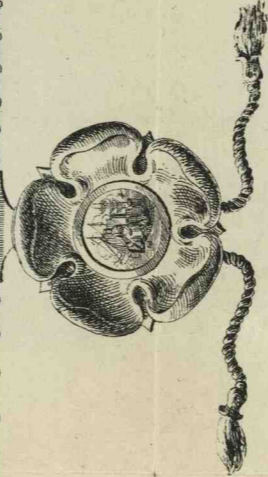
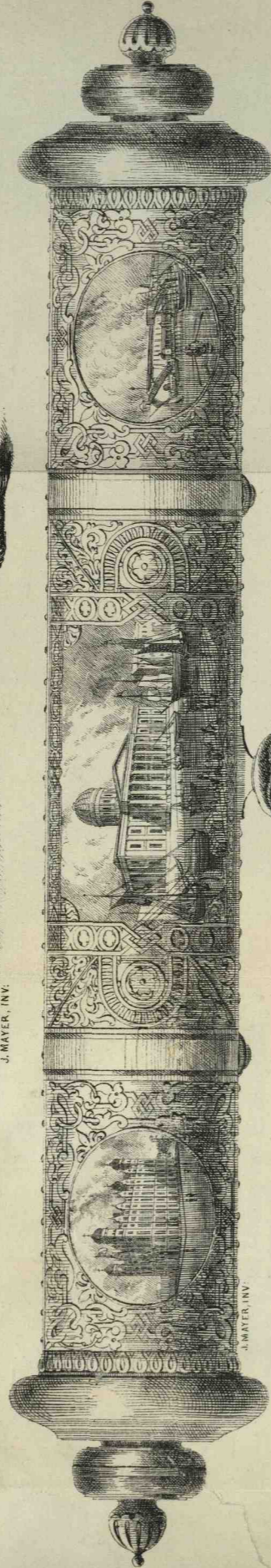
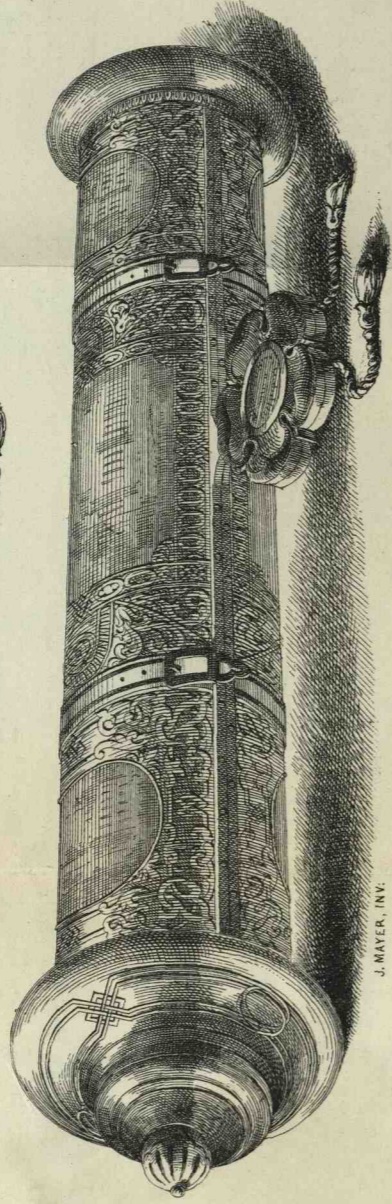
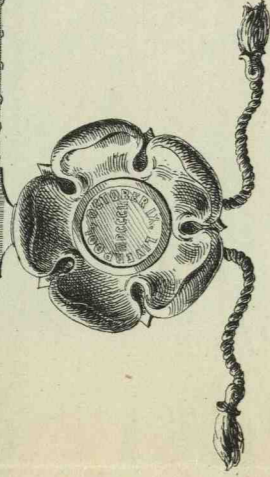
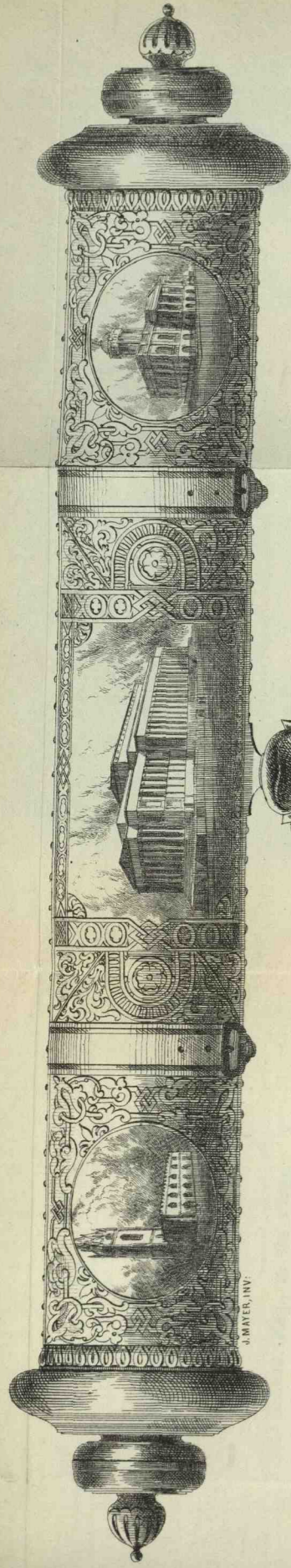
“SAM. ATKINSON,
“ANTH. DUNCOMBE,
“ROB^t. HENLY,
“THO: HOPKINS.”

means at hand for doing it, that difficulties would be presented which would at once have deterred his Majesty from attempting it: and the more so, as he could have no special object in view in visiting such a poor and insignificant town as Liverpool then was. And if it was undertaken at all, it must have been on the way from Chester to Gayton, where the distance would have been nearly 30 miles, as there certainly would not have been time to do it the next day from Gayton, before high water, at which time the King and his fleet sailed out of the Lake.

By a computation of the state of the tide on the 10th of June, 1690, old style, I find it was high water at Hoylake or Liverpool at nine o'clock, A.M.; but we now find, by the alteration in time of flowing of the tides, that, by the present computation of rise and flow, it would have been twenty-two minutes past eleven. The former computation is, however, no doubt correct; as we find that the King's ship, on board of which his Majesty was, grounded on a Bank near the Point of Ayre, off the Isle of Man, at about four o'clock the next morning. This being the low water of a spring tide, his vessel did not get off for more than an hour afterwards; and the Bank has ever since been called "King William's Bank."

On these data, therefore, my conviction is, that neither King John nor William the Third, nor indeed any other Sovereign of these Realms, visited Liverpool; until the time just now passed, when Her most gracious Majesty, Queen Victoria, was pleased to honor the town with her august presence on the ninth day of last month. Her loyal and faithful subjects vied with each other to receive her with all the demonstrations of homage and affection, as became a great people to a great Queen; and on the part of Her Majesty, we shall long remember the satisfaction which she expressed at the view of the mighty works raised on the site of the once small fishing village, and the great signs of progress still carrying on in this "city of ships."

The annexed Illustration,—representing the Box which contained the address presented to the Queen by the Mayor, Aldermen, and Common Council,—is supplied by Mr. Mayer, at the request of the Society.



LIVERPOOL ADDRESS TO THE QUEEN.

The Scroll Case containing the Address written on parchment was made of Silver overlaid with massive richly pierced Gold Work, having Straps with Buckles to fasten the parts together. On the upper part are Views of St. Nicholas' Church (Religious), St. George's Hall (Justice), and the Town Hall (Civil Liberty); those on the under side are the Sailor's Home, the first stone of which was laid by H.R.H. Prince Albert, (Education) the Custom House (Revenue), and the Great Landing Stage, with a Screw Propeller Steam Ship (Mechanics and Navigation); the pendant from center holds the Seal attached to the address and is in form of a Rose, the Queen being Duchess of Lancaster; on one side is engraved LYON, and the reverse, the Genius of Liverpool with her attributes.

The Square Case to contain the Gold one is of Oak, ornamented with Silver Bands and a lock in the Style of the 15th Century, having the following inscription.

THIS BOX CONTAINING THE GOLD CASE AND ADDRESS PRESENTED TO
HER MAJESTY QUEEN VICTORIA.
 BY THE MAYOR AND BURGESSES OF
THE FIRST VISIT OF ROYALTY TO LIVERPOOL.
 WAS MADE FROM PART OF THE HOUSE USED AS THE HEAD QUARTERS OF PRINCE RUPERT WHEN HE BESEGED
 THE TOWN IN 1644.

DESIGNED & MANUFACTURED BY JOSEPH MAYER, GOLDSMITH, 68, LORD ST. LIVERPOOL.

*Engraved by
 J. M. Mayer, St. Liverpool.*