

Itinerary of Antonine, while Ptolemy only laid down in his very correct map of Britain a small stream; and asked, if the Mersey existed in its present state, whether it was likely it would have escaped the notice of the Romans, who overran this portion of the country and had many considerable stations in the vicinity? The original course of the Mersey, it appeared to him, seemed clearly marked out as flowing to the Leasowes along Wallasey Pool, and that the portions of hazelwood found occasionally at Wallasey were, no doubt, portions of the grove lately discovered. In further proof that the bed of the Mersey was once dry land, there was the evidence of trees found on digging to some depth in the Hoyle Bank; trees were found at low-water mark at Crosby, along the Leasowe shore, at Wallasey, Liscard, and New Brighton, as well as at the Leasowes.

Mr. Pidgeon, on behalf of James Smith, Esq., of Seaforth, presented the following Deed:—

“*Sciant Omnes tam presentes quam futuri. Quod Ego Walterus de Scaresbreck dedi et concessi et hac presenti carta mea confirmavi Deo et Beate Marie de Kok'sand et canonicis ibidem deo servientibus unam acram terre de dominico meo in villa de Scaresbrek illam salicetam que jacet ppinquus terre eorundem canonicorum versus aquilonem quam habent ex dono patris mei, et unum buttum propinquus tofto versus aquilonem quod Sywardus tenuit, in liberam puram et ppetuam elemosinam pro salute anime mee, antecessorum et successorum meorum. Cum communi pastura et aliis esiamensis et libertatibus tanto tenemento pertinentibus. Ita quod ego Walterus nec aliquis heredum meorum de dicta terra aliquid impostum exigere possim præter elemosinas et orationum suffragia. Hanc autem terram cum pertinentibus ego dictus Walterus et heredes mei predictis canonicis contra omnes homines warrantizabimus in ppetuum. Hiis testibus Ada de Mulinaus, Will^o Blundel, Roberto de Mulinaus, Joh^o de Lee, Rogero de Ybernia, et aliis.*”

The following is a literal Translation of this deed, which is beautifully written on a slip of parchment, six inches in breadth by three inches deep.

Know all men, present and to come, that I Walter of Scaresbreck¹ have given granted and by this my present deed have confirmed to God and the blessed Mary of Cockersand,² and to the Priests there serving God, one acre of land from my manor in the vill of Scaresbreck, that willow bed which lies near the land of the said priests to the north, which they have

¹ In the Coucher Book of Whalley Abbey published by the Chetham Society, the name of Walter de Scaresbreck several times occurs, with the witnesses of the present deed, as witness to deeds of grant to the Abbey of Stanlawe. Baines (vol. iv. p. 258) notices the recital, in an Inspeximus of 17 Edward II, of a grant by the same Walter of two acres of meadow land, &c., to the Priory of Burscough.

² Cockersand Abbey (the Kok'sand of the original deed) a Præmonstracensian Monastery in the Parish of Lancaster, which in point of revenue ranked third among the religious houses of Lancashire, is situated on a neck of land which projects into the sea, on the sands of Cocker.

of the gift of my father, and one butt³ near the enclosure to the north which Syward held, in full pure and perpetual gift for the health of my soul, of my ancestors and successors, with the common pasturage and other easements and liberties pertaining to such a tenement. That neither I Walter nor any of my heirs can exact any charge on the said land except their alms and prayers. The said land, with its appurtenances, I the said Walter and my heirs for ever guarantee to the said priests against all men. These being witnesses. Adam de Mulinaus,⁴ William Blundell,⁵ Robert de Mulinaus,⁴ John de Lee,⁶ Roger de Ireland⁷ and others.

The following Papers were read :—

I.—MEMOIR OF THE EARLS OF CHESTER,

By W. Williams Mortimer, Esq.

Part I.—ON THE SAXON EARLS.

THE antiquity of the City of Chester can no more be doubted than the influential position which it formerly occupied in the civil, political and military arrangements of Britain. It is impossible, however, to ascertain the date of its origin, which seems buried in obscurity. The conjecture of Sir Thomas Elliot that it was called Neomagus, from Magus the grandson of Japhet, about 240 years after the escape of the latter with his father from the flood, is as little entitled to credit as the legend of the Monk of

³ The "butt" occurs frequently as a measure of land. According to a deed quoted by Kennet (*Antiq. Amb.* p. 402) it contained half an acre.

⁴ Adam de Molyneus, (Mulinaus in the deed,) Lord of Sefton, (12 Hen. III, Baines,) eldest son of Richard de Molyneus and Edith, daughter of Almeric Pincerna, married Letitia de Brinley. Almeric died soon after 1233, leaving his heir a minor, for in 1235 William Earl of Ferrers gave £100 "pro habenda custodia terræ et heredum Aumerici le Butiller una cum maritagio eorundem."—(*Coucher Book of Whalley*, p. 417.) Robert de Mulinaus was brother of Adam.

⁵ The Blundells held Ynes, now known as Ince Blundel under the Botilers of Warrington. This William, son of Richard the first of the family, gave to the Abbey of Stanlawe his mill on the Alt, and the deeds are, among others, witnessed by Adam and Robert de Molyneus, John de Lee, and Walter de Scarsbreck.—(*Coucher Book of Whalley*.)

⁶ John de Lee, Lord of Lea, ob. 27 Hen. III, (1242.) His son Henry de Lee was Sheriff of Lancashire 1276, 1277, 1283. John de Lee frequently occurs in the *Coucher Book of Whalley* as witness to deeds. He was son of Henry, who was son of Warin, a benefactor to Cockersand. Lea is a hamlet of Preston.

⁷ Roger de Ireland, (de Ybernia of the deed,) son of John de Ireland, Lord of Hutte, descended from John de Hibernia, buried at Hale, 1088. This Roger, who is also a frequent witness to deeds in the *Whalley Coucher Book*, is in that collection (p. 556) seen as the grantor of one bovate of land in Childewall to the Abbey of Stanlawe.

It will thus be seen that this deed is of the first half of the thirteenth century.—H. C. P.