

CHRONICLES OF THELWALL, CO. CHESTER, WITH NOTICES OF
THE SUCCESSIVE LORDS OF THAT MANOR, THEIR FAMILY
DESCENT, &c. &c.

THELWALL is a township situate within the parochial chapelry of Daresbury, and parish of Runcorn, in the East Division of the hundred of Bucklow, and deanery of Frodsham, co. Chester. It is unquestionably a place of very great antiquity, and so meagre an account has been hitherto published^a as to its early history and possessors, that an attempt more fully to elucidate the subject, and to concentrate, and thereby preserve, the scattered fragments which yet remain as to it, from the general wreck of time, cannot fail, it is anticipated, to prove both acceptable and interesting.

The earliest mention that is to be met with of Thelwall appears in the Saxon Chronicle, from which we find that, in the year 923, King Edward the Elder, son of King Alfred, made it a garrison for his soldiers, and surrounded it with fortifications. By most writers it is stated to have been founded by this monarch, but the opinion prevails with some others that it was in existence long before, and was only restored by him. Towards the latter part of the year 923, King Edward is recorded to have visited this place himself, and for some time made it his residence, whilst other portion of his troops were engaged in repairing and manning Manchester. These warlike preparations, it may be observed, were rendered necessary in consequence of Ethelwald, the son of King Ethelbert, disputing the title of Edward.

Ethelwald first established his head quarters in York, and was soon joined by the Northumbrians in his rebellion. Quitting their strong hold, however, in the north, the insurgents marched into Kent, where a sanguinary battle ensued, in which Ethel-

^a Since the History of Cheshire by Sir Peter Leycester (in 1666) we have had little or no account of Thelwall, and at the time he wrote his was confessedly an imperfect record as to it. The succeeding historians, Lysons and Ormerod, have made very few additions to it. It remained therefore for the local Chronicler to rescue from oblivion the fame of this once ancient city.

wald fell, and his followers sought their safety by flight. Unsubdued, though vanquished, the Northumbrians penetrated again into Wessex, where they were again defeated, and pursued with great slaughter into their own country. King Edward following up these successes subdued the two next princes of Northumberland, Reginald and Sidoc, and acquired the dominion of that province.

In his wars between the Mersey and Humber the King was greatly assisted by his sister Ethelfleda, or Elffleda,^b widow of Ethelred Earl of Mercia, who, after her husband's death, retained the possession and government of that province. This Princess is extolled by the early British historians as the wisest lady in Britain, the very emblem of her illustrious parent King Alfred, and to her munificence the Mercians were indebted for the rebuilding of the city of Chester. The following is the literal translation from the Saxon Chronicle with regard to Thelwall: "A. D. 923. This year went King Edward with an army, late in the harvest, to Thelwall, and ordered the borough to be repaired and inhabited, and manned. And he ordered another army also from the population of Mercia, the while he sate there, to go to Manchester in Northumbria to repair and to man it."^c

As to the etymology of Thelwall, it was so called, as Florilegus testifies, by reason of its being surrounded by a fortification composed of the stakes and stumps of trees, the boughs being cut away; for the Saxons called in their tongue the trunks and bodies of trees "ðell," and the word "wall" signified, as it does now, a fence.

The village of Thelwall is situated on the southern bank of the river Mersey, in which was in primitive times a valuable fishery there. Owing, however, to the noxious ingredients which flow into it from the manufactories along the upper course of the stream, the fishery has now become of little or no value. Up to the middle of the last century, salmon used to be caught there in

^b This lady was foundress of the town of Runcorn, in which parish Thelwall, as before stated, is situate, though it is singular enough that two parishes intervene between them: viz. Grappenhall and Great Budworth.

^c Fabyan records the matter as follows (p. 207): "Then this noble Prynce Edward, after these thynges set by hym in an order, he in the northe ende of Mercya, by the ryver of Merce, buylded a cytye or towne and named it Thylwall, and strengthyd it wyth knyghtes. And after repayred the cytye of Maynchester, that sore was defaced with the warre of the Danes."

plentiful abundance, and of considerable size, as appears from the following amongst other entries to a similar effect in the steward's accounts :

" 1749. May 30. A salmon was caught near Laskey Bridge, one yard and half a quarter long, weighed $19\frac{1}{2}$ lbs.

" — June 30. A salmon taken by Thelwall Lock twenty-three pounds and three-quarters.

" — March 22. A salmon taken that weighed $19\frac{3}{4}$ lbs."

It is a matter of considerable doubt whether the ancient city stood on the site which is now occupied by the present village or not, inasmuch as the Mersey has, strangely enough, entirely changed its former course at this point, leaving, however, the old bed still perfectly manifest ; and, instead of being, as it once doubtless was, the boundary of the township on that side, although the river in other places separates the counties of Lancaster and Chester, yet part of the township of Thelwall is here situate on its northern bank.

As it is not easily to be ascertained when this digression of the Mersey really took place, we are left in doubt as to the identity of the precise spot where stood the city in the days of King Edward. Thelwall appears to have continued to be fortified, and " to have a retinue of soldiers kept within it," in the succeeding reign of King Athelstan, until at length, by a signal victory gained by him, he succeeded in defeating the rebellious Danes, and united Northumbria to the rest of his kingdom. After this time there does not appear to be any mention made of Thelwall as being garrisoned, and its name does not occur at all in the Domesday Book (1066); from which circumstance Sir Peter Leycester, the Cheshire Historian, infers that it lay waste during the time of the Conqueror.

About the reign of Henry the First, A.D. 1110, one-third of the Manor or Lordship became the possession of the Abbat and Convent of St. Peter and St. Paul,^d Salop, cum pertinentiis, in bosco, plano, et aquâ, by grant from William Lacy, Baron of Halton, and Constable of Cheshire, son of Nigel, or-

^d This was a monastery of Benedictines, founded at Shrewsbury, on the site of a religious house established there previously to the Conquest, by Roger de Montgomery, the favourite and relation of William the Conqueror, created Earl of Shrewsbury, Arundel, and Chichester. Vide Mon. Angl. vol. i. p. 375.

dained Baron of Halton by his kinsman, Hugh Lupus,^e Earl of Chester, nephew of William the Conqueror, with whom he had come over into England. This William, Constable of Cheshire, obtained Thelwall in right of his barony, and to this day it forms one of the townships comprised within the ancient fee or barony of Halton. William second Baron of Halton founded a priory at Runcorn, of Canons regular of the order of St. Austin, to the honour of the Blessed Virgin, A. D. 1133, 33 Henry I.^f He died about the end of Henry the First's reign, and was buried at Chester. To him succeeded a son, William, third Baron of Halton, and Constable of Chester. He removed the Canons from Runcorn to Norton, giving them that township in exchange for their lands in Runcorn.^g Dying in Normandy without issue, his inheritance became then divided between his two sisters, Agnes and Maud. From the elder of these, who married Eustace Fitz-John, one of the Barons of the realm, and who, in right of his wife, became fourth Baron of Halton, descended Edmund Lacy, Constable of Cheshire, and ninth Baron of Halton, son and heir of John Earl of Lincoln. This Edmund, ninth Baron, who lived in the reign of Henry the Third, 1220, conveyed away the greater portion of the lands in Thelwall, attached to the Barony, to Sir Geoffrey de Dutton,^h knight, son and heir of Sir Geoffrey de Dutton, knight, who served in the Crusades in the Holy Wars, which latter Sir Geoffrey was son of Adam de Dutton.

The deed of conveyanceⁱ to Sir Geoffrey de Dutton runs as follows: "*Domino Galfrido de Dutton totam terram suam de Thelwall, cum werâ et piscariâ et stallagiis suis,*" and also all the land which he had of the Abbat and Convent of Evesham in Thelwall, "*reddendo inde annuatim unum par cheirothecarum cervi furratarum ad festum sancti Michaelis pro omni servitio*" (Anglicè) rendering annually one pair of stag leather (buckskin) gloves furred with fox, at the festival of St. Michael.

^e In King's Vale Royal it is stated, on the authority of several writers, that Hugh Lupus had full power from the Conqueror to constitute and create Barons; and Spelman, in his Glossary, p. 84, says, it was asserted that the Conqueror promised to bestow upon them competent demesnes in England, if the Earl could not in his own country.

^f Mon. Angl. vol. ii. p. 187.

^g Polychr. lib. vii. cap. 17.

^h The Duttons were stewards to the Lacys, Constables of Cheshire.

ⁱ The original of this deed was in the possession of Robert Pickering, esq. lord of Thelwall, in 1666; but it is now supposed to be lost.

Sir Geoffrey de Dutton before-named (generally styled D'nus Galfridus filius Galfridi de Dutton) succeeded his father in or about the year 1248, and in 1258.9 he settled Thelwall on his younger son, Thomas, whose elder brother was Sir Geoffrey Warburton, knight, Sheriff of Lancashire, in or about 1326. Hugh Dutton, son of Thomas, succeeded to Thelwall on his father's death, and died possessed of the same in 1294, as appears by an Inquisition post mortem 23 Edw. I. by which he was found to have held messuages, &c. et warpa in aquâ de Mersey.

The ancient fishery in the Mersey at Thelwall, which has been already mentioned, was, as far back as can be traced, first enjoyed by Roger of Poitou, son of Roger de Montgomery, Earl of Shrewsbury, who was lord of all the land in Lancashire between the rivers of Ribble and Mersey, and who held a moiety of it.

In the reign of Henry the First he gave this moiety to the Abbat of Shrewsbury,^k from whence the following extract is made: "Comes Rogerus cognomine Pictaviensis, supra dicti Rogeri Comitis filius, dedit ecclesiæ Sancti Petri piscariam de Talewalle et duas villas parvas scilicet Pultonam et Occitonam juxta ipsam piscariam, et aliam villam nomine Biscopoham, pro salute sui et uxoris suæ et patris et matris suæ," (taken ex registro Abbatiae Salop penès Ricard. Leveson de Trentham, Eq. de Baln.) We find accordingly, that, in the Mize book of Cheshire, the Abbat of Salop anciently stood charged with 3s. in the Mize for his fishing in Thelwall.

William Lacy, the younger, Constable of Cheshire, and Baron of Halton, about the reign of King Stephen, granted the other half of the fishery, with a small tract of land in Thelwall, to the Prior of Norton.¹ The following is an extract from the grant: "In nomine Patris et Filii et Spiritus sancti. Amen. Ego Willielmus Constabularius Cestriæ filius Willielmi Constabularii Cestriæ filii Nigelli do et concedo ecclesiæ Sanctæ Mariæ de Norton et canonicis ibidem Deo regulariter servantibus (inter alia) medietatem totius piscariæ meæ de Thelwall et unam bovatom terræ ibidem cum piscatore." After the grant of other lands included in it, the deed ends thus: "qui vero hanc in aliquo violaverit, vel infringere tentaverit, cum Judâ et Pilato, cum Dathan et Abyran, in inferno premetur, nisi ad emendationem venerit."

^k Vide Mon. vol. i. p. 378—83.

¹ Mon. vol. ii. p. 186.

These two moieties of the fishery became ultimately vested in the Claytons, who were possessed of this lordship in the reign of Edward the Third, and from them the right has since descended with the manor to the successive lords.^m From the family of Dutton Thelwall passed to the Claytons, in whose possession it continued for upwards of two centuries. Henry Clayton, the first whom we find described as of Thelwall, was seated there 21 Edw. III. He possessed also a moiety of Bollinton, in Cheshire. Adam Clayton, supposed to be his son, appears in the accounts rendered by Hugo de Preston, Bayliff of the Serjeanty of Halton, as for 1s. in respect of tenements in Thelwall, or one pair of stag-leather gloves, furred with fox, termino Michaelis, which, it will be observed, was the reservation contained in the grant from Edmund Baron of Halton to Sir Geoffrey de Dutton. This family of Clayton were owners also of the lordship of Henhull, in the county of Chester. Webb, in his *Itinerary of Cheshire*, written in 1622, speaks of Henhull "as once a fair seat of the Claytons." It was sold by them in 1573 to the Cholmondeley family. From Adam Clayton was descended

William Clayton, of Thelwall, whose name appears amongst the Cheshire men excepted in the general act of pardon by Henry the Fourth, in the first year of his reign (1400), on account of their adherence to the fallen monarch King Richard.

To him succeeded John Clayton, his son, lord of Thelwall in the reigns of Henry the Fifth and Sixth, who died circa 1450, leaving issue

Thomas, his heir

Katharine, married to William Allen,ⁿ of Brindley Hall, co. Chester, and had issue,

John, of Brindley, father of two sons, William and John, the elder of whom, William, married Margaret, daughter of Richard Wilbraham, of Woodhey, M.P. for the county of Chester, and Master of the Jewel-house, and of the Revels, to Queen Mary. The younger son, John, was Sheriff of Cheshire in 1574.

^m The right of the lord of the manor of Thelwall to the fishery in the Mersey was contested by some freeholders in the township, of the name of Leigh, and an action was tried at the Chester August Assizes in 1755. It ended, however, in a verdict for the plaintiff (the lord of the manor) establishing his claim to the whole fishery.

ⁿ The family of Allen were seated at Brindley, in Cheshire, from a very early period. Vide pedigree, Harl. MSS. 2153, 26; and Ormerod's *Cheshire*, iii. 196.

Thomas Clayton, ^o of Thelwall, son and heir of John, married Elizabeth, daughter of the Rev. George^p Savage, Rector of Dayenham, Cheshire, natural son of Sir John Savage, Knight of the Garter, who was slain at the siege of Boulogne, 8th Henry VII. 1493. By this lady he had issue,

Randal, or Randle Clayton, of Thelwall, his heir, whose name appears in a memorial soliciting contributions for the rebuilding of the steeple of Lymm^q church, anno 1521. The document referred to is as follows :

“ We, Sir Thomas Butler, knight, Sir Piers Legh, Sir John Warburton, Sir William Molineaux, Sir George Holford, Thomas Legh, esq., Robert Reddish, esq., James Dumbell, esq., Randle^r Clayton, esq., William Wylme, gent., John Legh, gent., Sir Roger Legh, parson of the church of Limme, Sir Richard Comberbach, our Ladies Priest and overseer of the works, and Sir John Persevall, Parish Priest of the same church, doe desire a charitable contribution of all pious persons towards a steeple of stone building at Limme church,” &c. Dated 24 April 1521.

This Randle Clayton married, and had issue,
John, his heir.

Thomas, also described of Thelwall, whose daughter, Margaret, married Thomas Venables, of Antrobus, descended from Hugh Venables, Baron of Kinderton.

John Clayton, esq. of Thelwall, son and heir of Randal, married a daughter^s of James Clive, esq. of Huxley, co. Chester,

^o This Thomas Clayton's name appears in the pleadings in the Duchy of Lancaster 14 Henry VII. as plaintiff in a suit against the Rev. — Thomason, Bailiff of the Abbat of Salop, relative to the Thelwall fishery.

^p George Savage, Rector of Davenham, had no less than seven illegitimate children, viz. George Savage, alias Wylmisley, B.L.L. Chancellor of Chester; John, Archdeacon of Middlesex, Rector of Tarporley, and a Prebendary of Chester; Randal; Edmund Savage, alias Bonner, first Dean of Leicester, and afterwards twice Bishop of London; Elizabeth, married, as in the text, to Thomas Clayton; Margaret, m. — Colstonsoke; and Ellen . . .

^q Lymm is situate about two miles from Thelwall.

^r From the pleadings in the Duchy of Lancaster, it appears that in the 29th Henry VIII. there was a suit between John Carryngton and Randolph Clayton, as to the title to the fishery in the Mersey river at Thelwall, held under the monastery of Salop. The party there called Randolph Clayton is most probably the Randle Clayton in the text.

^s Whose brother, Richard Clive, married, 28th Henry VIII. Alice, daughter of Sir Hugh Calveley, and had a son Richard, married to Margaret, daughter of Sir Richard Corbet, of Longnor, Salop.

lord of that manor, and by her had issue an only son, also Randal, his heir. After the dissolution of the Abbey of St. Peter and St. Paul, Salop, he had a grant by letters patent from the Crown, of the principal lands in Thelwall, which had belonged to that monastery. The following is a translation of the grant :

“ Henry the Eighth, by the grace of God of England, France, and Ireland, King, Defender of the Faith, and on earth supreme head of the English and Irish Church ; To all to whom these present letters shall come, greeting ; Know ye, that we, for the sum of one hundred and eight pounds of lawful money of England to the hands of the Treasurer of the Court of Augmentations of the Revenues of our Crown to our use, by our beloved John Clayton, gentleman, paid, of our special grace and certain knowledge, and with our own mere motion, have given and granted, and by these presents do give and grant, to the same John Clayton, all our messuages, lands, tenements, meadows, feedings, pastures, waters, commons, piscarys, moors, turbarys, and hereditaments whatsoever in Thelwall, in the parish of Dearisbury, in our said county of Chester, lately set to Richard Thomason, or being in the tenure of the same Richard Thomason or his assigns, lately to the monastery of the Holy Saints Peter and Paul near Shrewsbury, in our county of Salop, now dissolved, a while belonging and appertaining : And all those our lands, meadows, and pastures, called Ollerwarpe, with all their appurtenances, lately set to William Hall, or lately being in his tenure, lying and being in Thelwall, in the parish of Dearisbury aforesaid, in our said county of Chester, lately to the said monastery a while belonging and appertaining ; And all our pastures called Willgreaves, with all its appurtenances, and our whole water and piscary to the same adjoining, belonging, or appertaining, or with the same usually let or occupied, lately set to the said Richard Thomason, or in the tenure of the same Richard or his assigns, lying and being in the parish of Warrington, in our county of Lancaster, to the said late monastery awhile belonging and appertaining, and being parcel of the possession of the same late monastery ; And the reversions, rents, and annual profits of all and singular the premises above expressed and specified, and of every parcel thereof ; And also all and all manner of woods and underwoods of, in, and upon the premises or any part thereof growing or being, so fully and wholly and in as ample

manner and form as the last Abbat of the said late monastery, or any of his predecessors Abbats of the same late monastery, at any time before the dissolution of the said late monastery, or before the late monastery came to our hands, the same messuages, lands, tenements, and all and singular other the premises above expressed and specified, with the appurtenances, or any parcel thereof, had, held, or enjoyed, or ought to have had, held, or enjoyed, and as fully and wholly and in as ample manner and form as all and singular those things to our hands by reason or pretext of the dissolution of the said late monastery, or by reason or pretext of any charter of gift, concession, or donation by the late Abbat and the late Convent of the said late monastery to us made, or otherwise by any means whatsoever, came or ought to have come and in our hands now are or ought to be; To have, hold, and enjoy, all the aforesaid messuages, lands, tenements, waters, piscarys, and all and singular other the premises above-mentioned, and specified, with the appurtenances, to the aforesaid John Clayton, his heirs and assigns for ever; To hold of us our heirs and successors in chief by the service of the twentieth part of one knight's fee, and rendering therefore annually to us our heirs and successors twelve shillings sterling to our Court of Augmentations of the Revenues of our Crown, at the feast of Saint Michael the Archangel every year; to be paid for all rents, services, and demands whatsoever thereout, to us, our heirs or successors, in what manner soever, to be rendered, paid, or made; And further, out of our further grace, we give and by these presents grant to the aforesaid John Clayton all issues, rents, revenues, and profits of the aforesaid messuages, lands, tenements, and of all and singular other the premises above expressed and specified, with their appurtenances, and every parcel thereof, from the feast of St. Michael the Archangel last past, hitherto accruing or growing; to hold to the said John of our gift, without any account or any thing else therefore to us, our heirs or successors, in any manner to be rendered, paid, or made: we will also, and by these presents grant, to the aforesaid John Clayton, that he shall and may have these our letters patent under our Great Seal of England, in due manner made and sealed, without any great or small fine or fee to us in our Hanaper or elsewhere to our use in any manner to be rendered, paid, or made: Notwithstanding that express mention of

the true yearly value or certainty of the premises, or any part thereof, or of other gifts or grants by us before this time made to the said John, be not made in these presents; or any statute, act, ordinance, proviso, or restriction to the contrary ordained or provided, or any other thing, cause, or matter, in any respect notwithstanding: In witness whereof we have caused these our letters to be made patent: Witness myself at Westminster the fourteenth day of February, in the thirty-third year of our reign.

BA. SOUTHWELL.

By Pre of the Privy Seal, and of the date
aforesaid, by Authority of Parliament.

This gentleman (John Clayton) sold the manor to Richard Brooke, esq. of Norton, about the 4th Elizabeth, but reserved a portion of the estates, in which he was succeeded by his son Randal, then Sir Randal^t Clayton, having had the honour of knighthood conferred upon him during his father's lifetime. He sold the remainder of the family possessions in this township to the Brookes, and removed, it is believed, to Ireland, where he died. Sir Randal had issue, amongst others, a son Randalph, married to Judith, eldest daughter of the Right Honourable Sir Philip Perceval, knight, and a daughter Alice, married to Sir St. John Brodrick^u (son of Sir Thomas Brodrick, of

^t The following extracts as to members of the Clayton family are taken from the parish registers:

Margeret Clayton de Thelwall, baptized 5 May 1574.

Margaret Clayton, of Thelwall, widow, died July 1574.

Henry Clayton, sonne to Peter Clayton, of Thelwall, baptized May 1577.

Randal, sonne of Henry Clayton, of Thelwall, baptized 8 Oct. 1577.

Randal Clayton, of Thelwall, baptized March 1582.

William Clayton, of Thelwall, married Oct. 1583. So says the register, but, singularly enough, it does not record to whom.

John Clayton, of Thelwall, baptized Feb. 1589.

Jane Clayton, of Thelwall, widow, buried 13 May 1590.

Katharine Clayton, de Thelwall, baptized August 1592.

Alice Clayton, of Thelwall, baptized 16 August 1594; buried Oct. 1594.

William, sonne of Peter Clayton, of Thelwall, buried 12 Sept. 1596.

John Clayton, sonne of Peter Clayton, of Thelwall, buried 4 Nov. 1596.

Helen, a daughter of William Clayton, of Thelwall, baptized Jan. 1604.

Peter Clayton, de Thelwall, buried 11 July 1613.

Elizabeth Clayton, of Thelwall, widow of Peter Clayton, buried Feb. 1622.

^u Younger brother of Sir Alan Brodrick, knight, Surveyor-General of Ireland.

Wandsworth, co. Surrey, and Katharine, his wife, daughter of Sir Oliver Nicholas, knight), and by him was mother of Alan 1st Viscount Midleton, Speaker of the Irish House of Commons, in 1703, and Lord High Chancellor in 1714.

There appears to have existed in this township, from time immemorial, sundry freeholds of inheritance which have not passed through the same proprietors as the manor, and, in order to render this account as full as may be of the descent of all the lands comprised within it, it may be well to note the principal of these.

The earliest of them was vested in Henry, son of Roger le Hunt, * of Thelwall, who held lands there in the reign of Edward

* The last of this family, Thomas Hunt, of Thelwall, tempore Henry VIII. conveyed away his lands there to Sir Richard Devias. The conveyance is, I think, well worthy of transcription here, being a curious specimen of the deeds as drawn by the lawyers of that day. I therefore subjoin a copy :

“Thys Indenture made the syxt daye of Januarye in the twentieth yere of the reigne of Kyng Henri the eighth (1529), Betwyxt Thomas Hunt, of Thelwall, yoman, son and heyre of John Hunt, decesed, upon the one partie, and Syr Richarde Devias, Chappleyn, upon the other p'tie, witnesseth, That the said Tho's Hunt, for the some of ' vij *li.* and xij *d.*' of lawfull money to be paid to the sayd Thos. in manner as hereafter specified, hath barganet and solde, and by these indentures fully barganes and selles to the said Syr Richarde hys heyres and hys assignes four acres of hys grounde and landes in Thelwall, within the countie of Chester, with th'appurtenances, whereof one acre is lying in close by itself, and is called the Clyffe Yarde, in Thelwall aforesaid, betwyxt the landes of the Abbot and Convent of Shrewsburye on the est partie in the holdyng of Richard Dichefelde, and the landes of Robert Redysh in the holdyng of Richarde Legh on the west partie; another acre in Thelwall, lying in the Hersewaste with a northwarde shote at the ende; another acre lying in the Deyne, in Thelwall aforesaid, the est ende shotyng on Thelwall Broke, and the weste ende on the Deyne Clough, betwyxt the grounde of the Abbot and Convent of Shrewsburye, on the south partie, and the grounde of William Wodde on the north partie; and the iiijth acre lying in Westey, in Thelwall aforesaid, the one ende shotyng on Mersey towarde the northe, and the other ende toward the southe. Also, the said Thos. covenantes and grantes by these presentes to the said Syr Richarde, that the forsayde iiij acres of landes, the daye of the makyng of these indentures, be clerely discharged of all former bargens, joyntoures, doweres, sales, statutes, feoffmentes, entres, lawfull annuytes, and all other charges, and of all manner of other encombrances, and that the said Tho's at the makyng hereof standeth sole seised in the said iiij acres with theyre appurtenances, and hath full autorite and power to make sale and bargaen hereof to the said Syr Richarde, hys heyres and hys assignes for ever. Also the sayd Thos. covenantes and grantes to the said Syr Richarde, that he the said Thos. at all tymes hereafter, or any tyme within the terme of hys naturall lyffe, at the resonable request of the said Syr Richarde, of his executours or assignes, shall be redy to doe, and make and cause to be done and made, all such writynges and other assurances for the said iiij acres to be made sure to the said Syr Richarde, hys heyres and hys assignes for ever, as shall be devised by the said Syr Richarde, hys heyres or assignes, by fyne,

the Second. He was possessed also of the manor of Alsager, in Cheshire.

John Carrington, of Carrington, by Inquisition post mortem 20 Elizabeth, was found to have died possessed inter alia of lands

recorde, feoffament, with warantie or any otherwise. And also the said Thos. covenantes and grantes to the said Syr Richarde to save and kepe harmeles, and also clerely to discharge the said Syr Richarde, hys heyres and his assignes for ever, for all manner of chefe rentes and other fines dewe to the chefe lorde, and for all manner of doweyres and joyntures to be charged or asked of the said iiij acres or any of theyme. Also the said Thomas covenantes and grantes by these presentes, that the said Syr Richarde Devias, hys heyres and hys assignes for ever, from henceforth peaceably shall have occupie and enjoy the sayd iiij acres, with theyre appurtenances, without let, troubull, title, clayme, disturbance, impediment or vexation of the said Thos. hys heyres, or of any other person or persons in hys name, title, or interest, or by hys counsell, ayde, or procurement. Also the wyffe of the forsaid Thomas Hunt, by hyr one voluntarye and free wyll, *hath sworne upon a boke afore Richarde Tankyrville, in the church yerde of Gropenhall, standyng on the south syde the steepull*, that she, if it happen hyr to over live the forsaid Thos. hyr husbände, shall never aske nor clayme, nor have no other to aske nor clayme in hyr name joyntoure, or dower, or any other thyng else of or in the forsaid acres. For the wych bargain and sale to be made and done to the said Syr Richarde, and for all other hys covenantes and grantes before specified to be made had and done, as is before rehersed, the said Syr Richarde covenantes and grantes to the said Thos. Hunt to paye or cause to be payed to the said Thos. his executours or assignes, viil. and xiiid. of lawfull money of Englande, in manner and forme following: that is to witte, at the sealinge of these indentures, xiiid. of lawfull money; and at such tyme as the said Thos. hath done and made all such assurances as shall be devised for the same iiij acres, or within twelve dayes next after the same assurances, viil. of lawfull money; and for the suretie of payment of the said viil. the said Syr Richarde covenantes and grantes to be bounden by obligation to the said Thos. in the sum of twenty markes, and at payment of the said viil. the said Thos. covenantes and grantes to deliver or cause to be delivered to the said Syr Richard, hys executours or assignes, the said obligation of twenty markes, and yt to be cancelled at hys pleasure. Also the said Thos. covenantes and grantes to be bownd by hys obligation in the sum of xxl. to the said Syr Richarde Devias, that he the said Thos. shall observe, kepe, and performye all and every hys covenantes and grantes which on the partie of the said Thos. before are specified and granted in these presentes, in manner and forme before rehersed. In witnesse whereof the parties aforesaid to these present indentures interchangeably have sette their seales the daye and yere above rehersed.

(Seal.) Per me, THOMA' HUNT."

Indorsement.

" These byn the nammes of the perssons at the possession takyn,
 RICHARD TANKYRVILLE, the Atornay.
 RANDYLL BRADBURNE, de Thelwall.
 GEORGE CLAYE, de Grop'nhall.
 JOHN YATE, de Grop'nhall,
 With other more."

in Thelwall. He had acquired them by purchase from Robert Ratcliffe, Earl of Sussex,^y and they descended to his only daughter and heiress, Jane, who married Sir George Booth, knight and baronet, of Dunham, ancestor of the Earls of Warrington.

The family of Massey, of Massey Green, in Thelwall, were possessed for a long series of years of an ancient freehold which became afterwards the property of Drinkwater, of Warburton.

Robert Whitlow had a messuage and about fourteen acres of laud in Thelwall in 1483, which descended to John Whitlow, his grandson, who was seised of the same in 1660.

A family of the name of Coe were possessed of lands in the township for several generations. Johannes Coe, filius Thomæ de Thelewelle, appears as grantor in a deed of very early date to William de Lytellegh, of a messuage and one bovatæ of land there. I subjoin a copy of the deed.^z

The freeholds of inheritance existing in this township in Sir Peter Leycester's time were then in the possession of the following persons :

^y In a petition from Sir John Done, of Utkinton, Cheshire, to the King, complaining of the misconduct of Sir Piers Dutton, Sheriff of the county, he prays, that the charges may be inquired into by the Attorney General, or referred to Robert Earl of Sussex, " now abideinge in these parts," so that the Earl had, in all probability, a residence in Cheshire.

^z Sciant presentes et futuri quod Ego Johannes filius Thomæ Coe de Thelewelle dedi concessi et hâc præsentî cartâ meâ confirmavi Willielmo de Lyttellegh hæredibus ac assignatis suis unum messuagium cum ortis et jardiniis adjacentibus in villâ de Thelewelle et cum omnibus domibus ibidem existentibus cum unâ bovâtâ terræ cum suis pertinentiis prædicto messuagio in eadem villâ adjacenti cum totâ parte meâ piscariæ in aquâ de Merse cum suis pertinentiis ; habendum et tenendum prædictum messuagium et totam prædictam bovâtam terræ cum suis pertinentiis et totam partem meam piscariæ de Merse cum suis pertinentiis prædicto Willielmo hæredibus et assignatis suis de dominis capitalibus illius feodi per servicium inde debitum de jure consuetum libere quiete bene et in pace in feodo et hæreditate in perpetuum cum hausbold et haybold marlâ et argillo cum libero ingressu et egressu cum communio pasturæ cum turbariis ad fossatam et ad omnia interia sua faciendum et separandum cum omnibus communie libertatibus ac easiamendis prædictæ villæ de Thelewelle prædictis terræ messuagio et piscariæ ubique spectantibus.

Et ego vir prædictus Johannes et hæredes mei prædictum messuagium et totam prædictam terram et totam predictam piscariam cum pertinentiis prædicto Willielmo hæredibus ac assignatis suis contra omnes gentes Warrantizabimus ac quietabimus et defendemus.

In cujus rei testimonium huic præsentî cartæ sigillum meum apposui. Hiis testibus, Petro de Warburton, Galfrido de Warburton militibus. Gilberto de Twiss. Ricardo de Astonâ. Gilberto de Lyme. Ricardo Stat. Johanne de Halton. Ricardo Clerico, et aliis.

1. Sir Peter Brooke, four tenements given him by his father Thomas Brooke, of Norton, esq. 2. John Martinscroft, a tenement which Sir Peter Leycester observed had long continued in the name of Martinscroft. 3. Robert Legh, bought from Sir Edward More. 4. Peter Drinkwater, formerly Massies. 5. Raufe Caldwell, fee farmer. 6. John Rowson, fee farmer. 7. Randle Bold, fee farmer. 8. Margaret Hogge, widow. 9. John Legh, of Oughtrington, land bought from Sir Edward More. 10. Katharine Mosse, one close. 11. Thomas Thomason, fee farmer. 12. John Dunbabin, a meadow. And, 13. Sir George Warburton, of Arley, half an acre of meadow.

Richard Brooke, esq. who purchased the manor, &c. of Thelwall from the Clayton's, about the 4th Eliz. 1561, was a younger son of Brooke, of Leighton in Nantwich hundred, and the first of his family who was seated at Norton, having purchased it from the King, 37 Henry VIII. He was Sheriff of Cheshire in 1563, and married Christian, daughter of John Carew, of Haccomb, co. Devon, by whom he had issue a son and heir named Thomas.

He was one of the Knights of Rhodes or St. John of Jerusalem, and, as that order were expressly prohibited from marrying, must have had a Papal dispensation enabling him to do so. Dying in 1569 (11 Elizab.) he was succeeded in his estates by his son Thomas, who married thrice, and twice served the office of Sheriff of Cheshire, viz. in 1578 and 1592. In 1621, the year before his death, he sold the manor of Thelwall, (with the exception of four tenements which he gave to his son Peter, afterwards Sir Peter Brooke, of Mere, knight, Sheriff of Cheshire 1669,) to John Moore, of the city of London, Doctor of Medicine. It would appear that Mr. Brooke made Thelwall for many years his residence, as we find him repeatedly described of that place, and the greater number, if not all, of his children, were baptized at Grappenhall church, which is situate within a mile of Thelwall, and where the inhabitants of the latter place were accustomed to resort for the baptisms and burials of their families. The following entries of members of the Brooke family appear in the Grappenhall registers, which commence in 1574:

“ Frances Brooke, daughter of Thomas Brooke, of Norton, baptized 11 June 1591.

Judith Brooke, daughter of Thomas Brooke, baptized July 1593.

Feb. 1597.

Valentine Brooke, sonne of Thomas Brooke, of Norton, esq. was born at Thelwall the xiiijth day of February, and baptized at Grappenhall upon the Lord's day, being the 6th day of the same month.

Dec. 1603.—Henricus Brooke filius Thom. Brooke de Thelwall armigeri sepultus quarto die Decembri.

Alice, daughter to Thomas Brooke, of Thelwall, baptized August 1609.

Andrew, sonne of Thomas Brooke, esquier, of Thelwall, baptized 7 July 1611, buried May 1612.

Peter Brooke, sonne of Thomas Brooke, of Thelwall, esquier, baptized Feb. 1612.

Elenor Brooke, dau. of Thomas Brooke, baptized Aug. 1615.

George Brooke de Norton, gen. buried Dec. 1615.

Rachel Brooke, daughter of Thomas Brooke, of Thelwall, baptized March 1617."

The manor-house of Thelwall, which, judging from the particulars that have been handed down to us as to it, must have been a stately mansion, boasting of considerable antiquity, was tenanted for some years, during the possession of the estate by the Brooke family, by the Lady Audley, a widow of Henry 12th Lord Audley, whose daughter was the first wife of the above Thomas Brooke. Lady Audley died at Thelwall in December 1609, and was interred at Grappenhall, where her name is thus recorded in the parish register:

"Dame Elizabeth Audeley, Baronessa, de Thelwall, buried iiij Jan. 1610."

The following extract is also from the same register, and is worthy of insertion here (although not immediately applicable to Thelwall) for the reason after stated:

"Elisabeth Nowell, daughter to the Lord Audeley and wiffe to Roger Nowell of the Reade, in the county of Lancaster, Esquire, buried March 1622." Neither in the Nowell pedigree (which will be found at full in Baines's Lancash.), nor in Collins's Peerage, nor indeed in any other place, do I find any notice whatever of the lady above mentioned, or of the marriage which the register records, and on that account I have thought it desirable to give it here.

* This lady was daughter of Sir William Sneyd, of Bradwell, co. Stafford. She was mother of George Earl of Castlehaven.

When Leland, the royal itinerant, visited Thelwall in the reign of Henry the Eighth, he found it greatly reduced, it would seem, from the importance which it assumed in the days of King Edward. He says of it, "Thelwaul, sumtime a havenet and litle cite, as it apperith by the Kinges records. Now fische garthes marre the haven and the old towne, now a poor village. It standith a ii miles upward from Warrington." This industrious antiquary might perhaps with propriety have spared the epithet applied to the village he found in existence on his survey in the sixteenth century, and it is not impossible that he was drawn into the expression above quoted merely from the contrast which modern Thelwall presented to his mind as compared with the city that formerly stood there.

We have it on the evidence of other historians, that it possessed all the characteristics and advantages that accompany a peaceful hamlet and a happy and contented tenantry; and Webb, in his Itinerary of Bucklow Hundred, extols it as a goodly lordship. The passage with regard to it in his Itinerary is as follows: "We turn then with Mersey to Thelwall, a chapelry and a goodly lordship, having belonged to the Abbey of Norton; which place, as many others, may shew unto men the variations and mutabilities of all earthly structures; here having been, as by the History of Florilegus hath been collected from antientest records, a walled town of no small bigness and account, built by King Edward, father to the Confessor."

Up to the middle of the last century, there was a ford across the river at Thelwall, which must naturally have rendered it a post of considerable importance in time of war; the more especially as, with the exception of the passage across the Mersey at Latchford, there was no shallow from the mouth of its channel to this point. The advantage of this ford was, however, completely lost by the operations of the Mersey and Irwell Navigation Company, who were incorporated by act of Parliament in the early part of the reign of George III. and who, by the erection of a weir over the river at Thelwall, so much increased its depth as to render the passage impracticable. There has existed, from time immemorial, an exclusive right of ferry across the river as one of the manorial rights in the enjoyment of the lord of this township, and toll is payable to him from passengers in respect of it.

Thelwall Hall.

J. N.

(To be continued.)

right and tittle to the said rectory and church, and of others who by mean conveyance derive from him unto the said George Hill, I doe will and appoint that the heires, trustees and executors of the said George Hill (whose name was only used therein in trust for me), shall grant, assigne, and convey all their right, tittle, and interest of and in the said advowson, perpetuall patronage, and right of presentation unto the said rectory and church of Middleton Cheney aforesaid unto the said Principall and Scholers of the said colledge, and to their successors for ever; and I doe appoint that the said grant of the said advowson under the great seale, and all other deeds, writings, and papers concerning the advowson of the said church, be delivered unto the said Principall and Scholers; and I give unto the said Principall and Scholers the course of the Civill and Cannon Lawes in nine folios, Binmas Councells in five folios, and Nevarinus in twelve folios, in my study, for the library of the said colledge, all the rest of my books (these that are the colledge bookes, and are usually in the custody of the Principall, being delivered for the use of the colledge.)

J. N.

CHRONICLES OF THELWALL, CO. CHESTER, WITH NOTICES OF
THE SUCCESSIVE LORDS OF THAT MANOR, THEIR FAMILY
DESCENT, &c. &c.

(Continued from p. 394.)

OF Dr. Moore, who purchased Thelwall from the Brookes^a in the early part of the seventeenth century, I am able to furnish but few particulars. He was a physician of some note in London, but whether he acquired his wealth by inheritance, or by the successful practice of his profession, I am at a loss to say.

^a The Manor was sold by the Brookes under a deed of settlement for that purpose made, inter Thomam Brooke, de Norton, in comitatu Cestriæ, armigerum, et Ricardum Brooke militem, filium et hæredem apparentem ejusdem Thomæ Brooke, ex unâ parte, et Ricardum Grosvenor militem, filium et hæredem apparentem Ricardi Grosvenor de Eaton in comitatu Cestriæ prædicto armigerum, Thomam Mason de Halton in comitatu prædicto generosum, et Robertum Jenninge de Norton in dicto comitatu yeoman, ex alterâ parte. The following is a copy of the feoffment of Thelwall from the Brookes to the latter parties, which was by separate deed, and bears date the day following the settlement above referred to.

From the archives of the Heralds' College it appears he had the extraordinary privilege of bearing in succession no less than five coats of arms, which are found emblazoned in the Harleian MSS. No. 1422.

Omnibus Christi fidelibus ad quos hoc præsens scriptum indentatum pervenerit Thomas Brooke, de Norton in comitatu Cestriæ, armiger, et Ricardus Brooke miles, filius et heres apparens ejusdem Thomæ Brooke, salutem in Domino sempiternam Noveritis nos præfatum Thomam Brooke et Ricardum Brooke pro diversis bonis causis et considerationibus nos ad hoc specialiter moventibus concessisse, tradidisse, et confirmasse, ac per præsentem concedere, tradere et confirmare Ricardo Grosvenor militi, Thomæ Mason generoso, et Roberto Jenninge yeoman, heredibus et assignatis suis, in perpetuum totum illud capitale messuagium sive domum mansionalem cum pertinentiis communiter vocatum le Halle de Thelwall in Thelwall in comitatu Cestriæ prædicto ac omnes domos edificia structuras pomaria gardinia curias ac curtilagias eisdem spectantibus vel cum eisdem vel eorum aliquo usualiter occupata sive gavisia ut eisdem vel eorum alicui pertinentia sive spectantia cum pertinentiis Ac omnia et singula dominica (Anglice the demesnes) et terras dominicales de vel ad prædictum capitale messuagium sive domum mansionalem vel eorum alterum spectantia sive pertinentia vel ad sive cum eisdem vel eorum aliquo vel altero modo vel ad aliquod tempus ante hæc infra spatium triginta annorum nunc ultimo præteritum usitata occupata reputata sive gavisia tanquam dominica (Anglice the demesnes) sive terras dominicales de vel ad prædictum capitale messuagium sive domum mansionalem seu eorum aliquem vel alterum spectantia sive pertinentia Ac totum illud molendinum aquaticum una cum illo molendino ventritico in Thelwall predicta cum omnibus sectis soccis mulcturis proficiis et commoditatibus eisdem molendinis vel eorum altero vel alicui spectantibus ac omnes quas piscarias et piscationes cum pertinentiis in vel super aquam de Mersey infra Thelwall prædictam ac modo vel nuper in separalibus vel aliis tenuris prædicti Thomæ Brooke et Ricardi Brooke assignati vel assignatorum suorum sive alterius vel alicujus eorum ac omnia et singula messuagia terras tenementa et hereditamenta quæcumque cum suis pertinentiis situata jacentia et existentia in Thelwall prædicta modo vel nuper in separalibus et respectivis vel aliis tenuris sive occupationibus Roberti Drinkwater, Aliciæ Bold, Thomæ Clare, Johannis Coe, Jacobi Bould, Johannis Bullinge, Thomæ Hall, Johannis Bate, Thomæ Burtonwood, Roberti Percivale, Johannis Cartwright, Margaretæ Caldwell, Elizabethæ Bold, Henrici Caldwell, Randulphi Mosse, Johannis Sotherne, Roberti Sotherne, Roberti Whitlow, Elizabethæ Radcliffe, Margaretæ Heapey, Ricardi Ditchfield, Johannis Roson, Ricardi Huitt, Roberti Leigh, Aliciæ Wodd, Ricardi Percyvall, Thomæ Heapey, Johannis Caldwell, Ursulæ Roson, Randulphi Hardman, Johannis Leigh, Johannis Laurenson, Willielmi Clayton, Ricardi Robinson, Thomæ Caldwell, Willielmi Rowcroft, Ricardi Rycroft, Ricardi Whittell, et Ricardi Daniell, vel cujuslibet vel alicujus eorum assignati vel assignatorum suorum Ac totum illud horreum sive structuram cum omnibus terris tenementis et hereditamentis quibuscumque cum suis pertinentiis in Willgreaves alias Willgroves in separalibus comitatibus Cestriæ prædictæ et Lancastriæ sive in eorum altero vel aliquo Ac omnia et singula illa messuagia terras tenementa et hereditamenta quæcumque cum suis pertinentiis situata jacentia et existentia in Lime in comitatu Cestriæ prædictæ modo vel nuper in separalibus et respectivis vel aliis tenuris sive occupationibus Ricardi Steele,

One of the learned compilers of the Harleian Index, Mr. Wanley, in his notice of the above MS. and of the grants of arms to Dr. Moore, writes in the following somewhat sarcastic terms: "It contains ten coats of arms granted to Moore or More,

Georgii Domvill, Johannis Marton, Johannis Rowlandson, Willielmi Massey, Johannis Williamson, Ricardi Mosse, Willielmi Webster, Johannis Leech, Willielmi Marton, Roberti Williamson, Thomæ Dallom, Thomæ Cartwright, Roberti Wilcoxson, Randulphi Bradburne, Randulphi Leighe, Rowland Mosse, Edwardj Leighe et Elizabethæ Percyvall et cujuslibet vel alicujus eorum assignati sive assignatorum suorum vel alicujus eorum Ac omnia et singula illa messuagia molendina terras tenementa redditus reversiones servicia et hereditamenta quæcumque eorum Thomæ Brooke et Ricardi Brooke et alterius eorum cum suis pertinentiis situata jacentia et existentia in Thelwall et Lime prædictis et in eorum altero in quo vel in quibus prædicti Thomæ Brooke et Ricardus Brooke vel eorum alter modo habent seu habet aliquem statum hereditarium in possessione reversione remaneriâ vel aliter Habendum et tenendum prædictum capitale messuagium sive domum mansionalem et singula dominica (Anglice the demesnes) et terras dominicales molendina terras tenementa redditus reversiones servicia ac cetera omnia ac singula hereditamenta et præmissa quæcumque cum suis pertinentiis et quemlibet inde partem et parcellam præfato Ricardi Grosvenor, Thomæ Mason, et Roberti Jennynge heredibus et assignatis suis in perpetuum ad separales opus usus intentiones et proposita ac sub et subter libertates limitationes provisiones et agreeamenta expressa significata sive declarata in quâdam Indenturâ gerente data secundo die hujus instantis mensis Augusti Anno regni domini nostri Jacobi dei gratiâ Angliæ Franciæ et Hiberniæ Regis fidei defensoris &c. decimo septimo et Scotiæ quinquagesimo tercio habitum et factum inter nos præfatum Thomam Brooke et Ricardum Brooke ex una parte et prædictum Ricardum Grosvenor, Thomam Mason, et Robertum Jenninge ex alterâ parte et ad nullum aliud opus usus intentiones seu preposita quæcumque Et nos præfati Thomas Brooke et Ricardus Brooke et hæredes nostri prædictum capitale messuagium sive domum mansionalem dominicalia (Anglice the demesnes) et terras dominicales molendina terras tenementa redditus reversiones servicia ac cetera omnia et singula hereditamenta et præmissa prædicta cum suis pertinentis ac quamlibet inde partem sive parcellam præfato Ricardo Grosvenor, Thomæ Mason, et Roberto Jenninge heredibus et assignatis suis ad opus et usus supradictos contra nos et heredes nostros warrantizabimus et in perpetuum defendemus per præsentem Ac insuper sciatis nos præfatum Thomam Brooke et Ricardum Brooke et utrumque nostrum constituisse deputasse fecisse et in locis nostris et utriusque nostrum per præsentem posuisse dilectos nobis in Christo Johannem Harrison et Thomam Dunbabin nostros et utriusque nostrum veros et legitimos attornatos conjunctim et divisim ad intrandum pro nobis vicibus locis et nobis nostris et utriusque nostrum conjunctim et divisim in prædictum capitale messuagium sive domum mansionalem dominicalia (Anglice the demesnes) et terras dominicales molendina terras tenementa ac cetera præmissa prædicta cum suis pertinentiis vel in aliquas vel in aliquam inde partem et parcellam nomine omnium et singulorum messuagiorum terrarum tenementorum hereditamentorum et præmissorum supra mentionatorum vel aliquorum vel alicujus inde parte ac parcellâ Ac plenum ac pacificum possessionem et seisinam de et in omnibus et singulis præmissis prædictis vel in aliquâ vel aliquibus inde partem vel parcellam nomine

five^a whereof are to the same man, one John Moore, Dr. in Physic, whose first arms having, as he might fancy, no reputable relation to his name, nor to any worthy deed of his ancestors or himself (unless they should hint as if they had been bird-catchers), by four successive alterations, he comes at last to bear, Sa. a plain cross arg. ; as being, forsooth, an old Christian; with

omnium et singulorum præmissorum prædictorum vel aliquas vel alicujus inde partem vel parcellam ad capiendum et deliberandum præfato Ricardo Grosvenor, Thome Mason, et Roberto Jenninge vel eorum alicui in eâ parte in scripto attornato secundum tenorem vim formam et effectum hujus præsentis scripti Indentati eis inde confectum ratum et gratum habentem et habiturum totum et quicquid dicti attornati nostri et utriusque nostrum vel vicibus locis et nominibus vel utriusque nostrum conjunctim fecerint seu eorum alter per se fecerit in præmissis vel in aliquo præmissorum per præsentem IN CUJUS rei testimonium præfati Thomas Brooke et Ricardus Brooke huic præsentis scripto indentato sigilla sua apposuerunt, dato tercio die Augusti Anno regni domini nostri Jacobi dei gratiâ Angliæ Franciæ et Hiberniæ regis fidei defensoris &c. decimo septimo et Scotiæ quinquagesimo tercio.

(Signed) THOS. BROOKE,
RICHARD BROOKE.

Sigillatum et deliberatum in præsentia nostrum,

WILLIAM DOMVILLE.
JOHN HARRISON.
THO. ROSSENDALE.
WILLIAM ROWCROFTE.

Memorandum. That liverie of seisin was executed by the within named Attornies, the fourth day of August the year within written, to the within named Richard Grosvenor, Knight, Thomas Mason, and Robert Jenninge, in the capital house called the Hall of Thelwall, in the name of all the lands thereunto belonging, and also in all and singular the messuages and tenements in the several holdings and occupations of the aforesaid within named in the name of the whole lands to them and every of them severally and respectively belonging, according to the true intent and meaning of the within mentioned deed of feoffment in the presence of

WILLIAM RATHBONE.
WILLIAM ORTON.
JARVIS PARSVALL.

I JOHN DRAPER.

^a Dr. Moore's five coats of arms were as follows :

1. Ar. a fess gules between six moor-cocks proper. Crest, on a mount a moor-cock proper.
2. Argent, three moor-cocks proper. Crest as before.
3. Argent, a cross flory and in chief two escallops gules. Crest, a Moor's head couped proper, his cap gules, turned up ermine. "Altered to this per R. St. G. 22 Jan. 1626."
4. Gules, on a cross ar. an escallop of the first. Crest as the last. "Altered to this per R. S. Cl. 2 May 1627."
5. Sable, a cross argent. Crest as before. "Altered to this per R. St. Cl."

a Moor's head, adorned with a chapeau and jewels for his crest, as if designed to be understood of some Saracen or Moor commander, whom his ancestor, fighting valiantly in defence of Christianity, had killed or taken in single combat. But whatever fancy the Dr. might get into his head about his family and arms, of which the last are ascribed to one Sir William de la More, whose family might be extinct long since, the Heralds, we see, took not only his money, but care to preserve his name, and all the alterations he had procured from time to time." It may be a fair matter of question how far these strictures on the part of Mr. Wanley were warranted, and whether they really had any foundation in justice; for not only does it appear that Dr. Moore was a physician of eminence and high respectability, but, moreover, that he was a man of large landed estate, facts which do not at all seem to have entered into the contemplation of the above writer, from whose observations it might be inferred that he was both a parvenu and a quack.

In addition to his Thelwall property, Dr. Moore was owner also of several other estates in Cheshire, and of the manors of Kirtlington and Langford, in the county of Nottingham, purchased from the Earl of Kingston, and also of the lordship of Hockerton in the latter county, which he bought from Gilbert Bourne, Esq. Serjeant-at-law.

By indenture, dated the 23rd Nov. 1642 (17th Charles I.) and made between himself, of the first part; Sir Edward More, Bart. and John More, Esq. (nephews of the said Dr. Moore) of the second part; and Richard Brereton, of Ashley, in the county of Chester, Jeffery Palmer, of Carlton, in the county of Northampton, Esq. (afterwards Sir Jeffery Palmer, Bart. Attorney-General), Thomas Brereton, of the Inner Temple, London, Esq. Peter Brereton, of Gray's Inn, Esq. Robert Taylor, of Fleet Street, London, Esq. and William Buller, of Langford, in the county of Nottingham, gent. of the third part, Dr. Moore settled his estates on his nephews above mentioned, and on the heirs male of their bodies.

He died issueless prior to 1645, and was thereupon succeeded in this manor, and his other estates, by his nephew Sir Edward More, Bart. so created by Charles the First, in the eleventh year of his reign (A. D. 1636), in consideration of the sacrifices made by him in the cause of that ill-fated monarch.

One of the Leghs of Ridge, in some MS. collections relating to Cheshire, now in the British Museum, Harl. MSS. No. 2155, speaking of this township in 1650, says, "Thelwall, by the gift of Dr. Moore, Dr. in Physic, now belongs to his nephew, whose coin [expended in the royal cause, he might have added] hath created him a Baronet and Knight of Nova Scotia, by the name of Sir Edward More."

The same writer then proceeds, "Thus we find Thelwall, that great and ancient city, built and possessed by King Edward, now a little village, by which examples of the kind we may, with the Romans, conclude, that cities go through infancy, youth, maturity, and old age :

"Non indignemur mortalia pectora solvi,
Cernimus exemplis oppida sæpe mori."

"We cannot wonder sure that mortals doe decay,
We see e'en cities oft dissolve away."

During the time of the Commonwealth Sir Edward More's estates were seized by order of the Parliament, and continued under sequestration for several years. The following account appears in the Harleian MSS. No. 2137, fol. 19 :

"The account of Sir Edward Moore's in Thelwall, Lymme, and Gropenhall, stands thus :

His estate seised in June 1643, and continued under sequestration till the 13th of Novr. 1646, being 3 yeares, or 6 rent stages.

	£.	s.	d.
Charge. His Inventory at Thelwall	.	014	13 0
The value of his demesne lands	.	139	16 8
Rents payable at Midsomer and Mart ^s :			
Tenem'ts in Thelwall per ann.	.	036	14 5 ob.
Tenem'ts in Halton	.	011	2 3
Tenem'ts in Lymme	.	025	1 2
		<hr/>	<hr/>
		227	7 6 ob.
Soe that his demesnes and tenem'ts for 3 years is		638	3 7 ob.
And his inventory	.	014	13 00
		<hr/>	<hr/>
In all		652	16 7 ob.
Besides boones, averages, and heriots.			

The State hath received thereof as followeth:—

	£.	s.	d.
From Nov. 2, 1613 till March 17th 1644 incl ^e .			
Per Mr. Warburton	94	13	11
And from Oct. 24, 1645 incl ^e till Dec. 19, 1646 inclusive, Per Mr. R. Legh	289	14	07
Paid, as in the book of areres 1645, and more in the other booke of rem: being most of them payments to the Garison of Warrington	156	10	05
	<hr/>		
	644	10	0

In the yeare 1644, John Lawrenson and John Brush beinge then collectors, there came an order unto our hands for the setting of Sir Edward Moore's estate leyinge wythin Buclow hundred, for the use of the Commonwelth, wch we did as followeth:— (Ibid. fol. 59.)

	£.	s.	d.
Impr. Set to Thomas Gilbertson, John Rawnes, and Gefferen Calldwell, the Hall of Thellwall, with some outwarde buildings, and the pegion-house, with the grounde leyinge aboute the house, contayneinge six feeldes, for the some of	18	0	0
Item. Set to Jane Martinscrofte as much grasse to pasture in the Millfeeld as came to	0	10	0
Item. Set to George Mascye, John Bullinge, and Richard Hankinson, the Britch and Millfeelds	30	0	0
Item. Set to George Mascye the geld Britch to be pastured	4	12	0
Item. Set to Robert Ditchfeeld two feelds in Cherietree hurst	5	6	0
Set to John Yate, of Line, one roode land in Daniel's Moore	0	18	0
Set to Will. Leigh, clerk, of Lime, one roode land in Daniel's Moore	0	18	0
Set to Richard Dooton 3 lands in Daniel's Moore	2	12	0
Unto Peter Marton halfe one roode lond in Daniel's Moore	0	9	0
Set to Ric. Robinson one acre in the Marstowe	2	0	0

	£.	s.	d.
Ric. Hengie one acre in Marstone	2	0	0
Set to Thomas Giboson, John Ranes, Sr Geffere- ren Caldwell, one acre in Marstowe	2	0	0
Set to Mr. Thomas Warborton de Apleton, one acre in Marstowe	2	0	0
To Hamlet Calldwell, Brian Warborton, and John Caldwell, one acre in Marstowe	2	0	0
To Peter Thomasson the oacke acre for	3	0	0
Set to Hamlet Caldwell and Jeffere Calldwell, one acre called the Bottom of Larke	2	0	0
Set unto Ric. Hankinson halfe one acre in Laskey	0	18	0
To James Parsevale, one acre in Laskey	1	16	6
Set to Thomas Ditchfield and John Rutlige one acre on Horse Moore	1	16	0
To John Bullinge one acre in Horse Moore	0	18	0
Set to John Brash the Little More w th the Edish	1	6	0
To John Coe, Widow Martinscroft, and Willi. Hunte, halfe an acre and halfe ag' in the Corne More	1	2	6
Set to John Barricke the ellder, one halfe acre in the Corne Moore	0	18	0
Set to John Barricke the younger, one halfe acre in the Corne Moore	0	18	0
Set John Martinscroft halfe an acre in the Corne Moore	0	18	0
Set Ric. Ditchfeeld and John Calldwell halfe acre in Corne Moore	0	18	0
Set Joseph Marton one halfe acre in the Corne Moore	0	16	0
Set Mr. Thomas Warborton and Apleton one acre in Corne Medow	1	16	0
Set Will. Midleton one acre in Broade Meadow	1	16	0
Set to John Brash one halfe acre in Broade Meadow	0	18	0
Set to Will. Dounbabin and Ralph Occleshaw one halfe acre in Threap Meadow	0	12	0
To Willi. Midleton the meadow acre for	1	13	0
Set to Willi. Picton one acre in Radish Meadow	1	6	8
Soe the Edish in the Threape Meadow, it had	1	13	0

Then follows a list of "Cattle leayed to Cheritriehurst grounds 1644," and at p. 61 is a list of the lands set in the following year.

In another part of the same Harl. MS. f. 35, appear the following further particulars as to the rent received from Sir Edward More's estates in Cheshire during their sequestration :

" Received out of Sir Edward Moore's estate.

	£.	s.	d.
Novemb. 2, 1643. Imprimis, from Richard Hankinson, out of the lands in Thelwall .	7	0	0
Novemb. 7, 1644. Item, from Gilbert Steele, part of rents in Lymm	3	2	1
Item, from Rich. Hankinson, par of rents in Thelwall	1	16	2
Item, from Jo. Martinscroft, Chirurgeon, in part of payment of 3 <i>l</i> . 8 <i>s</i> . belonging to Sir Edwd Moore	0	2	4
— 15. Item, from Rich ^d Hankinson, out of the estate in Thelwall	18	3	10
Febv. 12. Item, from Gilbert Steele and Rich ^d Hankinson, out of the estates in Thelwall and Lymm	29	0	0
Febv. 19, 1643. Item, from Randle Hatton, out of rents in Hatton	5	3	1
March 14, 1643. Item, from Rich ^d Devies for rent due to have been paid by Mr. Hall to Sr Edward Moore	2	0	0
— 7. Item, from Hugh Taylor, part of his rent in Hatton	0	4	6
Sept ^r . 3, 1644. Item, from Randle Hatton, for rent arere in Hatton	0	8	5
— 23. Item, from Margaret Penketh, vid. of Hatton, for a heriot	2	0	0
December 3, 1644. Item, from Randle Hatton, in part of Hatton rents due at Mart. last .	3	8	10
— 10. Item, from Randle Hatton, in part of Sir Edw. Moore's and Peter Hatton's rents in Hatton, due at Mart. last	2	5	3

Janv. 3, 1644. Item, from the Collectors of Thelwall	17	17	0
March 17 th , 1644. Item, from John Ashton, in part of his rent for Sutton's tenem ^t	1	7	5
Item, from Wm. Perssivall for heriot	0	15	0
	<hr/>		
	£19 13 11		
	<hr/>		

Sir Edward married ——— daughter of William Whitmore,^b Esq. of Leighton, co. Chester, (by Alice his wife, only daughter and heiress of William Hough, Esq. lord of that manor, by Jane, natural daughter of Thomas Cromwell, Earl of Essex,) by whom he had issue four daughters, viz.

Alice, married to Thomas Havers, Esq. of Thelton Hall, Norfolk, of a very ancient family in that shire, possessed of the manor of Thelton since the reign of Queen Elizabeth.

——— married William Vawdrey, Esq. of the Vawdrey's of Bowden, co. Chester.

Margaret.

Another daughter.

He resided at Thelwall prior to the decease of his uncle, Dr. Moore, and continued to make it his residence for some time subsequently. The following extracts, as to the baptisms of two of his children, are from the Grappenhall parish registers, viz.

“ Alice More, filia Edwardi More de Thelwall, baptized 25th April, 1637.”

“ Margaret More, filia Edwardi More, de Thelwall, Miles et Baronettus, baptized 16th Nov. 1638.”

Dying without male issue, the Baronetcy became extinct, and this manor, together with the other estates in Cheshire and Nottinghamshire, devolved, according to the settlement made by Dr.

^b This gentleman's elder brother, John Whitmore, Esq. lord of the manor of Thurstanton, co. Chester, married first Katharine, daughter of Sir William Stanley, of Hooton, and secondly, Margaret, daughter of ——— More. The latter lady was, in all probability, a relative of the Mores mentioned in the text. The family of Whitmore, of Leighton, became extinct in the succeeding generation.

The only daughter and heiress (niece of Lady More) married first Sir Edward Somerset, K.B. son of Edward Somerset, fourth Earl of Worcester, and secondly, the Hon. Thomas Savage, second son of Thomas Viscount Savage, and brother of John Earl Rivers.

Moore, upon John More, Esq. younger brother of Sir Edward, who, in 1661, sold the former to the Pickering family.

In the latter he was succeeded by a son, also John, who was possessed of the same at the time of Thoroton's History of the County of Nottingham, in 1677, in which the author observes, "All Kirtlington, except the park belonging to the Marquess of Dorchester, is now the inheritance of John More, son and heir of John More, brother of Sir Edward More, a Scotch Baronet, nephew and heir to Dr. Moore, which Sir Edward having only daughters, four, I think, the said John, his brother, succeeded by settlement of his uncle, the said Dr., and hath made a fair park, into which he hath taken part of Hockerton lordship, which he left well stored with deer, to his said son John." The last named John More married the Honourable Catharine Constable, daughter of John second Viscount Dunbar (by the Lady Mary Brudenell, only daughter of Thomas Earl of Cardigan), and sister of William fifth and last Viscount Dunbar.

The Pickering family, who were next in possession of the manor of Thelwall, were of a very ancient descent in the county of Chester, and appear to have been, from time immemorial, landed proprietors in the palatinate. In the reign of Queen Elizabeth they were settled at Walford,^c in the parish of Run-

^c In Lysons' Cheshire, p. 400, the author observes, "The Pickerings were of Walford, in Mobberley, in the reign of Queen Elizabeth." From what source this information could be derived, I am certainly at a loss to know, the fact being, as I now find, that there is no such locality as Walford in Mobberley. At the time, however, when my attention was first directed to the history of the manor of Thelwall and its successive lords, I was ignorant of this, and relying on the authority of Mr. Lysons, diligently searched through, (over and over again,) the registers of the parish of Mobberley, but without finding any mention of the Pickering family, at which I was naturally much surprised. It was only on an accidental search into the registers at Daresbury that I detected the error the author had made, the members of the Pickering family being regularly entered there, by their description "de Walford," (which was the name of an estate within the chapelry of Daresbury,) and corresponding with the pedigree at the Heralds' College. The mystery thus unravelled certainly cost me much fruitless labour and research, and it is one of those instances which not unfrequently occur; proving how jealously scrupulous the historian (above all other writers) should be, lest he allow himself to arrive too hastily at a conclusion, and without evidence sufficient to warrant it. I can only account for the error into which Mr. Lysons has fallen, from the fact that there is a township of Warford adjoining to Mobberley, and probably he thought that "Walford," mentioned in the pedigree at the time of the Heralds' visitation, was entered by mistake for "Warford."

corn, which had long been the seat of their ancestors, and the names of members of the family for successive generations will be found in the early registers at Daresbury.

The following may be relied upon as a correct pedigree of the family :

Robert Pickering de Walford, b. circa 1545; married Alice, only daughter of William Mathew, gent. and, dying in 1602, left issue,

John, who succeeded his father at Walford.

Robert, who settled at East Grinstead, co. Sussex, and married Alice, daughter and sole heiress of Robert Woodcock, Esq. of London, grandson and heir of Ralph Woodcock, Sheriff and Alderman of London, by whom he had issue an only son, Robert, of East Grinstead, who married Susan, daughter of Edward Paine,^d Esq. and by her had issue a son, also Robert, aged ten years at the Visitation of the county of Sussex in 1662.

Mr. Pickering married, secondly, Martha, daughter of Edward Lyndsey,^e Esq. of Buckstead, co. Sussex, and by

^d The pedigree of this family will be found recorded in the Visitation of Sussex in 1630. They were first located in that county by John Paine, Esq. of Palenswicke, (a descendant of the Paines of the county of Middlesex), who married and had issue

Thomas, of Petworth, in Sussex. He married Elizabeth, daughter of Anthony Walker, Esq. some time Clerk of the Wardrobe, and had two sons, viz.

John, his heir. Thomas, of Petworth, Esq. who married Margaret, daughter of Robert Wheatley, Esq. of Wheatley, co. York, and had issue

Edward, whose daughter Susan was wife of Robert Pickering, Esq.

^e The family of Lyndsey, of Buckstead, ranked amongst the most ancient in the county of Sussex, and their pedigree will be found in the Visitation of 1630. The following is a sketch of their descent :—

Thomas Lyndsey, Esq. by Margaret his wife, daughter of — Hodgson, of Dent, co. York, had issue

Miles, who married Catharine, daughter and heir of William Ingledue, by whom he had issue

Edward, of Buckstead, Esq. a Justice of the Peace for the county of Sussex. He married Mary, daughter and coheiress of John Nightingale, Esq. of London, and by that lady had issue

Richard, who married Sarah, daughter of Edward Bysshe, Esq. of Smalfield, co. Surrey, a Bencher of Lincoln's Inn, and sister of Sir Edward Bysshe, Knight, M.P. successively for the boroughs of Blechingley, Ryegate, and Gatton, and some time Clarencieux and Garter King at Arms.

Martha, married Robert Pickering, as in the text.

Anne, married Godard Gravenor, Esq. of Massingham, co. Linc.

Mary, married Lionel Smith, Esq. of Buckhurst, Sussex.

that lady had issue three daughters, viz. Martha; Mary, married to William Fermor, Esq. of Welches, co. Sussex, Barrister-at-law, father of Sir Henry Fermor, Bart.; and Anne.

John Pickering, Esq. of Walford, to which estate he succeeded on the death of his father, married Margaret, daughter of Thomas Harrison, of Acton Grange, Esq. and dying 17th August 1661, left issue

Robert, of whom presently.

John, baptized at Daresbury, 19th March 1620, settled at Cuckfield, in Sussex.

Thomas, citizen of Chester, baptized at Daresbury, in 1622; will dated in January 1686; died in 1689, leaving issue an only daughter Mary, wife of James Gerard, Gent.

Peter, citizen and merchant of London, baptized at Daresbury 10th June 1623; died in 1711.

William, baptized at Daresbury 16th September 1627.

Benjamin, also of London, a member of the Merchant Taylors' Company, baptized at Daresbury, 24th Feb. 1632.

Catharine, baptized at Daresbury, 28th May 1626; married Thomas Chesshyre,^f Esq. of Hallwood, in Halton.

^f This gentleman, who was son of Thomas Chesshyre, Esq. Bayliff of the lordship of Halton and Whitley, under a grant of King James the First, had by his wife above-named, two sons, the elder of whom, Sir John Chesshyre, Knt. of Halton, became Prime Serjeant to Queen Anne, and King George the First. He endowed the chapel of Halton with the sum of 600*l.*, and the nomination to it was in consequence granted to him and his heirs. He also founded a public library at Halton, containing several hundred volumes, of which the curate is perpetual librarian. Over the door of the library is the following inscription: "Hanc bibliothecam pro communi literatorum usu sub curâ Curati Capellæ de Halton pervenientibus ter feliciter augmentatæ Johannes Chesshyre miles Serviens D'ni Regis ad Legem anno 1733." Sir John married first Elizabeth, eldest daughter of Sir Roger Cave, Bart. M.P., and secondly, Anne, daughter of Sir Thomas Lawley, Bart., but had no issue by either lady. He died in 1738, and was buried in Runcorn church. In the north-east angle of the aisle is a pyramidal mural monument of grey and white marble to his memory, thus inscribed: "In memory of Sir John Chesshyre, who departed this life on the 15th of May 1738.

"A wit's a feather, and a chief's a rod;

An honest man's the noblest work of God."

The younger son was Robert, in holy orders, Rector of Runcorn in 1686. He married —— daughter of the Rev. William Finmore, M.A.; also, Rector of Runcorn and Archdeacon and Prebendary of Chester, by whom he had issue

William of Halton, Esq. and lord of the manor of Overton in Cheshire, High

Margaret, baptized 20 Nov. 1627; married Thomas Hodson, of Leverpoole, merchant.

Helena, (or, according to the parish register, Ellina,) died unmarried in July 1617.

The next representative of this family, Robert Pickering, Esq. son and heir of John, was the purchaser of Thelwall from the Mores. He was baptized at Daresbury, 30th May 1619, and, being destined for the Law, was entered a student of Gray's Inn in 1637. He attained considerable eminence in his profession, and was several times elected Reader of the Society. In 1651, he purchased from John Stone, citizen and Girdler, of London, Nathaniel Manton, citizen and Merchant Taylor, Methuselah Turner, citizen and Fishmonger, and Thomas Benson, citizen and Vintner, London, (Aldermen and Councillors of the said City in that behalf authorized by act of the Common Council of the Mayor, Aldermen, and Commoners of the City), in consideration of the sum of 5,190*l.*, amongst other premises, all that capital mansion-house called Crowley Lodge,^g with its appurtenances, situate and being in Crowley, within a certain place called Northwood Park, in the parish of Great Budworth, and county of Chester, with about 120 acres of land thereto attached.

In consequence of this purchase, we find that Mr. Pickering^h removed from the seat of his ancestors at Walford, and continued to make Crowley Lodge his residence until he became the owner of Thelwall. This manor was conveyed to him by indenture of bargain and sale,ⁱ dated the 4th Dec. 1661, (13th Charles II.), and made between John More, therein described of Kirtlington, in the county of Nottingham, and Sir Jeffery Palmer of Carleton, in the county of Northampton, Knight and

Sheriff of the county in 1741. He married and had issue by Sarah his wife an only daughter and heiress,

Arabella, who married Arthur Rawdon, Esq. High Sheriff of the co. of Meath in 1776, son of Sir John Rawdon, Bart. by Dorothy his wife, second daughter of Sir Richard Levinge, Bart. Speaker of the Irish House of Commons.

^g This estate at Crowley was granted to the City of London by King Charles the First by letters patent bearing date the 25th September 1629.

^h Mr. Pickering's name appears in the Roll of Knights and Esquires in Cheshire in 1650, by William Smith, Rouge Dragon Pursuivant, and amongst the charitable donations he is recorded to have endowed the parish school of Great Budworth with the sum of 200*l.*

ⁱ Confirmed by indenture dated the 6th December 1661.

Baronet, his Majesty's Attorney-General, of the one part, and himself, described as Robert Pickering, of Crowley Lodge, within Northwood Park,^k in the county of Chester, and Thomas Chesshyre the younger, of Halton, in the said county of Chester, Thomas Pickering, of the city of Chester, and Peter Pickering, citizen and mercer, of London, of the other part, for the consideration of 6,500*l.* and other considerations therein specified.

The premises comprised in this conveyance were, "All that the Manor of Thelwall, and all that capitall manor or mansion-house commonly called or knowne by the name of the Hall of Thelwall, together with all those eight several closes of land lying and being together adjoyning the said manor or mansion-house. All those two closes, or parcells of land, lying and being in Martinscroft alias Marscroft, in the county of Lancaster, known by the name of Wildgreaves. All that close of land in Thelwall called the Shepherd's Heyes; all that close called by the name of the Long Heath; all that close called by the name of the Milnefield, and all those several fields or parcels of land known respectively by the names of the Milne Acre, Wilmore's Heath, the Nearer Bank, the Marstow Meadow, the three Mores, the Oake Acre, the Meadow, the Broade Meadow, and Daniell's More. All that tenement and farme in Thelwall called Hankinson's Farme; all that tenement and farme in Groppenhall, called or knowne by the name of Ralph Leigh's Farme; all those four tenements and farmes in Thelwall, called or knowne by the severall names of George Rowe's Farme, Alice Whittel's tenement, John Lawrenson the younger's Cottage, and John Hunt's Cottage; also all those two several tenements lying and being in the parish of Lyme, then or late in the severall tenures of Robert Percevall and John Cooke; and all that fishing and fishyards in or uppon the river of water of Mersey, then or late in the severall tenures or occupation of Margaret Coe, widow, and Henry Abraham as tenants thereof; and all those messuages lands, and tenements in Thelwall, then or late in the severall or other tenures or occupations of Peter Hall, John Whitlow, Elizabeth Percevall, James Bould, Richard Clare, Henry Burtonwood, Peter Mathews, Jeffery Caldwell, Joan Ditchfeilde, widdow, William Robinson, Anne Clayton, widdow, John Lawrenson, John Caldwell, Ellen Rowson, George Ditchfeilde,

* Northwood Park was formerly one of the forests belonging to the Crown. Sir Peter Dutton, A. D. 1420, is frequently styled "Parcarius de Northwood."

Thomas Sutton, Margaret Lawrenson, Richard Heapy, Elizabeth Warburton widdow, John Bullinge, Margaret Coe widdow, John Hardman, Ralph Woods, William Caldwell junior, Sir Peter Brooke knight, Robert Leigh, Anne Cartwright, Margaret Picton widow, Henry Abraham, Anne Sothorne, William Caldwell, Peter Drinkwater, Peter Monk, and John Ratcliffe, and every of them, and alsoe all and singular those severall tenements and farmes lying and being in Lymme, Lymme Bothes, Stathom, and Oughtrington, in the same county of Chester, then or late in the tenures of Christian Bate widdow, Peter Percevall, John Rownson, Joseph Marton, Thomas Rowlinson, James Percevall,^a Ralph Taylor, Richard Marton, John Bound, John Andrews, Ann Dallam, Robert Andrews, Thomas Webster, Henry Percevall, and George Drinkwater, and every of them. And alsoe all that share of them the said John More and Sir Jeffery Palmer to the common or unenclosed ground belonging to the manor of Brom within the parish of Lymm: together with several chief rents therein particularly mentioned, payable to the lord of Thelwall."

The receipt for the purchase money of Thelwall by Mr. Pickering is on a separate roll of parchment, and is as follows:

"To all X^tian people to whom these presents shall come: I John More of Kirtlington, in the county of Nottingham, esq^r. send greeting in our Lord God everlasting. Know ye that I the said John More have rec^ded and had before the day of the date of these presents of Robert Pickering of Thelwall, in the county of Chester, esq^r. the full sume of six thousand five hundred pounds of good and lawfull money of England for the purchase of the manor, lordshipp or townshipp of Thelwall aforesaid, and of other lands and tenements situate lying and being in Thelwall, Groppenhall, Ly^me, Ly^me booths, Stathom, Redditch, Broome, and Oughtrington, in the said county of Chester, and in Martinscroft, in the county of Lanc^r, which said manors and other the lands and tenements above mentioned are and bee granted, bargained and sold by mee the said John More and

^a The family of Percivall was one of very old standing in Thelwall. The late eminent physician Dr. Percival, of Manchester, Fellow of the Royal Society and Society of Antiquaries, was the descendant of this family, but his father, at the period of his birth, had removed from Thelwall to Warrington. Dr. Percival was founder, and during twenty years president, of the Manchester Literary and Philosophical Society. A lengthened memoir of him will be found in Baines's *Lancashire*, vol. iii. p. 687.

Sr Jeffery Palmer of Carleton, in the county of Northampton, Kt. and Baront. his Mats Attorney Generall, unto the said Robert Pickering, Thomas Cheshire the younger, of Halton, in the said county of Chester, gent., Thomas Pickering of the city of Chester, and Peter Pickering of the city of London, by one indenture of bargain and sale duely inrolled in the high Court of Chancery the second day of September one thousand six hundred sixty and two, of and with which said sum of six thousand five hundred pounds I, the said John More, doo acknowledge myself fully satisfyed and payd for the purchase of the said mannor or lordshipp of Thellwall, and the lands and tenements before mentioned, and thereof and of every part and parcell thereof, I, the said John More, do hereby for mee my heires executors and administrators clearely and freely acquit, exonerate, and discharge them the said Robert Pickering, Thomas Cheshire, Thomas Pickering, and Peter Pickering, their heires, executors, administrators, and assigns, and every of them for ever by these presents. In witness whereof I, the said John More, have unto these presents sett and putt my hand and seale the twentieth day of November, in the sixteenth yeare of the raigne of our most gracious Sovereigne Lord Charles the Second by the Grace of God King of England, Scotland, France, and Ireland, Defender of the Faith. Añoq^e Dom. 1664.

JOHN MORE. (*Seal.*)

Sealed, signed, and delivered in the presence of,

HUMFREY BUTLER. JOHN PICKERING.

RICH. LEIGH. ROBERTE TAYLER."

Indorsed. A receipt from Mr. More of 6,500*l.* by mee paid to him for Thelwall, 20th Nov. —64.

In addition to the estates already mentioned, Mr. Pickering was possessed also of the greater part of the township of Hatton, in Cheshire, including the manor-house, called the Quiesty Birches, the ancient seat of the Hattons of Hatton, which he purchased about the year 1650 from Peter Hatton, Esq. and his two sons Richard and Thomas. Sir Peter Leycester, in his history of the county in 1666, says, "At this day Robert Pickering of Thelwall, esquire, is lord of the greatest part of Hatton;" and in the adjoining township of Moor, he says, "Robert Pickering, esq. of Thelwall, Counsellor at Law, hath one Janion's house, purchased from the Brookes of Norton."

Mr. Pickering married Martha, daughter of the Rev. John Ley,^k M.A. of Christ Church College, Oxford, a Prebendary of Chester, and successively Vicar of Great Budworth, in that county, and Rector of Solihull and of Sutton Coldfield, in the county of Warwick, by whom he had issue

John, his heir; and

Robert,^l in holy orders, M.A. of Saint John's College, Cambridge, Rector of Eccleston and Croston, in the county palatine of Lancaster, married at Kildwick, co. York, 7th May 1677, Mary, daughter of Hugh Currer, Esq. of Kildwick Hall, by Anne his wife, relict of Robert Winckley, Esq. of Winckley. He died in 1704, without issue, having settled^m the Hatton estates, to which he succeeded under his father's will, upon his nephew John Pickering, hereafter mentioned.

John Pickering, Esq. elder son and heir, was born in 1645, and was entered a student of Gray's Inn anno 1664. He was shortly after called to the Bar by that Society, but, succeeding to an ample fortune, did not long continue in practice.

During the lifetime of his father he made Crowley Lodge his principal residence, but on his death removed to Thelwall.

He married Abigail,ⁿ only daughter of the Hon. Philip Sherard, of Whissendine, co. Rutland, M.P. for that shire in all the parliaments of Charles the Second, (by Margaret, daughter of Sir Thomas Denton, of Hillesdon, co. Bucks, and widow of the Hon. William Eure, son of William Lord Eure,) and second son of William Lord Sherard Baron of Leitrim, by Abigail, elder daughter and coheirress of Cecil Cave, Esq. of Stanford, co.

^k A lengthened memoir of this divine will be found in Wood's *Athenæ Oxon.* He was born in Warwick 4th Feb. 1583, and, in addition to the preferments given above, was Sub-dean of Chester, weekly Lecturer at St. Peter's church in that city, and several times Clerk of the Convocation of the Clergy. He died at Sutton Coldfield, 16th May 1662, and was buried in the church there.

^l Mr. Pickering was Rector of Eccleston upwards of thirty years, and his arms are carved on some of the pews in the church. In Dugdale's *Visitation* he is described as a student at St. John's College, Camb. and of the age of nineteen. By his will he bequeathed a sum of money to the poor of Thelwall.

^m The settlement is dated 3rd Jan. 1700, and is made between Robert Pickering on the one part, and Samuel Shaw clerke, Rector of Warrington, in the county of Lancaster, and Thomas Hulse, of Cliffe, in the county of Chester, gent. on the other part.

ⁿ Ex *Stemmata de Sherard, et par. reg. de Stapelford.* Vide Nichols' *Leic.* The above lady was baptized, as appears by the register, at the latter place, 17th Feb. 1652. Her nephew Philip became the second Earl of Harborough.

Northampton, by Anne his wife, daughter and sole heir to Anthony Bennett, of Greenwich, Esq. The issue of the above marriage was as follows :

1. John, of whom presently, as successor to his father at Thelwall.

2. Sherard, baptized at Whissendine, 11th Oct. 1680.

3. Danby,^o of London, merchant, married and had a numerous issue.^p From his eldest son was descended Danby Pickering of Gray's Inn, Barrister at Law, Reader of the Law Lectures to that Society, and editor of a well known edition of the Statutes at Large.

4. Alexander, who held a lucrative appointment under the Trinity House, which he procured through the influence of his cousin the Earl of Harborough. He married Mary, daughter of Thomas Woolley, Esq. by whom he had issue,

Thomas Woolley Pickering,^q of Canterbury, a Lieutenant R.N. who married, 2nd March 1745, Mary, only daughter and heiress of James Abree,^r Esq. of that city, and died 28th April 1792, having had issue

Thomas Abree Pickering, of whom hereafter, as representative of the family at Thelwall.

James, died young.

^o So called Danby from the circumstance of his grandmother having by her first husband, Colonel Eure, a daughter married to Thomas Danby, Esq. of the old Yorkshire family of that name.

^p Several of his sons went out in early life and settled in North America. One of them, Samuel Pickering, died a merchant at Charlestown, South Carolina, in 1737. Another member of the same branch of this family, Joseph Pickering, Esq. died shortly after his return from South Carolina in 1757. There is the following memorial to him in Whippingham church-yard, near East Cowes, Isle of Wight :

“ Here rest the remains of Mr. Joseph Pickering, merchant, who died at Southampton, 21st July 1757, aged 36 years. And was interred at this place, at his own request, a few weeks after his arrival from Charlestown, South Carolina, where many years he conducted business with credit to himself, integrity to his friends, and emolument to his family. In remembrance of his social and domestic virtues, this stone is inscribed by his afflicted widow.”

The last survivor of this branch was Michael Pickering, of Stepney, brother of the last named Joseph. He married Miss Mary Scott, but by her left only female issue. One of his daughters, Mary, married Mr. John Clarke, and by him was mother of Thomas Pickering Clarke, Esq. now of Bath, a Lieutenant R.N.

^q Amongst the family documents is a certificate recording the exemplary conduct of this gentleman, when Lieutenant of H. M. S. Deptford, on the occasion of a mutiny on board the Hardwicke Indiaman in 1746.

^r Son of William Abree of the city of Winchester, Gent. the descendant of a highly respectable family seated there for several generations.

Mary, married in 1770 John Burnby, Esq. of Canterbury, and had issue William, who was brought up at Westminster School, and subsequently practised as a solicitor at Canterbury. He died s. p. in 1806.

Thomas, who in 1790 was a Midshipman on his Majesty's ship Monarch.

Mary, married — Hodgkin, who died in America.

Lucy Elizabeth died unmarried.

John Pickering, Esq. of Thelwall Hall, b. circa 1674, succeeded his father in the family estates at Thelwall in 1703, and to the manor of Hatton, under the settlement of his uncle, the Rev. Robert Pickering, in 1704. He married, 23rd Feb. 1695, (settlement dated 21st Feb.) Charlotte, daughter of Sir Willoughby Aston, Bart. of Aston, co. Chester, and sister of Sir Thomas Aston, third Baronet of that family, and died^s 26th Dec. 1747, leaving issue

Thomas his heir.

Willoughby Richard of Hanover Square, London, M.D. who married and had issue an only daughter and heiress, Elizabeth Maria, married at St. George's Hanover Square, to George Keen,^t Esq. Alderman and Mayor of Stafford.

John, died without issue.

Henry, of Westminster, succeeded to the greater part of the Hatton estates, and married Miss King, by whom he had issue

John, who died young, 12th May 1749, and was buried at Thelwall on the 14th.

Henry, of whom presently, as successor to his uncle.

Robert died a bachelor at Wilton upon Wye, in the island of Jamaica, 28th July 1820.

Mary, died unmarried.

Helena also died unmarried, in 1834.

Elizabeth, died unmarried.

Mary, died unmarried, and was buried at Thelwall 27th Feb. 1769. Will dated 12th Dec. 1754.

Charlotte died also unmarried, and was buried at Thelwall 9th September 1763.

^s Will dated 6th Jan. 1730.

^t Only son of George Keen, Esq. of Stafford, and Elizabeth his wife, second daughter of Thomas Fletcher, Esq. of Wyrley, in that shire, B.A. of New College, Oxford.

Mr. Pickering^u was for many years an active and upright magistrate for the county of Chester, and held the appointment of Steward of the fee of Halton, and manor of Widnes.* His wife survived him until the 29th March 1751, when she died at the age of 71, and was buried^y at Thelwall the 2nd of April following. Her will is dated 16th May 1749.

* The following entries appear in an old account book in the town's chest at Thelwall, bearing date about the period of this gentleman's possession of the estates :

1693. Returned in to Thomas Gatlif's hands for mentening soulders for y ^e town	00 03 0
Again returned for y ^e soulders yous	00 02 0
Again returned into the new Constable's hands for the soulders yous by Samuel Robenson and Matthew Peterson	18 4

April y^e 1st —99.

Samuel Robenson and Matthew Peterson state their accounts—they were out of purse 12 04 as to the whole town, but when that is collected, the new Constables will have 18 04 in their hands belonging to the Train Soldiers w^{ch} the town finds.

1701. Returned to the new Constables hands upon the Soulders account, five shillings and tenpens.

April y^e 8th 1704. Then returned in to Thomas Caldwell's hands the Souldiers munnies, one and sixpens.

March y ^e 31 st 1705. Returned to John Warburton Souldiers monies	4 2 3
March y ^e 16 th 1706. Johnathan Hanley, Train Souldiers monies	00 00 6
April y ^e 1st 1721. Left in y ^e hands of Thomas Bould five shillings, being y ^e Soldiers money	00 05 0

* His name appears in the poll book for the county of Chester, on the occasion of the election for knights of the shire in September 1727, together with the several other Thelwall voters following, viz.

For Sir Robert Salusbury Cotton, Bart.

John Pickering, Esq.
Robert Drinkwater.
John Drinkwater, gent.
Randle Bold.
Ralph Glead, and
Peter Thomason.

For Charles Cholmondley, and John Crewe, Esquires.

John Rowson.
James Lee.
John Caldwell, and
John Lee.

^y The following minute appears in the steward's journal at Thelwall :

" 1751. April 2. The corps of Mrs. Charlotte Pickering, widow, was brought from Wavertree in a herse drawn by six horses to Thelwall, and was interred in the chappel there."

Thomas Pickering, ² Esq. of Thelwall Hall, son and heir of John, was born in 1700, and succeeded to the estates on the decease of the latter in 1747. He married first, Elizabeth, widow of — Lacy, Esq. of Gadlis, in Flintshire, but by that lady, who predeceased him, had no surviving issue; and 2ndly, Mary, daughter of Peter Thorn, of Ealing, Middlesex, (marriage settlement, dated 10th May 1775.) He died in July the year following, and was interred in the family vault at Thelwall the 26th of that month. By his will dated 10th June 1775, with codicil thereto dated 5th December in the same year, he devised his estates “to his nephews Henry and Robert successively in tail, and in default of issue of them, then to Thomas Pickering of Canterbury, the son of his uncle Alexander Pickering and his heirs.” His widow survived him until the 8th April 1834, when she died at Chester at the advanced age of 84.

Henry Pickering, Esq. (son and heir of Henry), who succeeded to the manor and estates under the will of his uncle above mentioned, was born in 1756, and married, 25 April 1788, Margaret, daughter and heiress of John Phillips, Esq. of Liverpool, but by that lady had no issue. He died at Bath 28th Dec. 1820, and was interred in the family vault at Thelwall, 9th Jan. 1821. His brother Robert having also died without issue, the estates thereupon devolved, under the limitations of the will of Thomas Pickering, Esq. on

Thomas Abree Pickering, Esq. (son and heir of Thomas Woolley Pickering, of Canterbury, see ante, p. 449,) the last representative of the family at Thelwall. This gentleman was born at Canterbury 27th April, and baptized there 15th May 1755, and was brought up to the profession of the Law, which he practised for many years with considerable success in London. On coming, however, into possession of these estates, he retired from the profession, and from that period to the time of his death continued to reside at Thelwall. He married, 3rd Feb. 1816, Mrs. Hannah Lion, of London; but by her,

* This gentleman built the present Thelwall Hall about the middle of the last century, near the site of the ancient manor-house, which was then taken down. It is a very neat and substantially built mansion of brick, consisting of three stories with a pediment in the centre, and has a double flight of steps leading to the principal entrance.

who died 4th Nov. 1822, had no issue. He was the author^a of several pamphlets (both legal and otherwise), amongst which may be mentioned an essay "On the Use and Doctrine of Attachments," published in 1786, and was for many years a constant contributor to the Westminster Magazine. In 1814 a patent was granted to him for an invention for the effectual security of remittances by bankers' parcels, &c. Dying without issue, he devised the manor of Thelwall, and his other estates, to William Nicholson, Esq. the present possessor, elder son of Peter Nicholson, Esq. of Warrington, and Lucy his wife, only daughter of William Eyres, Esq. (and sister of Lieut.-Colonel William Eyres, of Warrington,) and grandson of James Nicholson, of that town, Gent. by Elizabeth his wife, eldest daughter and coheiress of Peter Seaman, Esq. and sister of the late Lady Evans.^b Thelwall Hall is now the residence of Peter Nicholson, Esq.

Having thus traced the descent of the manor to the present time, let us now proceed to investigate a subject not less interesting in the history of this township, viz. as to its ecclesiastical c

^a Mr. Pickering was principally instrumental in recovering the possession of the Lammas lands in the parish of St. John, Hackney, in return for which services the inhabitants of that parish, at a meeting called for the purpose of testifying their approbation of his disinterested conduct, voted the following resolution: "That the unanimous thanks of this meeting be given to Mr. Pickering for his great exertions and beneficial services to the committee respecting the Lammas lands, not only as they were gratuitous, but in connecting with their Report a treatise on the Origin and Nature of Lammas Lands in this parish; a work conveying much parochial information to the residents, and of public utility to the country at large, and which will hand down to posterity as much credit to that gentleman's judgment, as his liberality and independent spirit have, throughout the inquiry, done honour to his heart."

^b Wife of Sir William David Evans, Knt. one of the Benchers of Gray's Inn, and successively a Chairman of the Quarter Sessions, and Vice-Chancellor of the county palatine of Lancaster, and Recorder and President of the Vice-Admiralty Court of Bombay.

^c From a search into the records of the Duchy of Lancaster it appears, that one "Thomas de Thelwall, clerk," was created Chancellor of the Duchy and county palatine of Lancaster 17th April, 51st Edward III. (1377) by John of Gaunt, Duke of Lancaster. This is the first ecclesiastic we find described of Thelwall. The following is a copy of the appointment:

"— cimo septimo die Aprilis Anno regni Regis E. tercij a conquestu Angl. quinquagesimo primo apud le — Westm'. Joh'es Rex Castelle et Legionis Dux Lancast' in presencia Rob'ti de Wylyngton militis Thomæ de Hungerford militis

government, and the early history of the ancient Chapel, which had for nearly four centuries stood there, when, in November 1843, it was taken down, a new church having been erected in its stead, of which some particulars will be given hereafter.

The date of the original structure has never accurately been ascertained, and there is no deed of consecration to be found in the registry of the diocese.

It was dedicated, however, according to well founded tradition, like the mother church of Runcorn, to All Saints, and was, there is no doubt, originally domestic only, and built for the accommodation of Thelwall Hall.

Sir Peter Leycester conceived that it was built by the Brooke family during their possession of the manor; but it is pretty clear, from documents in the possession of the writer, that it is of a much earlier date. In the year 1663 there was a suit pending between Peter Dunbabin and Richard Eaton, the churchwardens of Daresbury, and Peter Drinkwater and Robert Leigh on behalf of themselves and the other inhabitants of Thelwall, respecting a contribution^d claimed from the latter

et alior' de familiâ ipsius Regis ibidē p'senciū videl't in capellâ infra mansum d'ci loci constructâ constituit Thomam de Thelwall cl'icum Cancellariū suū infra Ducatū et Comitātū Lancastrie et capto sacr'o suo idem Rex magnū sigillū suū pro regimine regalitatis comitatus Palatini ibidem ordinatum manu suâ p'pria p'fato Thomæ liberavit juxta officii sui debitum custodiend'."

^d The following is a copy of the warrant requiring the chapel-warden of Thelwall to levy the amount of the rate or contribution for Daresbury; the refusal to execute which by that functionary was the origin of the suit above mentioned :

"To Thomas Boulde of Thelwall.—Whereas it was condescended unto and agreed by y^e Gent. and Churchwardens with other inhabitants of the parochial chappelry of Daresbury, at a generall parish meetinge, March 13, 1662, that there should bee forthwith 6 assessments gathered throughout y^e said chappelry, fflowre whereoff towards repaire of such p't of Runcorne church as y^e said chappelry stands liable to pay, and two assessments to y^e use of y^e poore and impotent inhabitinge within y^e said chappelry. These are to require you to collect and gather y^e 4 assessments above mencioned, intended for repaire of Runcorne church as aforesaid, throughout your township of Thellwall, accordinge to y^e p'porc'ons followinge. The same amountinge to y^e sume of 02*l.* 10*s.* 08*d.*, pay over to mee at my house in Newton upon y^e 16th day of this instant. Dated April 2, Ann. Dom. 1663.

	<i>s.</i>	<i>d.</i>		<i>s.</i>	<i>d.</i>
John More . . .	06	08	Richard Robinson . . .	1	0
William Rowcroft . . .	2	0	William Cleaton . . .	1	0
Thomas Heapie . . .	1	4	John Lawrenson . . .	0	4
Thomas Clare . . .	0	8	Margaret Heapie . . .	0	4
Robert Parcivall . . .	0	8	Sir Robert . . .	0	4

towards the repair of Runcorn and Daresbury churches; and, as the proceedings in that suit throw considerable light on the early history of the chapel of Thelwall, extracts from them are here given. In answer to the claim set up against the inhabitants of Thelwall township, the said Peter and Robert alleged (*inter alia*) that neither they nor any of the inhabitants of Thelwall

	s.	d.		s.	d.
John Ratcliffe . . .	0	4	Randle Boold . . .	0	8
Widow Warburton . . .	1	0	John Martinscroft . . .	3	4
Ales Rydar . . .	1	4	Richard Hogg and Thomas Bur-		
Peter Ditchfield . . .	1	4	tonwood . . .	0	4
John Sotherne . . .	1	4	Rich. Parcivall, Rich. Whittle,		
Harpar's house . . .	0	8	John Bate, and Widow Bold	0	2
Katharine Ruttar . . .	0	4	Jeffery Cauldwall and Thomas		
Randle Roson . . .	2	4	Sotherne . . .	0	8
John Tomason . . .	1	8	Hen. Kilme de Ma'scroft, John		
William Massie . . .	3	4	Wylme, and Thomas Taylior	0	4
Thomas Hall de Latchford	2	8	Randle Hardman and Thomas		
Randle Masse . . .	1	0	Watt de Appleron . . .	0	8
Robert Whitlow . . .	1	0	John Rowson and Widow Cauld-		
James Boulde . . .	0	8	wall . . .	0	4
Thomas Cauldwall . . .	0	8	Hen. Cauldwall, Alice Boold,		
Robert Drinkwater . . .	0	8	Jane Rycroft, and Rich. Starkey	0	4
Mr. Brooke . . .	1	8	Widow Cauldwall and John Mar-		
John Bullinge . . .	0	8	tinscroft, sen. . .	0	4
Richard Ditchfield . . .	0	4	Thomas Normandie and Richard		
Widow Daniell . . .	0	4	Twambrooke . . .	0	2
Robert Leigh . . .	1	8	Widow Lawrenson, Widow Pow-		
Daniell's house . . .	0	4	nall, Rob. Bullinge, and Jo.		
John Cauldwall . . .	1	4	Cartwright . . .	0	2
Hainnett Cauldwall . . .	1	0	John Redish and Richard Ry-		
Richard Devias . . .	0	4	croft . . .	00	02"
Ralph Cauldwall . . .	2	0			

The answer returned by the chapelwardens of Thelwall to this warrant was as follows :

" Neighbours,—You have sent us to this towne a paper whereby you require fower assessments from the persons therein named, for our share for the repair of Runckhorne church, whereof wee have retorned you a copy, and as wee think you require two assessments for the poore, but you have named in your paper such persons as are not knowne to us nor any such in our towne, and wee believe it is some old copy neere one hundred yeares old, because you name one Sir Robert, who, as wee have heard and believe, was reader at our chappell before wee were borne, and such as are in our towne you have charged some too much and others too little according to the lands they now hold. Therefore this money cannot bee now gathered.

" Wee shall meet you where reason will bee heard and right will bee donne us."

had, from time whereof the memory of man was not to the contrary, had any seats, pewes, formes, or kneelings in the church of Daresbury, nor had christened their children, received the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper, or buried their dead therein or thereat, nor had enjoyed or did enjoy any privileges as inhabitants thereof. That there was a chappell at Thelwall of greater antiquity than that of Daresbury, and that the inhabitants of Thelwall had from time to time, when y^e lords and owners thereof were Protestants, mayntayned and repayred their said chappell whenever there was occasion, and thither had resorted upon Sundays and holy days, and at other tymes to heare Divine service and prayers, and perform other holy and Christian exercises; and that the then present lord of Thelwall was a Protestant. That in case y^e inhabitants of Thelwall had at any tyme theretofore contributed and paid to the repayre of the said Chapell of Daresbury (*quod non fatetur*), yet y^e same was but done by agreement of and amongst some few of the inhabitants and to continue but for a tyme, and only obliged those that submitted thereto, all which persons were then dead, and that such agreement, if any, was made when y^e lord or owner of the manor of Thelwall had likewise lands of great yearly value within the chapelry of Daresbury.

The following is a portion of the evidence which was given in the suit: "Robertus Lawrenson de Browneshawe, in com. Cest. ætatis suæ 68, exam. ita dicit, vid: That Thelwall is distant from Daresbury about four miles, and as they goe from one place to the other they must goe through part of two other parishes, Groppenhall and Great Budworth. Saith, Hee does not knowe of any formes or seates in Daresbury church that any of the inhabitants of Thelwall canne laye any claime or title to nor did hee at any tyme knowe any christenings or burials out of Thelwall to bee brought to Daresbury, but most comonly were taken to Limme or Groppenhall. That the chappell of Thelwall is very ancient, and hee (this deponent) canne remember y^e same twice repayred, and hath knowne three severall ministers successively mayntayned there. That Mr. Pickeringe is the present lord of the towne, and is a Protestant. Saith, that the chappell stands within a field or croft belonginge to the mannor house of Thelwall, and he believes it was many yeares ago consecrated."

"Johannes Bate de Latchford, in com. Cest. yeoman, ætatis

suæ 61, dicit, vid.: That hee is brother in law to John Martinscroft, who lives in Thelwall. That the chapel is of very ancient date, and that the inhabitants there, when they have a minister, doe resort thither to prayers and sermons, which this deponent hath oftentimes seene and observed, where they have pewes and seates belongeinge to their houses and tenements in Thelwall. Saith, that the present lord of that manor is a Protestant. Saith, that Thelwall chappell stands in a field belonging to the lord of the manor, and adjoyning to the hall, and that the chappell yarde lyes open to the fielde. That hee hath many tymes heard one parson Sotherne^e about or neare 50 yeares ago, for many yeares together, read Divine Service there, and hath often heard one Mr. Barford before the late warres many times to preach there. Saith, that since the warres began y^e said chappell did fall much into decay, but is now well ^f repayred again.”

“Gulielmus Holt de Groppenhall, in com. Cest. yeoman dicit: That the inhabitants of Thelwall, ever since this deponent can remember, have constantly upon occasions christened their children, and buried their dead at Groppenhall, being the next neighbouringe church, except some few tymes at Lymme church, and that diverse Thelwall men have seats in Groppenhall church. That hee believes the chappell of Thelwall to bee a very ancient chappell, whither he hath knowne the inhabitants there to resort to heare Divine service and sermons. Saith, that he hath sometimes been at prayers and sermons in Thelwall chappell since y^e beginninge of the late warres, but never knew any constant settled minister in his tyme there, nor doth he ever remember it in so good repair as within this half yeare last past.”

“Johannes Lawrenson de Thelwall, linnen weaver, ætatis suæ 55, ita dicit: That he believes Thelwall chapel is more ancient than that of Daresbury, and since this deponent canne remember he hath knowne 3 severall ministers hired to serve the chapel. That the said chapel doth stand in a field belonging to the lord of the towne, and was, as this deponent believes, antiently con-

^e The names of several members of this family appear in the parish registers at Groppenhall.

^f These repairs were done, Sir Peter Leycester observes, by Robert Pickering, Esq. lord of Thelwall, A.D. 1663, and in confirmation of the fact, his initials with the date were carved upon the belfry, as follows: 16 R. P. 63.

secrated, and he hath heard and knowne Divine service and sermons, and communion said and performed there very many tymes by one Mr. Norcott, and Mr. Smith, and Mr. Burford (query Barford), who were all of them hired to serve the same. And he further saith, that sometimes the said chappell hath been ruinous for a good while together, so that the people could not well repaire to it, but it is now put into good repaire within this halfyeare."

"Thomas Chesshyre de Hallwood *infra* Halton in com. Cest. ætatis suæ 42, ita dicit, videlicet: That he believes the chappel of Thelwall to be a very ancient chappel, and remembers that one Mr. Hugh Burroughs,^s Vicar of Runcorne for about 30 yeares, usually went over every year to preach and administer y^e Sacrament about Easter at every chappel within his parish. And this deponent at one time was at Thelwall chapel and heard him preach there. Saith, he knows that Mr. Pickering, the present lord of Thelwall, is a Protestant."

"Johannes Okell de Preston in com. Cest. yeoman, ætatis suæ 68 (a witness examined on the part of the churchwardens of Daresbury), saith, that the inhabitants of Thelwall have allways had as free libertie to sitt and heare service and sermons in Darisburie chappell as any of the inhabitants of Darisburie towne or any others, and particularlie one of the best pews in the said chappell hath ancientlie and doth belonge to the lorde and owner of the hall of Thelwall and the hall of Walton and to no other person. Saith, that he hath heard there is a chappell belonging to the hall of Thelwall, but doth not remember that he ever saw it, and he hath heard that Mr. Pickering the lawyer is now lord thereof, who is a Protestant. Saith, that about 30 or 40 yeares agoe there was a longe forme set up in Darisburie chappell for the inhabitants of Thelwall to sitt on when they come thither, which is the lowmost forme in the new aisle."

This suit, with others then pending between Thelwall and Daresbury, was at length after much litigation put an end to by agreement dated 28th August 1663, by which the churchwardens and inhabitants of the chapelry of Daresbury bound themselves to accept the sum of 24*s.* yearly from the inhabitants of Thelwall in discharge of all future contributions to the repairs either of

^s The Rev. Hugh Burrowes was presented to the living of Runcorn 28 June 1621.

the mother church or of the parochial chapel of Daresbury, which payment has since that time been regularly kept up. The first minister appointed to Thelwall after the restoration of the chapel by Robert Pickering, Esq. in 1663 was the Rev. James Wood, but he held the living barely three years, for in the Groppenhall registers is the following entry of his burial :

“ Mr. James Wood, of Thelwall, minister, was buried Feb. 12, 1666.”

I have not been able to discover any fresh appointment of a minister after this until the year 1782, nor do I find any mention whatever of Thelwall chapel from the above period until the *Notitia Cestriensis* of Bishop Gastrell in 1719, in which he observes, that “ it was said to be domesticated to the family of the Pickerings, but no service had been in it for twenty yeares then past, and that the Presbyterians had endeavored to get it, but Mr. Pickering would not suffer them.” It does not appear that there was any endowment attached to it at this time, but in 1731 an effort was made to obtain for the chapel Queen Anne’s Bounty, and a lot was drawn in its favour, which was afterwards set aside in consequence of the ruinous state of the building.

Thomas Pickering, Esq. in 1748, immediately after the decease of his father, suffered a recovery of the estates at Thelwall, and the chapel is therein described as “ all that structure or building in Thelwall commonly called the Chapel ;” but, although it still retained the name of a sacred edifice, it by no means preserved its sanctity, for at this time, and for some time subsequently, according to tradition, it was used only as a wood-house, and was jointly tenanted by bats and owls. The chapel remained in this state of decay, no service being performed there beyond the burial of the Pickering family, until the year 1782, when Commissioners were appointed under a faculty from the Bishop of Chester to refit and repair it. The following is an extract from the faculty, dated first August in that year : “ Whereas it is alledged that from time immemorial there has been an antient chapel within the township of Thelwall whereat Divine service was heretofore wont to be performed, surrounded with a chapel-yard or cemetery wherein the inhabitants were antiently wont to be buried, but that for near a century last past the seats and pews in the same have become old and ruinous, by reason whereof Divine service has during that period ceased to be performed therein, but that the

walls and roof of the said chapel are extremely good, the latter being entirely new; We, therefore, Beilby Lord Bishop of Chester, do give and grant our leave, commission, and authority, to take down and remove any old decayed seats, pews, or sitting places, or other appendages of Divine service which may or do remain within the said antient chapel of Thelwall, and in the room and place thereof to erect and make such seats, pews, or sitting places, and other necessities for Divine service, as shall be decent and convenient for the same." The chapel having been restored again under this faculty, by the aid of voluntary contributions, and by means of private benefactions and the assistance derived from Queen Anne's Bounty, the stipend of the minister having been considerably augmented, it was re-opened for Divine service in the month of October 1782. The first incumbent then appointed to it was the Rev. Thomas Blackburne,^b B.A. on the presentation of Henry Pickering, Esq. who held it until his death, 27th April 1823; when he was succeeded by the Rev. Joseph Brindle, now the Incumbent, presented to the living by Thomas Abree Pickering, Esq.

The increase in the population of the township at length demanding more extended church accommodation than this ancient edifice afforded, it was determined to take it down, and to build a new church on a more enlarged scale. The foundation stone of this new church, dedicated to All Saints, was laid on the 11th May 1843, by William Nicholson, Esq. the lord of the manor and patron, who gave a plot of land for the purpose immediately adjacent to the ground upon which the ancient chapel stood. The following inscription, engraven on a brass plate, was placed on the foundation stone, which contained within it a variety of coins of the present reign.

" I. H. S.

" The first stone of this building, intended to be set apart for the worship of Almighty God according to the ritual of the Church of England, in place of an ancient chapel that from

^b He was afterwards Dr. Blackburne, and became Vicar of Weaverham and Warden of the collegiate church of Manchester. He continued, however, to retain the incumbency of Thelwall, and resided at Thelwall Hall until his death. He was second son of Thomas Blackburne, Esq. of Orford and Hale, co. Lancaster; High Sheriff of that shire in 1763, and married Margaret, eldest daughter of Sir Richard Brooke, Bart. of Norton.

lapse of years hath become too small for the population of the township, and dedicated, like its predecessor, to All Saints, was laid the 11th day of May, in the year of our Lord 1843, by

WILLIAM NICHOLSON, Esq. Patron.

The Rev. JOSEPH BRINDLE, Incumbent of Thelwall.

Mr. JAMES MOUNTFORD ALLEN, Architect.

“ O how amiable are thy dwellings, thou Lord of Hosts ! ”

Ps. 84, verse 1.”

The building was completed early in November the same year, and on the 13th of that month was consecrated by the Lord Bishop of the diocese. The particulars of this interesting ceremony appeared in several provincial papers at that time ; from one of which the following account is transcribed :

“ On Monday last, the 13th instant (November), the rural village of Thelwall was the scene of much excitement and interest, it being the day fixed for the consecration of the new church just erected, in place of the small and very old chapel which had so long existed in the township.

“ The day was somewhat unpromising, but long before the doors were open a numerous and most respectable assemblage was collected waiting for admittance. The Bishop arrived punctually at eleven, and was received at the church gates by the Patron, the Incumbent, and a numerous body of the neighbouring Clergy, in number between forty and fifty.

“ The service commenced by the Bishop commanding the sentence of consecration to be read, which was accordingly done by the Rev. Richard Greenall, M.A. Incumbent of Stretton, and Rural Dean, who officiated in place of the Chancellor of the diocese, unavoidably absent.

“ It recited the insufficient accommodation of the old chapel, the prayer of the inhabitants to the Bishop to consecrate the new one, and the gift of the site on which it was built by the patron : after which the Bishop passed down the middle aisle followed by his Clergy, the Bishop commencing and the Clergy alternately repeating the verses of the 24th Psalm. His Lordship then returned to his seat at the altar and offered up the accustomed prayers, after which the prayers of the day were read by the Rev. Joseph Brindle. The Bishop then proceeded to consecrate the new burial ground, and afterwards ascended the pulpit, and preached to a most attentive auditory an excel-

lent sermon from the 5th chapter of the 2nd epistle to the Corinthians and the 20th verse, ' Now then we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God did beseech you by us, we pray you in Christ's stead be ye reconciled to God,' in which he took occasion to point out first, the character of the ambassadors; second, the message they had to deliver; third, the objects of the embassy, and concluded by some practical and heart-stirring remarks on the mutual responsibilities of pastor and flock. A collection was made after the sermon in aid of the funds for building the church, which amounted to the sum of 33*l.* 15*s.* After the ceremony the bishop, clergy, and a numerous circle of friends returned to Thelwall Hall and partook of a collation provided by the hospitality of Peter Nicholson, Esq.

" We will now proceed to say a word or two respecting the church itself, which does infinite credit to the genius of the architect, Mr. J. M. Allen, of Fitzroy Street, London, who seems to have had in his eye and closely copied some of our best examples of the kind. It is built of stone (cased with brick) in the early English style, with narrow lancet windows, high pitched roof, and light pointed belfry, which seem peculiarly appropriate to a small village church, such as that at Thelwall. On entering, the eye is immediately attracted to the altar, which is placed on an ascent of three steps. It is covered by a handsome altar-cloth of crimson richly embroidered in gold, with the sacred monogram encircled by a gloria, the gift of a layman. There are sedilia on the south side of the altar for the officiating clergymen. An arcaded recedens of great beauty, wrought in fine white stone, runs behind the sacred table, and lancet-shaped triplets with a rose window above glow with the richest tints of stained glass. They are the gift of the patron, and reflect much credit on the taste of Mr. Edmundson, of Warrington, glass-stainer, who was employed in their construction. The pulpit and reading desk stand on the west side of the altar. The seats are all uniform in appearance and open. The roof is also open and timbered, springing in light arches from stone corbels on either side. The font, appropriately placed at the entrance, is of the same white stone as the reredos, and merits particular notice. It is square, and on the several sides are represented, first, a floriated Greek cross; second, the sacred monogram; third, the crown of thorns, reed, and spear; and fourth, the hammer, pin-

cers, and nails: all emblematic of our Saviour's death and passion, and executed with singular sharpness and fidelity."

In the window at the south-eastern extremity of the church are emblazoned the armorial ensigns of King Edward the Elder, the founder of the ancient city of Thelwall, viz. Azure, a cross-patonce between four martlets or, and in the same window are the arms of the families of Pickering and Nicholson, viz. Pickering, Ermine, a lion rampant az. ducally crowned or, within a bordure of the second, charged with eight plates. Crest: a lion's gamb erect and erased, az. enfiled with a ducal coronet or; and Nicholson, first and fourth Azure, two bars ermine, in chief three suns or, the paternal coat quartered with Seaman, second and third Barry, wavy of six, argent and azure, a crescent or. Crest, out of a ducal coronet gules a lion's head ermine.

The only monument the church contains is one to the Pickering family, which was removed from the old chapel when taken down. It is of grey and white marble, and is surmounted by a funeral urn. Beneath it are the arms of Pickering sculptured and emblazoned as above. The vault of this family, which was situate in the interior of the former chapel, is now open to the rest of the churchyard, in which also is the vault of the Stanton family, who have been resident in this township for a century past. On the tombstone of the latter, which is surrounded by an iron palisade, is the following inscription:

"JAMES STANTON was born at Bank House in Thelwall the 20 day of September 1771. Died at Greenfield in the same township on the 7th, and was here entombed on the 13th day of December 1841, aged 70 years.

"ANN, his beloved wife, died the 21st day of May 1843, aged 65 years.

"JOHN, the second son of James and Ann Stanton, died 23rd August 1806, aged 31 days.

"ANN, their eldest daughter, died 18th December 1812, aged 7 years.

"GEORGE, their third son, died 24th December 1812. aged 3 years.

"THOMAS, their fourth son, died 1st March 1813, aged 4 months.

"JULIANA, their third daughter, died 11th Sept. 1818, aged 7 years.

" ELIZABETH, their fourth daughter, died 18th July 1833, aged 16 years.

" FREDERICK, their sixth son, died 30th May 1839, aged 18 years.

" JAMES SEDGWICK,^k died at Ince, in the county of Chester, on the 3rd, and was here entombed on the 10th, day of October 1839, aged 78 years.

" ANN, his beloved wife, died at Thelwall on the 5th day of September 1843, aged 77 years."

There are two handsome monuments also to members of the Stanton family in Grappenhall churchyard.

The one a large square monument of marble, with the arms of Stanton carved at each end, and inscribed thus :

" To the memory of JOHN STANTON, of Thelwall, who died 27th July 1791, aged 74 years.

" MARGARET his wife, died 25th April 1808, aged 81 years.

" Their characters revered, through life exalted stood,

Stamped with each Christian virtue, and each social good."

The other of white stone, with the arms of Stanton and Taylor impaled thereon, and bearing the following inscription :

" Sacred to the memory of THOMAS STANTON, second son of John Stanton, of Thelwall, who died 22nd Sept. 1797, aged 35 years.

" MARGARET STANTON, second daughter of Thomas and Anne Stanton, died 4th Feb. 1796, aged 5 years.

" ANNE STANTON, wife of Thomas Stanton, who died 21st August 1796, aged 35 years."

The present representative of the Stanton family is James Stanton, Esq. now of Greenfield, son and heir of James Stanton, Esq. (mentioned above), who was B.A. of Brasenose College, Oxford (by Anne his wife, daughter of John Harrison, Esq. of Derby, and sister of John Harrison, Esq. of Snelston Hall, in that county), and grandson of John Stanton, Esq. the first of the family who was seated at Greenfield.

There are no other monumental inscriptions in Thelwall churchyard worthy of recording here ; but I transcribe a few of the memorials of inhabitants of Thelwall buried at Grappenhall.

^k Formerly of Thelwall, and brother-in-law of the late James Stanton, Esq.

On a flat stone, carved in curious old characters and surmounted by the emblems of mortality, death's heads, and the hour-glass of life, is inscribed :

" Here rests in hope of a joyful resurrection the earthly remains of RANDLE BOLD, late of Thelwall, who was interred October y^e 16th 1727, aged 44 years. Also ELLEN, daughter to Randle Bold, was interred August y^e 22nd, Anno Domini 1734, aged 20 years."

On an adjoining stone, also curiously carved :

" Here was buried the body of NATHANIEL, son of Randle Bold, of Thelwall, who died March 3rd 1735, in the 19th year of his age.

" All you that come my grave to see,
As I am now so must you bee,
Prepare in time, make no delay,
I in my youth was called away ;
It was my desire for to ly here,
Move not my bones till Christ appear.

" In spe beatæ Resurrectionis."

On flat and head stones :

" Widow BANKS, of Thelwall, buried y^e 12th of Oct. 1741.

" JONATHAN BANKS, her son, buried y^e — of Nov. 1752."

" Here lieth the body of JAMES BARKER, of Thelwall, who departed this life August 30, 1795, aged 51 years."

" Here lieth the body of JOSEPH BERRY, of Thelwall, who departed this life August 8, 1765, aged 54 years. Also SARAH, his wife, who departed this life Dec. 2, 1787, aged 80 years."

" Here lieth the body of JOHN DOMVILLE, of Massey Green, in Thelwall, who departed this life April 5, 1793, aged 77 years. Also of ISABELLA, his wife, who departed this life July 29th, 1793, aged 78 years."

" Here lies interred the body of THOMAS CALDWELL, of Thelwall, who was called hence the 19th day of July, in the year of our Lord 1791, in the 62nd year of his age, with the well-grounded hope of a blessed immortality."

" JOSEPH BEESLEY, of Thelwall Brook, died July 6th, 1820, aged 84 years.

" He by laborious honesty did save
Free independence from a weekly wage,

Industry, integrity, in every stage,
 His youthful toil did give repose in age;
 Early from pillow he did rise to work,
 Let all that read this imitate his worth."

A few years back a neat and commodious parsonage house was erected at Thelwall, the requisite funds having been raised by subscription and by grant from the Governors of Queen Anne's Bounty. There are no registers in existence here prior to 1782, but since that time they have been regularly kept. The first entry of baptisms in the register is on the 15th December 1782, and that of burials in June 1784.

The principal landowners at this time in Thelwall, besides the lord of the manor, William Nicholson, Esq. who owns two thirds of the township, are

James Stanton, Esq. of Greenfield.

The Rev. William Fox, of Statham Lodge, in the adjoining parish of Lymm, and of Grisby House, co. Lincoln, who possesses lands purchased by his father William Fox, Esq.

The Trustees of the late Duke of Bridgewater, whose canal runs through the township, and

Roger Rowson Lingard, Esq. who possesses an estate acquired by him through the family of Rowson.

The only manufacture carried on in the township is that of gunpowder. The works belong to James Stanton, Esq. and are situate upon the bank of the river Mersey, at the north-eastern extremity of the township.

A distinct court-leet for this manor, as parcel of the fee of Halton and Duchy of Lancaster, is held yearly on the eve of Palm Sunday by the steward of the Marquess of Cholmondeley, the lessee under the Crown. This court is of very ancient date, and was claimed to be holden by the Barons of Halton even as far back as the reign of Edward the Third. In the time of that monarch Henry Duke of Lancaster, so created A. D. 1350, and 13th baron of Halton, in his claim as baron of the latter fee upon a quo warranto brought against him, maintains his right to hold this court at Thelwall. I subjoin the extract as to the claim alluded to, taken from the Couchir Books in the Duchy Office, with which having now exhausted all the materials I have been enabled, after a diligent research, to collect, relative to the

history of this township, I shall conclude my Chronicles of Thelwall, hoping at the same time that I have not entirely exhausted the patience of my readers.

Thelwall Hall,
Jan. 1844.

J. N.

Extract referred to.

“ Henricus Dux Lancastriæ, Constabularius et Marescallus Cestriæ, et Dominus Manerii de Halton, &c. clamat habere infra manerium suum de Halton dominium suum infang theof, outfang theof, waif, wreck, stray, et visum franci plegii et quicquid ad visum pertinet de omnibus tenentibus et residentibus infra dominium suum prædictum extra Burgos de Halton et Congelton, tenendum bis per annum, videlicet semel inter festa sancti Michaelis archangeli et Michaelis in monti tumbâ^m apud Halton, et iterum inter festa annunciationis Beatæ Mariæ et inventionis sanctæ crucisⁿ apud Thelwall, quod est infra dominium suum prædictum, per rationabilem præmonitionem. Item clamat habere aquam de Mersey apertam a quodam loco vocato Frespoole usque ad piscariam dicti Ducis de Thelwall.”

ADDENDA.

Page 382. The Abbot and Convent of Evesham derived their lands in this township under a grant from Ranulf Earl of Chester, who gave also “ to the said Abbot and Monks serving God,” all the possessions, lands, and tenements given and granted by Warin and Albert Buissel^o betwixt the Ribble and Mersey, as appears by an almost illegible charter in the British Museum.

P. 385. William Sherd, of Sherd and Disley, co. Chester, Forester of Macclesfield by inheritance, married — daughter of — Clayton, of Thelwall. Vide Ormerod, vol. iii.

P. 393, line 4, *for* 6th, *read* 16th.

P. 394. I find that I was in error in saying there was no shallow formerly from the mouth of the Mersey up to Thelwall,

^m Oct. 16.

ⁿ 3 Maii.

^o Leyland and great part of Amounderness anciently belonged to the Buissels, who were created Barons in the time of William the Conqueror.

except at Lutchford. I made this statement, though not without hesitation, on the authority of Dr. Aikin, who, in his History of Manchester, asserts such to have been the fact. There were, it is well ascertained, however, many points where the river was fordable, besides at these places.

Among those whose name has been derived from this place may be mentioned Simon Thelwall, Deputy Judge at Chester in the reign of Queen Elizabeth, and the ancient Welsh families of the Thelwalls of Plas-y-Ward, Bathafarn, and Nantclwyd. Of the latter families were Eubule Thelwall, a D.D. Principal of Jesus College, Oxford, from 1621 to 1630, and a second Divine bearing the same name, also Principal of Jesus College, A.D. 1725.

Mr. Newcome, in his account of Ruthin School, p. 45, speaking of the Thelwall family, says, "They came into the Vale of Clwyd from Thelwall, in Cheshire, and were imported by Lord Grey de Ruthin." The first of the family who settled in Wales was John Thelwall, and he was in the suit of the first Lord Grey. The arms of the family of Thelwall are, Gules, on a chevron between three boar's heads coupé arg. armed and langued or, as many trefoils vert. Crest: On a mount, a buck couchant proper, armed and hooped or, wounded by an arrow of the last, feathered arg.

* There is a portrait of Eubule Thelwall in the Hall of Jesus' College. He was one of the most munificent contributors to that college, and there is a handsome monument to him in the chapel.