

antiquary, who had the commission previously referred to before him.)\* “possibly the family of the Holmes Mayors of Chester, having fallen into “decay, might keep an Inn at that time in Liverpool, as one of the family “certainly did nearly thirty years afterwards.” In the absence of any evidence, beyond the uncertain remembrance of one, whose memory assigns three different situations to a person, of a name by no means uncommon in Cheshire and Lancashire, may not the epitaph expressly copied by the writer of this, be considered conclusive, that the last three Randle Holmes ended their days in Chester, thus terminating the melancholy history of this talented but unfortunate family.

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II.—SECOND PART OF OBSERVATIONS ON THE INSCRIPTION UPON THE  
COMMON SEAL OF LIVERPOOL.

*By Richard Brooke, Esq., F.S.A.*

Mr. BROOKE'S views on this subject have already appeared in the proceedings, p. 60, and pp. 76-79. On the present occasion, his remarks were intended to be corroborative of those views, and to some extent argumentative.

1. After two visits to inspect the ancient impression (of 4 and 5 Philip and Mary,) with and without a magnifying glass, he alleges that his opinion was unaltered, that the letter before LEVERPOL was not D, but M.

2. In the word on the face of the Seal, he fancied that the middle letter was rounded at one extremity somewhat more than the engraving represented it. It might thus be P (part of the termination IOPIS,) and not P, (part of IOPIS.)

3. In palliation of the barbarous Latin (LEVERPOLIOPIS) necessary to support his reading, he quoted the legends on the Seals of Pontefract and Carlisle, the latter of which has the word KARLIOLENSIS.

4. In allusion to some oral remarks at the meeting on the 1st of February, Mr. BROOKE shewed that several Seals had single words or initials on their faces. Thus, “Sussex” on that of East Grinstead; the same word contracted on that of Brighton; “Ludlow” on the Seal of

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\* In the Catal. MSS. Bib. Harl. vol. iii. p. 383.

the bailiffs and burgesses of the town; "1614" on that of Penzance; and "E. R." on that of Reading. He also showed that IOKIS, the genitive of "John," occurs on the Seal of Yeovil—the governing noun being given. He did not, however, adduce any instance, in which *part* of a word is transferred from the circumscription to the face of the Seal.

5. He submitted an entirely new reading suggested by an antiquarian correspondent. It is that the bird is a dove with an olive sprig in its beak, a mediæval rebus for the word PAX; and that the disputed letters on the face of the Seal are intended for NOBIS or VOBIS.

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III.—MEMORANDA RELATING TO LANCASTER CASTLE, IN CONNECTION WITH THE PRESENTATION BY THOMAS HOUSMAN HIGGIN, ESQ., BELFAST, OF TWO PICTURES PAINTED PREVIOUS TO THE ALTERATIONS COMMENCED IN THE YEAR 1780.

*By Edward Higgin, Esq., Hon. Mem. Nat. Hist. Soc.,  
Manchester, &c.*

THE interest which attaches to the splendid pile of building forming the present Castle of Lancaster, prevents the necessity for any apology from a member of the Historic Society, in thus early placing on record a few particulars gathered from the late Governor, Mr. Higgin, and from other sources, regarding the ancient portions of the structure now cased over, or taken down, as well as relating to the various alterations which have added to the grandeur of the edifice, whilst they have conduced to the health of its occupants, and rendered the gaol unsurpassed by any similar structure in the County, for security, beauty, and perfect adaptation to the purposes for which it is required.

Before referring to the paintings, it will be well to sum up briefly the past history of the Town and Castle. Antiquaries agree in representing a Roman station to have been early formed at Lancaster; as early as the year 79 of our era, by Julius Agricola; thus rendering the town a place of importance and security *seventeen*