

part of Cheshire.* Upon the whole, I must say that for a family of consideration in the county, I was disappointed with the size of Soss Moss Hall, the appearance of the rooms, and the want of the conveniences and comforts, which even three centuries ago, such a family might be reasonably supposed to require; nor does the hall convey to a spectator, the idea of a mansion formerly inhabited by a leading family, of the county of Chester. Besides which, the situation of the hall is bad; it is quite in a flat, the soil is poor and sandy, the public road near it was bad in several places within even my recollection, and from the appearance of bog earth in many situations close to it, there cannot be a doubt, that less than three centuries ago, the land about it must have been wet, and almost a swamp. Certainly it was not the situation, which we should expect a family of a certain rank in the county, to select, for their principal mansion.

The last time that I heard anything of the son of old William Wyche, mentioned above, was in September of the present year, when I learnt, that he had been for sometime an ostler, at a small Inn at Knutsford, and had since been a labouring gardener, at Manchester, or in its vicinity, and was then in very indifferent circumstances, and out of work. Such has been the falling away, and sad reverse in the fortunes of the once high and respectable county family of Wyche, or De la Wyche.

The following documents, having reference to Liverpool, were exhibited by Mr. MAYER. They are given as nearly as possible in the original form.

III. TO THE LAND-OWNERS AND INHABITANTS OF LIVERPOOL.

Reasons offered to the public why Mr. Jordan should not be permitted to prosecute his scheme of bringing water into the town of Liverpool, from Bootle springs.

When the Act of the 8th Queen Anne was obtained for that purpose, which is 57 years ago, there was a much greater scarcity of fresh water in *Liverpool* than at present: For since that time many springs of pure soft water have been opened, within the Corporation estate, abundantly sufficient (with the aid of the wells belonging to ancient messuages, which serve for brewing, and other domestic purposes) to supply the town,

* Such as Chorley Hall, and Moat Hall, and the site of Alderley Hall; the latter was burned down in 1779, and all vestiges of the walls of the Mansion are gone.

whenever the Corporation may find it necessary to introduce them by aqueducts; but the present mode of supplying us with water, is so very convenient, expeditious, and reasonable (four pails full being sold for a penny) and so many poor families getting their bread by it, and there being one general town's well, to which many families resort, that until the inhabitants shall be of opinion that there is a necessity for it, probably the Corporation may think it eligible to let the town be supplied as it at present is; which, perhaps, is as cheap, if not cheaper, than by the method Mr. *Jordan* proposes to do with his hungry water: For really the water of Bootle Springs is a poor thin water, and in its natural state, very unfit either for brewing or many other uses. An eminent Brewer very emphatically styles it only half water; whereas the town's springs, upon a trial by that great master in experimental Philosophy, Dr. *Ferguson*, have been found to be lighter than any of the springs at a distance from it; and to this salutary quality, Gentlemen very eminent in the medical science attribute the good state of health which the people of this town generally enjoy, in a more perfect degree than in any other great town in *England*; for water and buttermilk compose the common drink of the industrious poor here; and these Gentlemen all agree that to introduce a general change of water, in such an extensive place, to which the constitution has been so long habituated, especially when you change a good water for a bad one, would be of very dangerous consequences.

Should the Corporation, which I understand, is in contemplation, think proper to bring their own good water by pipes into the heart of the town, Mr. *Jordan*, by having broke up the streets and laid down his own, would render it very difficult, if not impracticable, for them to proceed, and at all events, it would occasion the greatest confusion.

After so long a neglect and desertion of the powers granted to Sir *Cleave Moore*, the Corporation (at whose request and for whose benefit the Act was made) should not, now they have no need of it, be obliged to yield the same assistance as if it had been put in execution before the expiration of the limited term of seven years; which was fixed as a period for a dissolution of their connection with Sir *Cleave* under that Act, in case it was not by that time carried into execution; moreover it would be very unpolitic, and it may with great truth be added, unjust, in the Corporation to admit these schemists, Mr. *Jordan* and his colleagues, into the bosom, as it were, of the town; because as they are not tied down to any rates in the Act, they may lay the town under contribution; and having gained admittance into the interior part of every man's possession, would have a most powerful influence, if not an absolute sway, over the political system of the Borough. Witness the unforeseen effect of this indulgence in the Corporation of Gloucester. A power, however safe in the hands of these Gentlemen, might not be so in the hands of their successors.

The Corporation, as has been said before, if it be found necessary will, no doubt try their own lands, and take effectual methods to supply the town (which, by the great command of a fall, may easily be effected) with their own incomparable, pleasant, and wholesome water: a water that is

mostly wanted for tea, for the industrious mechanicks, and for those who brew with fresh water; for as to common brewers, they choose to brew with their own spring water; and for washing, there are so many terrace and lead cisterns in use, and the common and great reservoir, the Fall Well, is so much resorted to, that very little bought water is wanted for that purpose.

The land-owners in Mr. *Jordan's* track ought to be very watchful of his motions, as they are in an especial manner interested in this affair; not only with respect to the depredations he may wantonly commit upon the Surface of their lands, by making as many trenches and aqueducts as his fancy or prejudice may suggest to him; under a pretence of conveying his water to different points; but as he may thereby entirely obstruct and lay waste the brick works through which those aqueducts are to be carried; and by thus wantonly exercising his unrestrained claim of power, make the interest of these proprietors subservient to his own will, and reduce the value of an acre of land from £500 to a tenth part of that sum—If it be answered that as he is to satisfy the Land-owners for what they shall be damnified by his opening their hands, and therefore will not make that wanton use of his power that is suggested; let it be observed that as he is not tied down to any particular mode of filling up the trenches, he may, by placing the clay and bad soil uppermost, and by other means easily to be practised by a person disposed to cross purposes, have such a superior influence over the Land-owner's property, as to oblige him to give up all his demands for damages by cutting up his land as a peace offering to himself, who in that case perhaps might be complaisant enough to the Land-owner to permit him to fill up the trenches himself.—The injury however does not stop here; for by this means the most considerable manufacture we have in town, which employs so many poor people, and so many horses and carts both summer and winter, and supplies the merchant with a necessary part of his lading, would be greatly embarrassed; for Mr. *Jordan's* stretch of power, should the Corporation allow him to carry his point unopposed, would have such effects as are not only well worth the attention of the public, but those gentlemen in particular.—I am,

The PUBLIC'S Well wisher, and humble Servant,

A. B.

IV. THE GOLDEN LION.

The following document was exhibited. It is an account of the preparation of the first ship for the Greenland Whale Fishery, in which more than twenty vessels were engaged, in about the same number of years after. The document is interesting from the fact that many of the names of the shareholders are the same as the names of our streets; the latter were derived either from these individuals, or from members of their respective families. The history of the Golden Lion, too, is interesting. She was taken from the French in the war then lately concluded, and converted by Goore and Bulkeley into a merchant ship. Of so great importance was

she considered to the Port of Liverpool, that the Dock authorities appropriated to her use a particular place in the Dock, which was called the "Golden Lion's berth." It continued to be so designated until the erection of the present Custom-house on the site of the old dock.

[The following is extracted with corrections, from a statistical document in a newspaper of 1776; entitled "A List of Vessels in the Greenland Whale Fishery, from different Ports in England and Scotland."

ENGLAND.		From Liverpool 21 vessels.	Fish.
From London	32 vessels	Golden Lion, Thompson,	1
Hull	5	Perseverance, Smith,	1 1—half
Whitby	10	William, Swinhoe,	7
Liverpool	21	Betty, Bell,	4
Newcastle	3	Neptune, Batson,	3
Lynn	2	Triton, Sheen,	1
Sunderland	1	Whale, Bell,	5
Scarborough	1	Molly, Brocklebank,	1
Exeter	1	Auckland,)	2 1—half, lost.
Dartmouth	1	Corney,)	
	77	Polar Star,	?
		Active, Fox,	0
		Liverpool, Gwyn,	2
		Otter, Forbes,	9
		Suffolk, Bowers,	2
		Unicorn, Clark,	1
		Nautilus, Chapman,	3
		Dolphin, Lloyd,	2
	7	Grampus, Scorer,	3 1—half
	77	Two Bettys, Ansdell,	0
		Jupiter, Taylor,	1
Total	84	Fly, Cock,	2

[Ed.]

Proposals from Goore & Bulkeley to all such Persons as shall become Subscribers hereto, for the Sale of the Ship Golden Lion, now belonging to them, and for fitting her out for the Greenland Whale-fishing Trade, for the next Season.

1st.—That they the said Goore & Bulkeley do consent and agree to take the Sum of two thousand Pounds Sterling for the Vessel and her Materials, (the Great Guns with their Tackle and Firearms only excepted;) and the Persons subscribing hereto do oblige themselves respectively to pay his or their Proportion according to the amount of the share subscribed for, towards the Payment of the said Sum of two thousand Pounds, in two Months from the Date of the Bill of Sale.

2nd.—That the joint Concern in the said Vessel shall be divided into twenty or more equal shares, every Person having the Liberty of Subscrib-

ing one Share more or less, so that none subscribe for less than half a Share.

3rd.—That twenty Shares being subscribed for, the Bargain shall be valid, otherwise void.

4th.—That the Subscription being completed, every Subscriber shall and is obliged to pay his or their Proportion of the Outfit, Disbursements, Wages or other Charges, into the Hands of the Persons, appointed Managers, when and as often as by them the said Managers required.

5th.—That the Subscribers or a Majority of them do immediately after the Completion hereof appoint two or more of the said Subscribers, to be Agents for the directing of the whole Proceedings of the Voyage and equipping the Vessel.

Lastly, the said Goore Bulkeley agree on their Part to hold one whole Share.

In witness whereof, We the Persons willing to be concerned have Subscribed our Names and Shares this eighteenth Day of December, 1749.

SHARES.

Thos. & John Backhouse half a Share.
 John Nicholson, & Co. halfe Share.
 David Edie half a Share.
 Joseph Jackson half a Share.
 Jo. Manesty half a Share.
 Rich^d. Nicholas half a share.
 Jas. Gordon half a Share.
 Thos. Shaw halfe a Share.
 John Atherton Half a share.
 Heywood Benson & Co half a share.
 John Parke half a share.
 Richd. Golightly half a Share.
 Owen Prichard half a share.
 Tho Mears for self, & John Okill half a Share.
 Richard Savage half a share.
 Charles Goore for Wm. Hurst half a share.
 Charles Goore, for Nathl. Bassnett one share.
 Thoms Seel One Share.
 Foster Cunliffe, & Sons.—One Share.
 Saml Ogden one Share.
 Edwd. Trafford One Share.
 John Knight One Share.
 John Brooks one Share.
 John Hardman one Share.
 Sam. Shaw half a Share.
 Jam. Crosbie half a Share.
 Chas. Lowndes half a Share.

Edwd. Cropper half a Share.
 John Tarleton half a Share.
 Law^{ce} Spencer half a Share.
 Edward Lowndes half a Share.
 Edward Parr half a Share.
 Edwd. Roughsedge half a Share.
 Joseph Bird half a share.
 John Sedden half a Share.
 James Pardoe half a Share.
 John Entwisle half a Share.

MR. AVISON, the Treasurer, produced a deed relative to some property in Titebarn-street, dated 1636. Among the points of interest which it presented was the name of the street, which was there given as Moor-street. This he considered was an allusion to locality, not to persons; the name is still preserved in "Moor Fields."

Nineteen Silver Coins were exhibited, that had been presented to the Society; they were a portion of a larger quantity recently found at Tarbock. In connexion with this subject, MR. PIDGEON read an extract from the Journal of the Archæological Institute, in which mention was made of the Coins, Medallions, Armlets, &c., found a few years ago at Cuerdale.

A great variety of articles, including donations and illustrations, lay upon the tables or were ranged round the walls.