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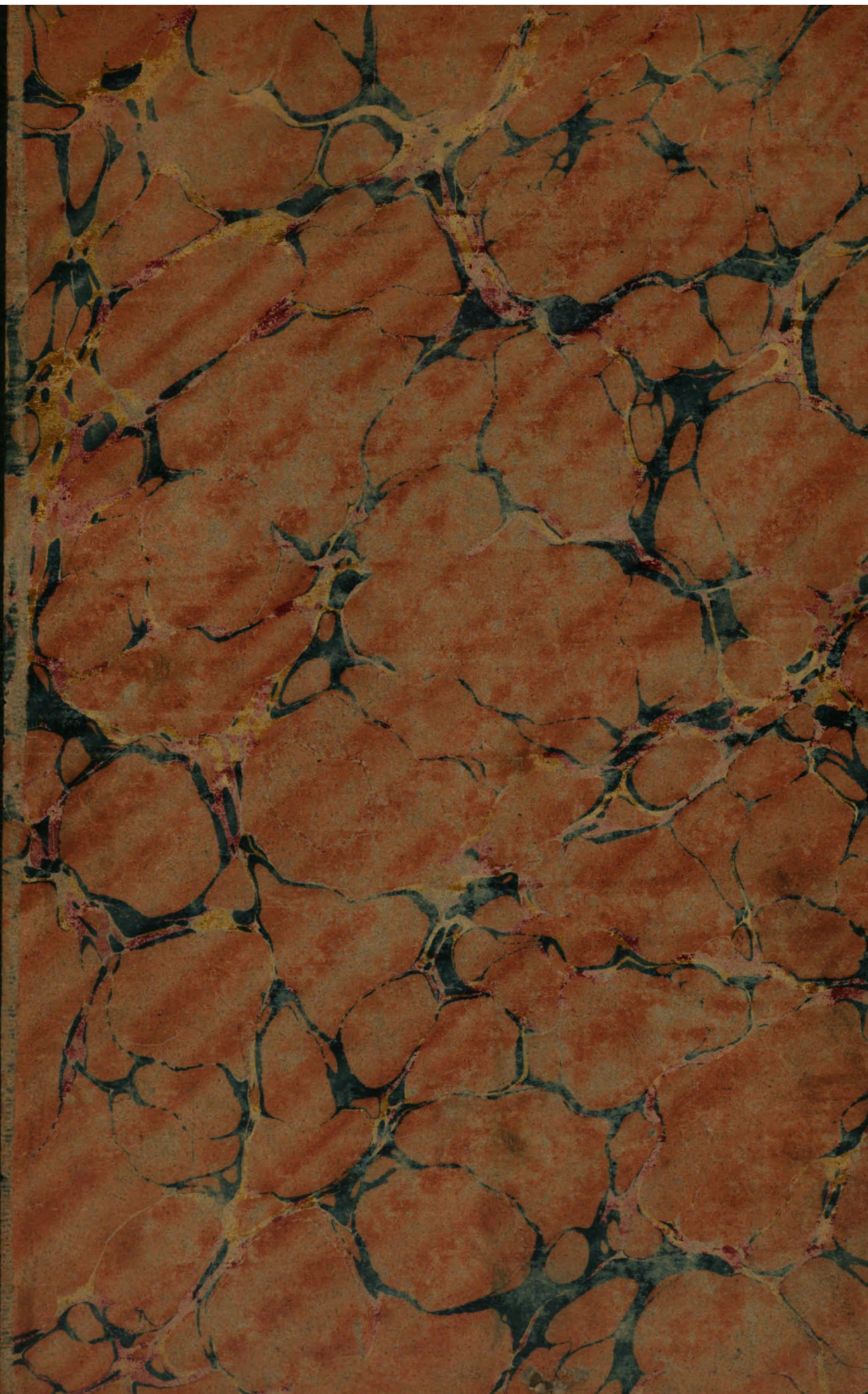


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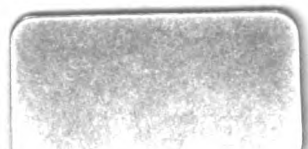


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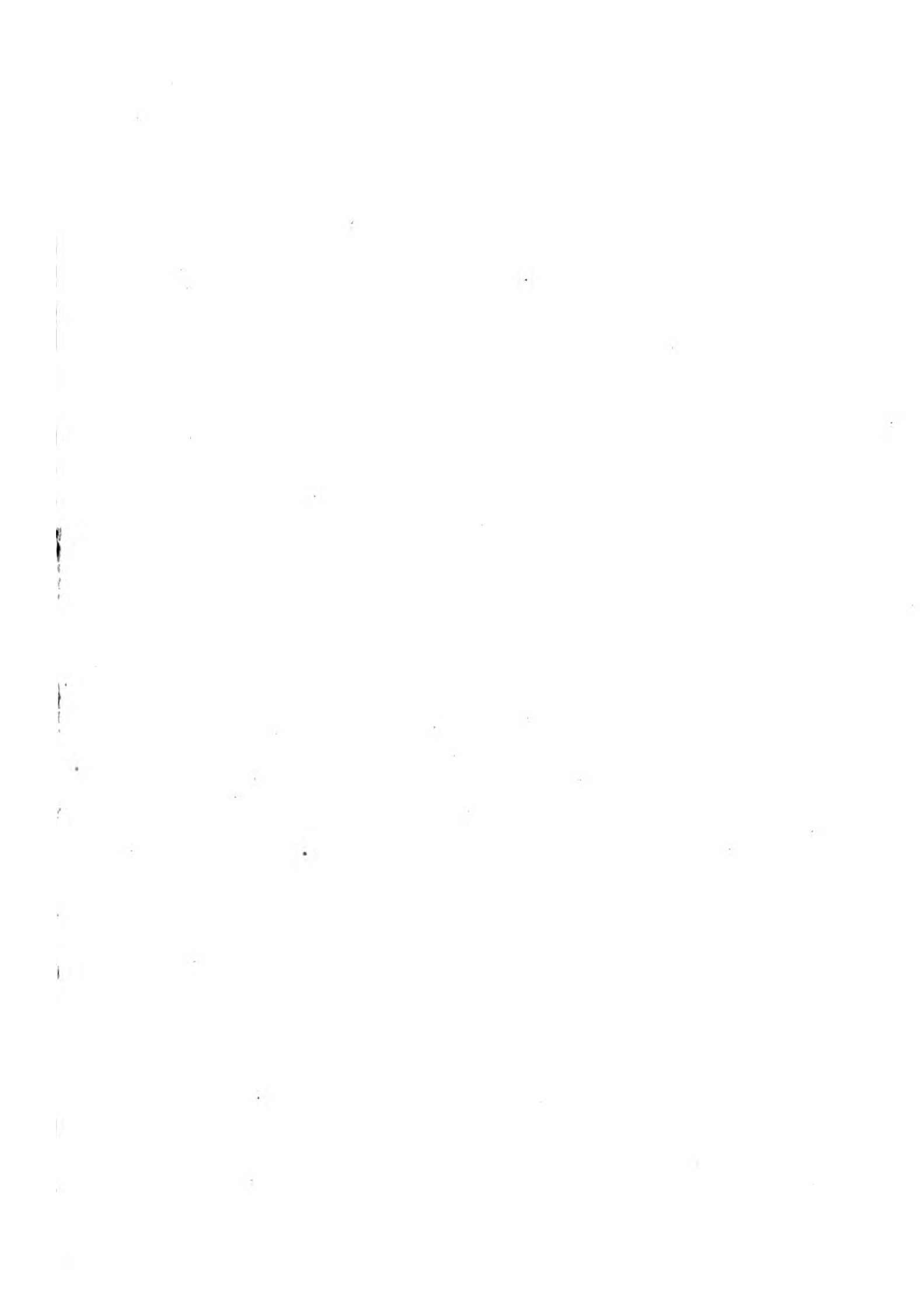
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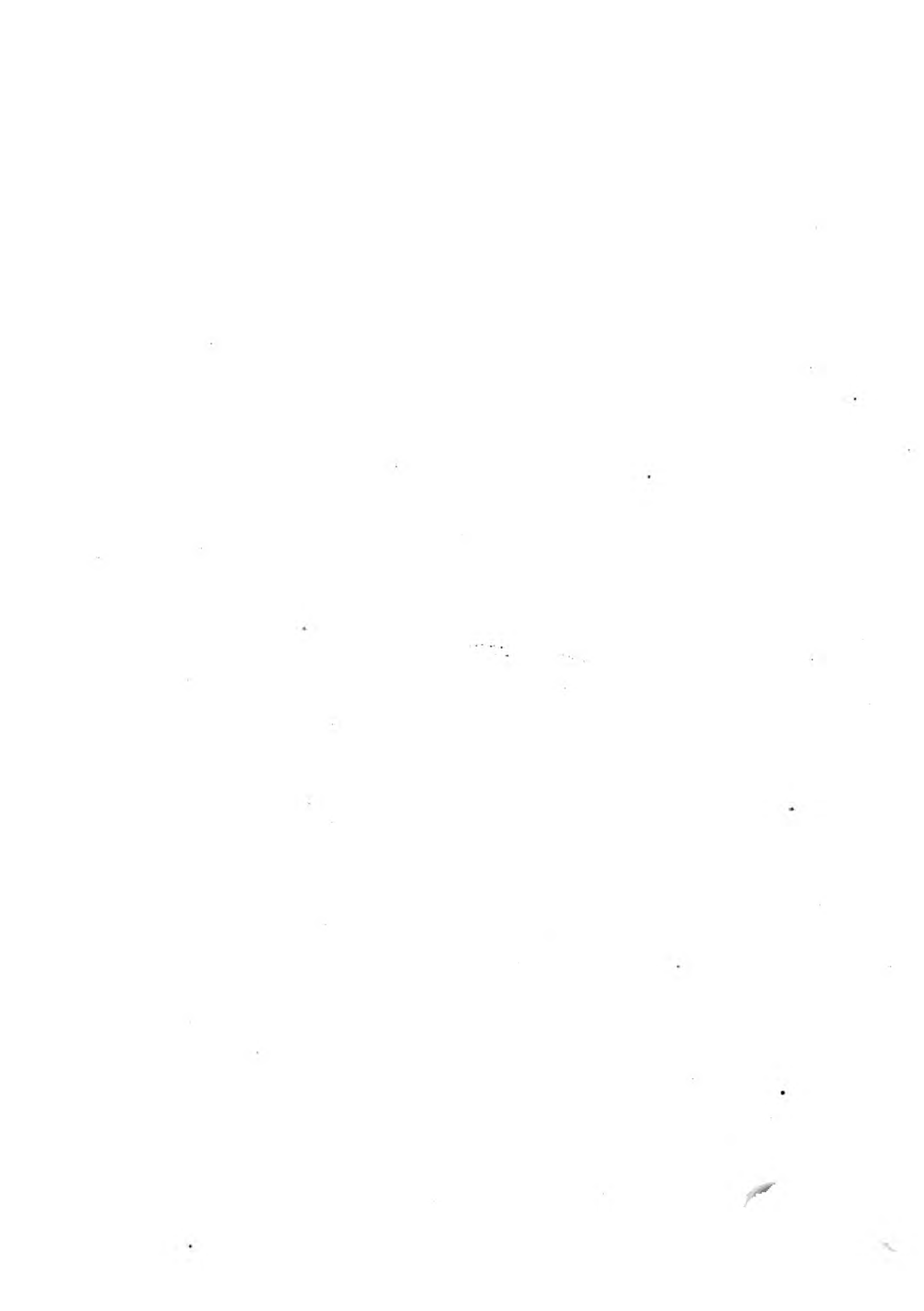














Printed by H. B. ...



**CHESHIRE ANTIQUITIES, .**

**ROMAN, BARONIAL, AND MONASTIC:**

BEING A RE-PUBLICATION OF

**GENUINE ORIGINAL COPPER PLATES,**

ENGRAVED BY J. STRUTT.

**WITH HISTORICAL AND ILLUSTRATIVE DESCRIPTIONS**

OF THE SUBJECTS OF THE ENGRAVINGS,

**AND OTHER VENERABLE REMAINS:**

INCLUDING ALSO, A RE-PRINT OF

**“THE COUNTY PALATINE OF CHESTER,”**

BY JOHN SPEED;

*AN ORIGINAL MEMOIR OF THAT EMINENT HISTORIAN, &c. &c.*

**. BY CHARLES HULBERT,**

AUTHOR OF “THE HISTORY OF THE COUNTY OF SALOP,” “MEMORIALS OF DEPARTED AGES,”  
“THE MUSEUM OF THE WORLD,” &c. &c.

Where flows the stream, but sacred relics stand,  
To tell of Henry's desolating hand,  
Or, ivied wall, sad remnant of a tower,  
That fell beneath a Cromwell's lawless power.—*Editor.*



SHREWSBURY AND PROVIDENCE GROVE:

PRINTED AND PUBLISHED BY THE EDITOR, C. HULBERT;  
SOLD BY H. WASHBOURNE, LONDON.

1838.



## PREFACE.

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THE Publisher of the accompanying Views of celebrated remains of Antiquity within the County Palatine of Chester, does not presume to offer them as possessing any very exalted claims to graphic excellence, or peculiar merit, excepting that they represent the mouldering ruins of several Baronial and Monastic edifices, and, in some instances, of ancient Castles in their PERFECT state; of which superior Engravings, if they exist, may not be easily or cheaply obtained. It may also be noticed, that the Drawings were made and the Plates engraven by Mr. J. STRUTT, of highly respected memory.

Such a work, it is most respectfully submitted, cannot fail of being acceptable to the enlightened admirers of a County, which, as Dr. Gower observes, "is the first and most important in the whole Kingdom, having had the peculiar privilege of being, for many centuries, a Monarchy of itself;" and which John Speed, and other Historians designate "the seed plot of gentility:"—The learned Camden's opinion is equally flattering, and it may still be maintained, that more families of noble and ancient descent, own estates and reside upon them in Cheshire, than any other Province of the Kingdom of the same extent.

The remains of Antiquity still existing in Cheshire, are the more Interesting in consequence of there being with them, generally associated, the recollection of some important Historical event.

The writer of these remarks freely acknowledges the probability that he may be partial in his estimate of Cheshire and Cheshire men. He owes his being to Cheshire parents; his earliest, his happiest years were spent in the rural parish of Northen, and the delightful village of Halton; and even at this period, although resident in Shropshire, he occasionally visits the venerated churchyard of BOWDEN, where his paternal ancestors have been laid for many generations; and that of



PRESTBURY, where the remains of the progenitors of his maternal parent have been deposited, ever since its venerable parochial edifice was erected, or its cemetery opened.

The writer's attachment to Cheshire being known to a very highly valued friend of his in the Metropolis, and who having an opportunity of purchasing the Copper plates from which the Views now published are impressed, instantly completed the purchase on behalf of the individual by whom, in their present form, they are presented to the public, and delighted is he to be enabled to state, they remain in the most perfect condition. When the plan of publication was primarily arranged, nothing more than brief notices of the subject of each Engraving was designed; but it was soon found impossible to confine the requisite descriptions to a mere line or two, in their progress, each became extended, and the work now assumes something of the character of a general History and delineation of CHESHIRE ANTIQUITIES.

The RE-PRINT of the description of "The Countie Palatine of Chester," by JOHN SPEED, is quite an un contemplated addition, so, the Memoir of that venerated Historian, the fac-simile of his hand writing, the accounts of Farndon and of Holt Castle, the notice of the dialects of Cheshire and Lancashire; and, indeed, the whole of the work, from page 48, where a smaller type commences, to the end, was added, because the editor and publisher could not resist the impulse of his own desires, influenced, no less, by the belief, that there were many admirers of the remains of "olden times," possessing views and feelings in unison with his own.

If in the following pages, the editor has expressed himself with more than ordinary feeling in commendation of John Speed, he disclaims all intention of detracting from the more copious and valuable labours of other Historians,\*

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\* In the portion of the *Magna Britannia*, published by The Lysons, is a valuable History of Cheshire. — Mr. Hemingway, and others, have written admirable descriptions of the City of Chester.

in their efforts to illustrate and uphold the name and dignity of "That famous County," as Daniel King deemed our Shire. No, he venerates the names of Smith, Webb, Lee, King, and Leycester; nor less those "giants" of *these* days, ORMEROD and HANSHALL.—The whole, or chief part, of the Vale Royal, edited by King, and the Antiquities of Bucklow Hundred, by Sir John Leycester, are included in Mr. Ormerod's incomparable work, 3 vols. folio: and a description of the County, from Camden's Magna Britannia, has very appropriately been introduced as "*an Avant Courier*," by Mr. Hanshall in his useful and valuable quarto volume. The republication of Mr. Speed's "Countie Palatine of Chester," has been reserved for the present occasion. It will be noticed by the reader, that the orthography of the original writer, has, in the re-print, been strictly adhered to in every sentence,—happy would the publisher have been, to have accompanied the description of Cheshire, with a copy of Mr. Speed's Map, &c. but the expense would not have been returned by the sale of so limited a number of copies as those which comprise the present edition of the ANTIQUITIES OF CHESHIRE.

After giving to the reader, what the editor deems, the requisite prefatory information, with regard to his own sentiments, and the nature of *his* publication, on again reviewing *its* pages—he pauses to reflect on the ancient distinction of the County Palatine of Chester—he compares the past with the present—his mind glances at Cestria's change from the condition of a Monarchy, having regal state and dignity, the lustre of a palace and a court—the rich revenues of its ancient ministers of religion—the extent and magnificence of its then Monastic edifices, and Baronial fortresses:—and now marking, the few that remain of its former imperial privileges, the absence of a court and the splendour of a regal residence—the diminished revenues of the clergy—the destruction of Libraries, probably of important original manuscripts;—he is ready to write on the remaining institutions and edifices of the ancient sovereignty, "thy Glory is departed."—But when he contemplates the advantages of a milder government—

a sovereign ruling by the law, and not by the sword—the more secure tenure of possessions by hereditary right and equitable purchase, then by military service and arbitrary grant—the numerous advantages\* the County Palatine derives from the residence and wealth of an illustrious family DESCENDANTS of the nephew of its first sovereign Earl—the greater piety and learning of the present, than was manifest in the wealthier clergy of monastic times—HE IS SATISFIED. What is chiefly to be regretted, is, that at the period of the reformation, and the gloomy days of the civil wars, the temples of religion, the abodes of its ministers, the castles of the noble and distinguished, were, with ruthless barbarity, mutilated and thrown down, leaving only wrecks for the admiration, and, no less, the weepings of posterity.—The lost manuscripts of the libraries, can never be restored, but the art of printing, subsequently invented, under the direction of Divine Providence, ten thousand fold compensates for the evils of their destruction.—The rich architecture of the turretted abbey, and the grandeur of the embattled fortress of former ages, are rivalled, if not excelled, by the modern magnificence of Eaton hall and Cholmondeley castle. The mansions of Crewe, Doddington, Oulton, and others, are “sumptuous edifices:” but these, like their venerable predecessors, whose existence this humble volume records, and whose remains its engravings portray, will, one day, be removed by the ruthless hand of innovation or tyrannic power, or grey with years, sink into ruin, and require the aid of the Historian and Artist, of future time, to perpetuate the names of their founders, their origin and character; while, in perfect oblivion, penless and powerless, shall sleep the hand, and affectionless the heart, of the present writer on CHESHIRE ANTIQUITIES.

*Providence Grove, near Shrewsbury,*

*April 20th, 1838.*

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\* Vide also page 12 this volume.



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# CHESHIRE,

## ITS HISTORY AND MODERN TOPOGRAPHY.

### BOUNDARIES AND EXTENT.

**C**HESHIRE, a county palatine on the west side of England. The name is formed from the ancient city of Chester, and is an abbreviation of Chestershire, not Cheeshire as some have supposed, formerly written, in Saxon, Cestre scyre. The boundary line of this county is very irregular. On the N.W. a tract of a peninsular form is included between the æstuaries of the Mersey and the Dee; and on the N.E. a long narrow tract, containing part of Featherbed Moss and Holme Moss, which belong to the central high lands of England, is included between the Thame and the Etherow, which by their junction form the Mersey. The county is said by some writers to be "like the wing of an eagle stretched forth at length." The whole county received the name of Vale Royal of England, from the magnificent abbey so called, which was founded by Edward I. on the Weaver. Cheshire lies between  $53^{\circ}$  and  $53^{\circ} 34'$  N. lat. and  $1^{\circ} 47'$  and  $3^{\circ} 11'$  W. long. Its northern boundary is chiefly formed by Lancashire, and partially by Yorkshire and the Irish Sea. The Mersey forms the boundary between Cheshire and Lancashire. On the east, the county has Derbyshire and Staffordshire; on the south, Shropshire and a small portion of Flintshire; and on the west, Denbighshire, Flintshire, and the Irish Sea. The greatest length of the county from N.E. to S.W., in a straight line, is about 58 miles; the greatest width from N. to S. about 32 miles: the whole circuit is nearly 200 miles. On the N.W. extremity, a line of sea coast extends for about 8 miles from E.N.E. to W.S.W., besides about 20 miles on

the æstuary of the Mersey, and about 14 on the great æstuary of the Dee. The area of the county is 665,600 acres, or 1040 square miles, to which may be added 10,000 acres as the sands of the Dee. According to Mr. Holland, there are 676,000 acres, of which 620,000 are in cultivation, including parks and pleasure grounds; 28,000 in waste lands, commons, and woods; 18,000 in peat bogs and mosses, and 10,000 in sea-lands on the æstuaries of the Dee and Mersey.

### SURFACE, HYDROGRAPHY, AND COMMUNICATIONS.

*SURFACE.*—The surface of Cheshire is in general a nearly uniform level, but there are a few inequalities. There are several elevated tracts stretching in a northern direction. One is between the Goyt and the Bollin; and a second between the Bollin and the Weaver. A tract of high land extends also from N. to S. across Delamere Forest, terminating to the N. near Frodsham in a high promontory which overlooks the Mersey, and to the S. in the rock on which Beeston Castle stands; the height of this rock is 366 feet above the sea. Alderley Edge, a few miles N.W. of Macclesfield, is an isolated hill which rises abruptly out of a level country, and presents one of the richest and most extensive prospects in the county; but Cheshire, from its general flatness, is not remarkable for the picturesque and beautiful. In the eastern part of the hundred of Macclesfield are several extensive tracts of black moor, or bogs of peat-moss; and in the vicinity of Macclesfield are the high lands already referred to between the Bollin and the Goyt,



## CHESHIRE, ITS HISTORY

which spread eastward into Derbyshire, and form on the Cheshire side a kind of mountain-wall. These high lands appear also near Congleton, and stretch southward to Talk, in Staffordshire. In former times there were numerous forests in Cheshire; one is mentioned in the Domesday Survey of Alticross as being ten miles in length and three in breadth. At present there are only a few large woods. Some at Dunham Massey contain many noble old oaks. Around Delamere Forest, in the hundred of Eddisbury, there are several extensive plantations, chiefly of Scotch firs and larches. This forest, so called, is a large sterile tract of whitish sand, partially covered with heath and peat-moss. It occupies 10,000 acres; of which nearly the whole has been enclosed and brought into cultivation. The most extensive plantation in the county is that of Francis Jodrell, Esq., which covers 1000 acres. The timber supplied by the great profusion of hedge-row trees makes ample amends for the loss of the antient forests. It is principally oak, and furnishes abundance of tanner's bark. A large quantity of fine timber is also produced on the numerous estates of the nobility and gentry; especially on those of the Marquis of Westminster, of the Earl of Stamford and Warrington, and of the Marquis of Cholmondeley. In many parts land left to itself becomes spontaneously covered with oak and alder.

*HYDROGRAPHY, &c.*—Cheshire abounds not only with rivers and brooks, but with broad sheets of water called meres, which generally contain fish. The principal are Oak-mere, Pick-mere, Budworth-mere, Rosthern-mere, Mere-mere, Tatton-mere, Chapel-mere, Moss-mere, Broad-mere, Bah-mere, and Comber-mere, which is three-quarters of a mile in length.

The chief navigable rivers are the Dee, Mersey, and Weaver. The navigation of these rivers is superintended, and has been greatly improved, by companies incorporated

by acts of parliament. The source of the Dee is in Merionethshire, where, in conjunction with another rapid stream descending from the heights between Dolgelly and Dinasmowddy, it forms the lake Tegid, or Pimble-mere, otherwise called Bala lake, the largest in Wales. Passing Bala and Corwen, it runs E. through Denbighshire, by Llangollen, nearly to Overton, in Flintshire, where it turns northward to Bangor. Continuing in the same direction, it becomes the boundary of Cheshire, nearly from Worthenbury to Aldford. It then intersects the northern part of the hundred of Broxton to Chester, which it half encircles. From Chester it flows in a straight artificial cut into the broad æstuary of the Dee. A surface of about 2500 acres has been reclaimed from the S.E. extremity of this æstuary. From Bangor bridge the Dee is navigable for barges. At Chester bridge it is 100 yards wide, and vessels of considerable tonnage can pass by the new channel to Chester. The whole length of the course of the Dee is about 55 miles. It supplies salmon, trout, and other kinds of common fish. This river, called, in Latin, Deva, in British, Pifir dwy, was anciently held in great veneration, and its waters were considered sacred for religious ablution.

### CIVIL HISTORY AND ANTIQUITIES.

*HISTORY.*—At the time of the Roman invasion this county formed part of the territory occupied by the Cornavii or Carnabii, a name which Whitaker conjectures the inhabitants of this district derived from the peculiar form of the peninsula between the æstuaries of the Dee and the Mersey. In the first division of Britain by the Romans, it was included in Britannia Superior; and in their subsequent subdivision, it became part of Flavia Cæsariensis. The towns possessed by the Cornavii were Deva or Chester, Condate or Kinderton, Banchorium, Banchor, or Bangor, Etocetum or Wall, and Uriconium or Wroxeter; the last

## AND MODERN TOPOGRAPHY.

of which seems to have been their metropolis. Bangor, Etocetum, and Uriconium are not within the limits of Cheshire. Ormerod mentions a recent discovery of brass tablets, recording a grant of the freedom of the city of Rome to certain troops serving in Britain in the reign of Trajan, A.D. 98—117, some of whom at least may have been stationed near Bickly, where the tablets were discovered. From inscriptions which have been found, the twentieth legion appears to have continued at Chester as late as the third century, but to have withdrawn long before the final abandonment of the island in the fifth.

On the departure of the Romans, the Britons continued to hold Cheshire until about the year 607, when it was wrested from Brochmael, king of Powys, by the successful arms of Ethelfrid, the Saxon king of Bernicia. Prior to the battle, the Saxon troops are said to have massacred the monks of Bangor, against whom St. Augustine had denounced divine vengeance for their errors, and who aided the Britons with their prayers. Several of the British princes, however, having collected an army and marched to Chester, Ethelfrid was defeated in turn, and this district was not again subjected to the Anglo-Saxon power until about the year 828, when it was taken by king Egbert, and made a part of the kingdom of Mercia. According to Peter Langtoft, Athelwolf held his parliament at Chester after the death of Egbert, and there received the homage of his tributary kings 'from Berwick unto Kent.' About the close of 894, an army of Danes advancing from Northumberland took possession of Chester, and seized the fortress: the Saxons under Alfred, however, having arrived in the vicinity, by destroying the cattle and corn, and intercepting the provisions of the Danes, drove them to such extremities of famine, that they quitted the city and retreated to North Wales. Upon the division of England into three districts by Alfred, Cheshire was included in the Mercian jurisdiction.

Cheshire acquired the privileges of a county palatine in the reign of William the Conqueror, who granted it to his nephew Hugh d'Avranches, commonly called Hugh Lupus, to hold it as freely by the sword as he himself held the kingdom of England by the crown. Until the final subjugation of the Welsh, the city of Chester was the usual place of rendezvous for the English army, and the county was exposed to all the evils of a border warfare. In 1237, on the death of John Scot, the seventh earl of Chester of the Norman line, without male issue, Henry III. gave the daughters of the late earl other lands in lieu of the earldom, being unwilling, as he said, to 'parcel out' so great an inheritance 'among distaffs:' the county he bestowed on his son Edward, who did not assume the title, but conferred it on his son Edward of Caernarvon, since which time the eldest sons of the kings of England have always held the title of earls of Chester. The inhabitants of Cheshire took a part in the rebellion of the Percies, and the greater part of the knights and esquires of the whole county, to the number of 200, with many of their retainers, fell in the battle of Shrewsbury, on the 22nd of July, 1403, from which date to the reign of Charles I., Cheshire was not the scene of any important military transactions. From the time of Henry III. to the reign of Henry VIII., the palatine was governed as independently as it had been by the Norman earls. Henry VIII. however made it subordinate to the crown of England; 'yet,' says Gough, in his 'Additions to Camden,' 'all pleas of lands and tenements and all contracts within the county are to be heard and determined within it; and all determinations out of it are deemed void, *et coram non iudice*, except in cases of error, foreign plea, and foreign voucher; and for no crime but treason can an inhabitant of this county be tried out of it.' The county being solely under a distinct jurisdiction, and to a certain extent like a separate kingdom, never sent representatives

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to the English parliament, either for city or shire, until the reign of Edward VI., when, in the year 1549, on the petition of the inhabitants, two members were summoned from each. On the outbreaking of the civil war, as this county was nearly equally divided between the king and the people, the principal persons attempted to preserve its internal peace by a treaty of pacification, which was entered into at Bunbury under the sanction of the commissioners of array, but was rendered nugatory by an ordinance of parliament which required the inhabitants to assist the common cause. The parliament sent Sir William Brereton with a troop of horse, who took possession of Nantwich, which he fortified and made his head quarters; while Sir Nicholas Byron, on the other side, being appointed colonel-general of Shropshire and Cheshire, and governor of Chester by the king, made it the head-quarters of the royalists. Lord Byron, the nephew of the governor after successfully reducing several of the parliamentary garrisons with his Irish regiments, defeated the whole parliamentary forces under Sir William Brereton at Middlewich, in the month of December, 1643. Nantwich, being now the only garrison in Cheshire in the possession, of the parliament, was besieged during the greater part of January, 1644, until it was relieved by the united forces of Sir Thomas Fairfax and Sir William Brereton, who defeated Lord Byron and compelled him to retreat with the remains of his forces to Chester on the 25th. Prince Rupert took Stockport without resistance on the 25th of May; but the royalists were defeated after a severe battle at Castle-heath, near Malpas, on the 25th of August. Next year, on the advance of the king to Chester with a large force, the parliament abandoned all their garrisons, except Tarvin and Nantwich, and on the 27th of September, the battle of Rowton and Hoole-heath was fought near Chester, in which the royalists were defeated; an event which led to the surrender of the

garrison of Chester, in February, 1646, and the subjugation of the whole county to the parliament.

In August, 1659, Sir George Booth, having a secret commission from Charles II., appointing him commander-in-chief of all his forces in Cheshire, Lancashire, and North Wales, and being accompanied by several noblemen and gentlemen, appeared in Cheshire at the head of an army of upwards of 3000 men. They mustered on Rowton Heath, and published a declaration that they took up arms to deliver the nation from slavery and obtain a free parliament. The army of the parliament, under General Lambert, met them at Winnington Bridge, near Northwich, on the 16th August, and soon defeated them. Sir George himself, after making his escape from the field in disguise, was taken at Newort Pagnell and sent to the Tower; and Chester, which had been held by Colonel Croxton, surrendered immediately on the approach of the victorious army. The son of Sir George Booth, Lord Delamere, on the eve of the revolution, no sooner heard of the landing of the prince of Orange, than he raised a considerable force in Cheshire and Lancashire, declared in his favour, and marched to join him; the Lords Molineux and Aston, with equal promptness, seized Chester for the king; but these warlike preparations were fortunately rendered useless by James's abdication.

*ANTIQUITIES*—The Roman roads in the county are found in detached parts: one road, called the Watling-street, was probably more ancient than the Roman times. This road enters Cheshire from the north by the ford over the Mersey at Stretford; the marks of the elevated crest, peculiar to the military roads, of the Romans, are still visible. A little south-west of Bucklow Hill the roads seem to have divided, the Roman continuing towards Kinderton, and the British pursuing its old direction by Northwich over Delamere Forest and by Chester to the coast of Caernarvonshire.

It is stated by antiquaries that part of the Via Devana crossed the county by the S.E. to Chester. Besides these, antiquarian conjecture has pointed out several other Roman roads, but the evidence is not so satisfactory in their favour as in the cases of the roads we have named. That there was a Roman station at Chester cannot be doubted—the sites of the others are uncertain.

Several of the present principal roads in this county are of Roman origin; and the passes in the hills approaching Chester, as Barn-hill, Kelsall, &c. are undoubtedly the work of that people. All of them have been crowned with their exploratory fortresses, as may be seen in the fields on the north side of Kelsall-hill, Eccleston-hill, and in various other situations.

In the City of Chester Roman streets are traced by the existence of pavements below the present four principal streets, which are occasionally laid bare, and in some places cut through the rock on which the city stands, from three to four feet below the natural level of the ground.

In digging up the ground for building the new Linenhall were found several Roman bricks about 18 inches long, and 12 inches in breadth; they had each of them an edge turned upon each side, raised an inch above the surface of the brick.

In a field called Daniels', now or late the property of Mr. Simon Faulkner, in Great Boughton, near Chester, a Roman altar was discovered in March 1821. It was situated near the junction of the Roman roads to *Man-cunium* (Manchester,) and *Mediolanum*, (Chester-ton, in Staffordshire,) about 350 yards from the Black Lion. The inscription, which is quite perfect, may be thus Anglicized: "THE TWENTIETH LEGION—THE MIGHTY—THE VICTORIOUS—TO THE NYMPHS AND FOUNTAINS." The altar is of red sand-stone, and was found imbedded in a sandy

soil, surrounded by a heap of stones, no doubt originally forming the temple in which it was kept. The inscription is the same behind as in front, with the exception of the word *FONTIBUS*, which is cut *FONT'BUS*. It has been suggested, the letters *V. V.* allude to a vow made previous to its erection by the dedicators, and should be rendered, *VOTUM VOVIT*; but when the uniformity of the application of these initials is adverted to, there can be no doubt but what they are descriptive of the Legion, *VALENS VICTRIX*: the Valiant, the Victorious. Supposing the altar thus discovered, to have been erected when the Twentieth Legion first arrived here, it is probably 1800 years old.

Roman and other antiquities discovered in Chester and its vicinity, are numerous beyond the possibility of description, in a publication of limited extent.

*CASTLES, MONASTRIES, HOSPITALS, &c.* For an enumeration and particulars of ancient Cheshire edifices of this description, I must refer the reader to pages 50, 51, & 52, of my Cheshire Antiquities. In that work will also be found interesting views of the remains of the Norman Cathedral of St. John, in Chester; of Birkenhead Priory, and Stanlow Abbey, as they appeared 70 or 80 years ago. And also of the ruins of Shotwick, and Frodsham Castles; and of Beeston and Halton Castles, before their lawless destruction by Cromwell's myrmidons. In the same volume will also be found some account of the ancient stone pillars existing in several places in the county, and of various remains and miscellaneous antiquities &c.

We may remark that on the site and remaining portions of ancient Monasteries and Baronial edifices, have arisen the most eminent Mansions in the county, as for instance *COMBERMERE-ABBAY*—The Seat of Lord Viscount



Combermere, situated about five miles to the south-west of Nantwich, near the banks of the deep water called Combermere; it was founded by Hugo Malbanc, in the 35th year of Henry I. 1134, and dedicated to the Virgin Mary and St. Michael. It continued to flourish till the thirty-fourth year of Henry VIII. when its site, together with the church, lake, cemetery, &c. valued at 225*l.* 9*s.* 7*d.* per annum, were granted to George Cotton, esq. in whose family it has remained ever since. The mansion is situated on a romantic spot—on the banks of a large lake, that winds like a natural river, in a rich and well wooded country, sufficiently undulating to possess a picturesque beauty, in the immediate vicinity of the abbey; but at a short distance, rising into elevations that command noble and extensive prospects over Cheshire, Shropshire, and North Wales. Part of the conventual buildings have been preserved in the mansion erected by the ancestor of the present Noble Viscount, after the dissolution; among these are the refectory, a part of the present library, and which was probably approached by a large flight of external stairs, similar to those at Vale Royal and Norton. The walls of the old mansion are preserved in the present fabric, but which do not appear so as to interrupt its present character, as a gothic mansion in the pointed style of architecture.

Stapleton Stapleton Cotton, Lord Viscount Combermere, succeeded his Father Sir Robert Salisbury Cotton, Bart., in 1809.

The family of Cotton were for many generations settled at Cotton, in the County of Salop. Sir Robert Cotton who had been knighted by Charles II, was created a Baronet in 1677, and was great grandfather of the father of the present Noble Viscount, who married first in 1801, Anna Maria, eldest daughter of the late Duke of New-

castle, Sister of the present illustrious Peer of that title, she died in 1807. Secondly he married in 1814, Caroline second daughter of Fulke Greville, Esq. who died in 1837. And thirdly in 1838, he married Mary Woolley, daughter and heiress of Thomas Gibbins M.D.—His Lordship has issue by the second marriage, Wellington, born November 24th 1818. Caroline Frances, married in August 1837, to the Earl of Hillsborough, eldest Son of the Marquis of Downshire, and Meliora, who is unmarried.

The honours and titles enjoyed by the illustrious, gallant and beloved Nobleman, proprietor of Combermere Abbey have been conferred upon him by a grateful country, in reward of his valiant deeds.—He was created Baron in 1814, and Viscount in 1826.

**NORTON PRIORY.** Lies four miles N. E. from Frodsham; the manor was given by William Fitz-Nigel, constable of Chester, about the year 1135, to the canons of Runcorn, who were removed to the Priory at Norton, then founded by the said William: the revenues of which were estimated in the reign of Henry VIII, at 180*l.* 7*s.* 6½*d.* clear yearly value. The priory and Lordship of Norton were purchased of the King in 1545, by Richard Brooke, Esq. son of Thomas Brooke, of Leighton in Nantwich, whose family had settled in that township, as early as the reign of Henry III. Henry Brooke, Esq. descendant of the above, who had been four times sheriff of the county, during the civil war, and in the protectorate of Cromwell, and had been the purchaser of Halton, was in 1662 created a baronet by King Charles II. The title and estate are now most worthily enjoyed by Sir Richard Brooke, Bart.

Norton-priory was besieged by the royalists, in the early part of the year 1643; a pamphlet of that date says, "they



brought cannon with many horse and foot and fell to batter on the sabbath-day ; Mr. Brooke had eighty men in the house ; we were careful he should lack no powder ; with all other things Master Brooke furnished them fully. A man upon his tower with a flag in his hand cryde them ayme, while they discharged their canon, saying "wide my lord on the right hand ; now wide two yards on the left ; two yards over my lord, &c. He made them swell for anger when they could not endamage the house, for they only wounded one man, having lost forty-six of their own, and their canoneer." The present mansion is a modern building, but part of the substructure of the monastery, in which is a door-way of Saxon architecture, still remains, being fitted up as a cellar. In the first volume of Buck's Antiquities is a view of the old mansion, which appears to have been built soon after the dissolution of the monastery.

The present Baronet was born August 16th 1785, and succeeded his Father, Sir Richard in the year 1795, or 1796. He married Harriet second daughter of Sir Foster Cunliffe, Bart., who died in 1825, leaving a numerous, most amiable and dutiful family. The devoted happy pair thus seperated by death, had in life only one heart and one mind, they lived for each other, and for the happiness of their family, their friends, tenantry, neighbours, servants, and their country ; as the whole county can testify. In the pleasure grounds attached to the mansion, in an Eden like sequestered grove, a pillar is erected by the bereaved Baronet, which records the demise of Lady Harriet Brooke, and that in the society of her husband, and "affectionate family," she spent many hours of real domestic blessedness. I have looked upon the pillar with feelings of deepest sympathy, and regret extremely, not having a copy of the brief, but affecting

inscription.

*VALE-ROYAL ABBEY*, the seat of Lord Delamere. It is said the original building was founded by Prince Edward, son of Henry the Third, as a monastery for Cistercian monks, one hundred of whom he had placed in his mansion-house at Darnhall about the year 1266, in pursuance of a vow he had made upon narrowly escaping from shipwreck. In 1277, upon the petition of the monks, because, as the King observes, "the latter place was not, *forsooth*, lightsome enough for their fat worships," he began to erect a stately abbey in a more cheerful and pleasant situation of Vale Royal ; an appellation given by the King himself to this district. This Abbey was not completed till the year 1330, when the expense of the building was found to have amounted to the immense sum of 32,000.

At the dissolution of religious houses, the revenues of Vale-Royal abbey were estimated at 518*l.* 19*s.* 8*d.* per annum ; and the site was then granted to Sir Thomas Holcroft, of Holcroft, in the county of Lancaster ; from whose grandson, Sir Thomas Holcroft, the whole demesne was purchased by Dame Mary, daughter of Christopher Holford, of Holford, in this county, and widow of Sir Hugh Cholmondeley, knight, who was member of Parliament for Cheshire, in the year 1585. Dame Mary was styled the "Bold Ladie of Cheshire," by King James the First, who honoured her with a visit at Vale Royal, in the year 1617, she died on the 15th of August, 1625, and was buried with her husband in Malpas church, where a magnificent monument is erected to their memory. The descent of the Family of Vale Royal, is from Hugh, their third son, and that of Cholmondeley Castle, from Robert their eldest.

During the civil wars, in the reign of Charles the First,

Vale Royal was plundered by a detachment from General Lambert's army, which was then engaged in besieging Beeston Castle, garrisoned for the King. The Parliamentary troops, after seizing every valuable article, whether of decoration or furniture, set fire to one of the wings, which appeared to have been the refectory of the abbey, from the marks of the bare walls, which were standing some few years back. There is a curious tradition, that, during the time the troops above mentioned were in possession of Vale Royal, the family were supported wholly by the milk of a white cow, which had found means to escape from the soldiers, who were conveying her away with other cattle. Whatever truth there may be in this tradition, it is certain that the posterity of the white cow has been gratefully preserved in a breed (which is white, with red ears) still kept at Vale Royal.

The present mansion consists of a centre and two projecting wings, they are built with red stone; that on the right, being continued behind the centre. The stone basement appears, by the doors and windows, to be a fragment of the old abbey. A large porch in the centre of the front, is the present entrance. The great hall, which is the most ancient part of the structure, is a magnificent apartment. The library contains an extensive collection of curious and valuable works. Among its choicest rarities, it is said, are writings, called the Prophecies of Nixon, the famous Cheshire prophet. LORD DELAMERE, the present illustrious excellent and beloved Nobleman succeeded to his title and estate in 1821. In 1810 he married Henrietta Elizabeth, third daughter of Sir Watkin Williams Wynn, Bart., and has issue four sons and one daughter, they are consequently connected by the ties of consanguinity to many of the most amiable and honourable families in Cheshire, and the principality of Wales,

&c. &c. From the year 1542, when Cheshire first sent Members to Parliament, to the period when the peerage was granted, the Cholmondley's uniformly furnished a county member.

*EATON-HALL*, sometimes denominated "Eaton Abbey." Notwithstanding I had prepared an original description of this splendid mansion, casting my eye over Badenam's "Visit to Eaton," I concluded to make a short extract from that pleasing little publication, rather than give my own description.

"Eaton-Hall is about four miles to the south of Chester, and stands in an extensive park on a gently rising ground, about five hundred yards from the river Dee; and is, perhaps, the most magnificent gothic residence in the kingdom. To the park there are four approaches, to each of which is a beautiful gothic lodge, one conducting from Eccleston-lane at Green-bank, one from Aldford by the new iron bridge, a third from Pulford, and the fourth from the Wrexham-road near Belgrave.

The centre or main part of the building, was began in the year 1803, on the site of the old mansion, some part of the walls of which are still remaining under the more elegant coverings of the present erection.

From whatever point of view the house is seen, it makes a grand and imposing appearance, with a rich display of towers, turrets, pinnacles, and battlements. It is built of a beautiful white free stone, brought from Delamere Forest, and was always considered a most highly finished specimen of the modern gothic, even previously to its now splendid enlargement, which consists of two extensive wings, with octagonal towers at each end of the main building; making one uninterrupted line of four hundred and fifty feet in length.

The principal entrance is in the centre of the west front, under a superb portico of richly groined arches and clustered pillars, which admit carriages to the foot of the steps leading to the great door. Round the battlements and towers, as well as the outward ballustrading, are shields charged in relief with the armorial bearings of the Grosvenors, and other ancient families, which by intermarriages they are entitled to quarter with their own. The window frames are finely worked in gothic tracery, and are of cast iron made to imitate stone, with sashes of bronzed copper, and panes of plate glass; those

in the principal rooms being thirty-nine inches in height.

The eastern entrance, or garden front, is approached by a flight of steps from a broad terrace, which runs the whole length of the centre and wings of the main building. To the right and left of the steps is a noble range of cloisters of one hundred and eighty feet in length. A massive gothic fence, with rich heraldic shields, runs round the house, and separates it from the grounds.

The gardens and pleasure grounds are formed on the before-mentioned gentle acclivity of the Dee. They are laid out in a very tasteful manner, and contain a choice collection of exotics and rare fruits of every description. The conservatory is built in the style of one of the wings, of the house, and is a very handsome erection."

The interior presents a degree of splendour inconceivable by the most expanded mind, whose eye has never looked upon its magnificence.

The princely proprietor of Eaton Hall is descended through an illustrious line of ancestors from the ancient Dukes of Normandy. Gilbert le Grosvenor, so called from the office he held in the Norman Court, that of Grand Huntsman. This Officer was Nephew of Hugh Lupus, the first Earl of Chester, who was Nephew of King William the Conqueror, and high in his confidence.

Among the brave descendants of Gilbert le Grosvenor, we find Robert who accompanied King Richard to the Holy Land, was present and assisted at the conquests and sieges of that eventful crusade. Sir Robert le Grosvenor was with Edward III. at the siege of Vannes, the passage of the Somme, siege of Calais, and memorable battle of Cressy.

Sir Richard Grosvenor, in the reign of Charles I. was a brave and steadfast loyalist, and suffered numerous hardships during the great rebellion. He was driven from his residence at Eaton, and was compelled to seek for shelter in a small house belonging to a neighbouring gentleman for many years, till the happy restoration of Charles II. The brother of Sir Richard was also a devoted

loyalist. When King Charles II. proposed the institution of the Order of Knights of the Royal Oak, he was to have been one of the 13 honoured individuals.

Sir Thomas Grosvenor, in the after reign, preferred the religious liberties of his country, to all the honour the Sovereign could offer or bestow. The history of this illustrious family is one of great interest to the lover of the Palatinate, or sons of "the chief of men." The present munificent and beloved Nobleman is twenty-second in descent from Gilbert le Grosvenor, who came over with the Conqueror in 1066.—He was born March 22nd, 1767, succeeded his father Richard, late Earl Grosvenor, in 1802, and was created Marquess of Westminster in 1831. In 1794, he married Eleanor, only daughter of Thomas, first Earl of Wilton, and has issue Richard Earl Grosvenor, Thomas, now Earl of Wilton, Robert Lord Grosvenor, M.P. for Chester, and other children.

*CHOLMONDELEY-CASTLE*, is situate about four miles to the north-east of Malpas Castle: the late Hall was a timber mansion, chiefly projecting from each story. It suffered much during the Parliamentary wars.

The foundation of the present magnificent structure was laid in 1801, and it was completed in 1804: the style is Norman Castellated, with pointed windows, and its irregularity much enhances its picturesque appearance: the fine lake of Barmere forms a conspicuous object. In 1817 an addition was made to the north side; and in 1819, a new wing was projected on the south side, from a tasteful design by the noble Marquess. The windows of the hall, the library, & the saloon, are enriched with ancient painted glass, purchased by the Marquess in France.

In 1818, in digging a peat-bog near this structure, a boat which had been buried many centuries, was discovered several feet beneath its surface. It is composed of the

trunk of an oak tree, about twelve feet long, and has much the appearance of a canoe, of the natives of the polar regions.

At Cholmondeley there is a domestic chapel, that has been established above five centuries; the original grant of its foundation being 1285. This building was sumptuously repaired in 1652, and has recently been fitted up for the purpose of divine service.

George James Horatio Cholmondeley, Marquess of Cholmondeley, Deputy Great Chamberlain of England, &c. &c. was born in 1792, succeeded in 1827, married first in 1812, Caroline second daughter of the late General Colin Campbell, she died in 1815. He secondly in 1830, married Susan Somerset, daughter of the sixth Duke of Beaufort. This excellent Nobleman is descended from John le Belward, who lived in the time of William 1st, and Letitia, heiress to Hugh Lord Malpas: the Barony of Malpas descended from him to W. Belward, who married Beatrix, daughter of Hugh Kivelock Earl of Chester, the issue of this marriage were three sons. From the first son David, descended Sir Richard Egerton, Knight, ancestor of the illustrious family of that name. And the second Robert, who received from his Father the Lordship of Cholmondeley, and was the first who assumed that name.

Passing over an illustrious chain of descendants of this Robert, and who resided at Cholmondeley, we notice another Robert in 1611, advanced to the dignity of a Baronet, and in 1628 to the degree of a Viscount, of the kingdom of Ireland, and for signal services done the royal cause in raising forces in Cheshire, and sending them to the King at Shrewsbury; raising forces for the defence of the City of Chester, and for a most courageous adventure in the fight at Tilston-heath, together with great sufferings by the plundering of his goods, was after-

wards created a Baron of the kingdom of England, with the title of Lord Cholmondeley of Wich Malbank, (Nantwich) county of Chester. Revered for his loyalty, bravery, and liberal hospitality, he died anno 1659, and was buried by the side of his Lady, in the family chancel of Malpas church.

Hugh Cholmondely the first Earl was a great statesman, and opposed the measures of King James II.

Through various direct and collateral descents, we come to the present illustrious and beloved chief of an this illustrious family, as previously noticed.

About five miles from Northwich, and eight from Altringham, stands *Old Tabley Hall*, on an island, situated in a noble lake, a neat bridge connecting it with the grounds. Its shape was originally quadrangular, but the east side only remains, and the front is covered by luxuriant ivy. In the Hall is a fine bay window, ornamented with the Leicester pedigree in stained glass.—There is a domestic Chapel on the south-east side; it is built of brick, with large bay windows; at the west end is a small bellfry.

*TABLEY HOUSE*, is situated about three-quarters of a mile\* from the Old Hall, and was erected in the year 1769, by Sir John Leicester, Bart. grandfather of the present Noble possessor, and under the superintendance of Mr. Carr, of York. A fine portico, of the Doric order, is supported by four columns, each formed of a single block of Runcorn stone. The front has a centre, and indented wings, connected by corridors. The grand saloon is fitted up as a gallery for the works of British Painters:

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\* Gentleman's Seats and Principal Residences not possessing any particular claim to antiquity, and erected on modern sites, will be found noticed in the vicinities or parishes in which they are situated.



*Resolved Unanimously :*

That a Subscription in favour of Mr. Hulbert be entered into in the Town of Wellington, to be under the management of a Committee to be appointed for that purpose."

A Committee was chosen, and a Subscription\* entered into, for the immediate relief of the suffering family.

The Earl of Munster, Sir Gore Ouseley, Sir J. B. Williams, Dr. Du Gard, Messrs. Longman & Co., Henry Washbourne, Esq., Messrs. Stonehouse, Garbet, Tanner, &c. with great kindness forwarded Testimonials to the Literary Fund; a Society of which the Sovereign is the head; and it will ever be the most gratifying circumstance of my life, that the "event made manifest" that my humble labours in the "Cause of Literature" for so many years, had obtained the valued esteem and approbation of some of the most eminent Literary Individuals and Benevolent of Characters.—

The Committee of the Literary Fund on receipt of the Testimonials and view of the humble productions of my pen and press, most generously "and unanimously voted their highest Grant."—To Sir J. Bickerton Williams, and numerous Friends in every part of the country, I am greatly indebted for presents of Books and Pictures, and to His Grace the Duke of Sutherland for a beautiful Medal, &c.

"A few weeks after the lamented accident, I received a letter from the Rev. John Evans, M.A. of Whitechurch, desiring my advice relative to the Publishing of a small volume of Poems for my benefit; the offer was too generous and gratifying not to be instantly accepted. A delightful volume was produced, and is now in course of Sale, and greatly honoured with success."

"Nor could I but esteem the offering and effusion of a more humble Poet, Mr. Caswell of the Cross Houses, near Shrewsbury, who transmitted the following lines, "with his mite for the treasury," to a gentleman in Shrewsbury, through whose medium I received them."

AN ACROSTIC.

P ure Friendship prompts the sympathetic lay,  
R ecord my pen, the horrors of that day,  
O f that dread morn, when howling o'er the deep,  
V ast and destructive was the mighty sweep;  
I n raging flames, now bursting from its dome,  
D oomed is to perish, HULBERT'S lovely home;  
E nveloped all, volumes on volumes rise,  
N ow dashed to earth—now hurl'd to meet the skies;—  
C an he survive? whose anxious midnight toil,  
E nds in sad ruin,—scattered o'er the soil;  
G reat Maker of the Elements at strife,  
R egard the sufferer, spare his useful life!  
O pen the liberal hand, in bounteous store,  
V ouchsafe thy mercy, Providence once more,  
E nchanting Grove!—Salopia's sons Restore!

\* The whole of the Subscription raised at Wellington, was instantly transmitted to the sufferer; the greatest portion of the amount paid to the committee in Shrewsbury, was invested in a Life Annuity for Mr. and Mrs. Hulbert; no power or pen of mine can express my sense of the generosity and kindness manifested on the occasion.

"It was highly gratifying to my mind to behold so kind and generous a manifestation of feeling by those who knew me best. The Subscription was supported by every rank in society, and many contributed their mite who had been connected with the Coleham Sunday School, and numbers of those who had long been acquainted with my numerous Publications, were most liberal contributors."

"I may now be permitted to remark, that the most general enquiry among my friends and those interested in my welfare, is, How did the fire originate? No doubt from a spark of the candle, the match, or the tinder the servant maid had been lighting in her own room, prior to going down stairs, which room was in the Attic where fire was first discovered, & must have been burning during the time she was lighting the fires in the Kitchen, and Breakfast Room, preparing Breakfast, &c. for the moment after Mrs. Hulbert and myself had left our Bedroom the floor and ceiling being burnt through, gave way, instantly filling the room beneath with burning Furniture, Books, &c. The reason the fire had not penetrated the roof was in consequence of its being ciled or plastered beneath by strong coatings of Uffington lime used for the purpose, at the time of building the house. I had for some time perceived as on other previous mornings, the smell of burning wood, which I conjectured proceeded from the servant lighting her fire with carpenter's shavings. The alarm given by the maid at our bedroom door, the moment before the ceiling and floor fell in, I consider to have been under the watchful direction of a gracious and merciful Providence."

"Many of my generous friends, & the readers of the Shropshire History have anxiously enquired after the re-erection of my desolated dwelling; I have the happiness to inform them it is now completed, and the North-East Front remains in the same style and form as represented in the engraving which accompanies that Work, excepting the roof is slated, and the elevation a little higher. The small engraving presented with this Narrative gives the South Front and which differs in style from the North-East."

"The Pillar or small Obelisk, which appears in the garden, was carved by a Native Hindoo, and erected in Memory of Reginald Heber, D.D. Lord Bishop of Calcutta, who Died at Trichinopoly, April 3rd, 1826; and Thomas Coke, L.L. D. Superintendent of the Wesleyan Missions, who Died at Sea, May 3rd, 1814.

"The humble View of the Ruins after the Fire, conveys some, but not an adequate idea of the desolation which appeared; no artist could possibly give effect to the sad destruction and remains of Literary Property, &c. which lay in heaps on the premises, or scattered around them. What a mercy among the ashes were not mingling those of the inmates of the once lovely cottage."

"Yes a mercy, and one that is ever presenting itself to my recollection—and when memory reverts to the dear and valuable Property that I have lost,



and which another fifty years of labour, toil and anxiety could not restore,—my sorrows frequently stay themselves on the remembrance that our lives were saved. In years gone by the same reflections have been needed the same mercies having been manifested."

"Being Proprietor of the Cotton Manufactory, and residing in Coleham, one of the Suburbs of Shrewsbury we were called to suffer from the ravages of fire and from the destructive power of river floods.—Here I could detain the reader for

hours in recounting the various providences and merciful deliverances of myself, family and neighbours; certainly if any one may be allowed to appropriate a passage of scripture to his own individual case, I may suppose "the Lord that created" me hath said, "When thou passest through the water I will be with thee, and through the rivers they shall not overflow thee, when thou walkest through the fire thou shalt not be burned, neither shall the flames kindle upon thee."—Isaiah xliii. 2.—C. H.



# CESHIRE ANTIQUITIES,

*ROMAN, BARONIAL, MONASTIC, &c. &c.*

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PLATE I.

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## THE CITY OF CHESTER,

THE Engraving presents a south-west view of this ancient City, taken probably in the early part or middle of the last century. The appearance of its venerable castle is very striking; on the right the ancient bridge, St. John's church, and Tyrer's octagonal tower, originally erected for the elevation of water to supply the city, but which was taken down in 1781, are conspicuous objects; before us are the Cathedral and other churches, including those of St. Peter and the Holy Trinity, which were then ornamented with lofty spires, that of the former was taken down in 1780, and the latter in 1811. On the left is the Roodeye, or Roodee, a beautiful meadow where the races are held, and the noble river Dee is seen winding her onward course, expanding as she rolls, finally embosoming herself in the Irish ocean. At the period above suggested, there must have been a great similiarity in the external appearance of the City of Chester, and the Metropolis of Shropshire, which idea is confirmed by a reference to "Bucks' Prospect of Shrewsbury," published in 1727.

The following historical account of Chester is extracted from the Rev. Thomas Cox's *Magna Britannia et Hibernia*, printed in 1720.—

"CHESTER, standing not far from the mouth of the river Dee, from

whence it derived the names of *Deia*, *Deva*, and *Deunana*, as it is called by Ptolemy. Some who contend for the antiquity of this city will have it first named *Neomagus*, from *Magus*, the son of *Samothés*, the son of *Japhet*, who is said to have founded it about 240 years after the flood ; \* but others, who look upon the former relation fabulous, have found out another original of it, viz. from a giant called *Leon Vaur* or *Gaure*, who was a vanquisher of the Picts, and laid the foundation of a city here, but in an un-uniform manner, which *Caerlil* and *Caerlier*, two British Princes regulated and beautified. But they are but raw Antiquaries that will give credit to such relations. The British names *Caer-Legion*, *Caer-Leon-Vaur*, *Caer-Leon-ar-Dufar dwy* which the Saxons afterwards turned into *Legeacester*, or West Chester, or simply Chester, plainly pointed out the original of it to be from the encampment of the Roman Legions there. 'Tis probable that this settlement of the Roman Legion here gave birth to this city ; for tho' it might be a small town before, the Romans now resorted hither upon all occasions, improved and increased the buildings, till it became a large city. That the twentieth Legion, called *Victrix*, were quartered here, the learned have made evident, from the inscriptions of several altars found in or about this city.

“ Chester is of a square form, surrounded with a wall, built by Edelfleda, the noble Mercian Lady, A. D. 908, two miles in compass.”

\* A modern publication citing Palin's Manuscripts, says,—The City of Chester, noted of all Cities for a place of great antiquity, honour, and reputation, was first built by Lyal, King of the Britons, *Anno Ante Christo* 907, at which time Jehosaphat and Ahab governed Judah and Israel ; it was afterwards repaired by Julius Caesar, at which time the houses were built in the form of castles and were garrisoned by Roman Legions.”

“ This city has not been equally prosperous at all times, for it was demolished by Egfrid, King of Northumberland, and then by the Danes, but again repaired by Edelfleda, Governess of the Mercians, and soon after King Edgar triumphed gloriously over the British Princes, causing Kannadius, King of Scotland, Malcolm, King of Cumberland, Macon, King of Man and the Isles, with all the Princes of Wales, which were come to do him homage, being eight in number, to row him, while he sat at the helm, like Bargemen, up the river to the great joy of the spectators.

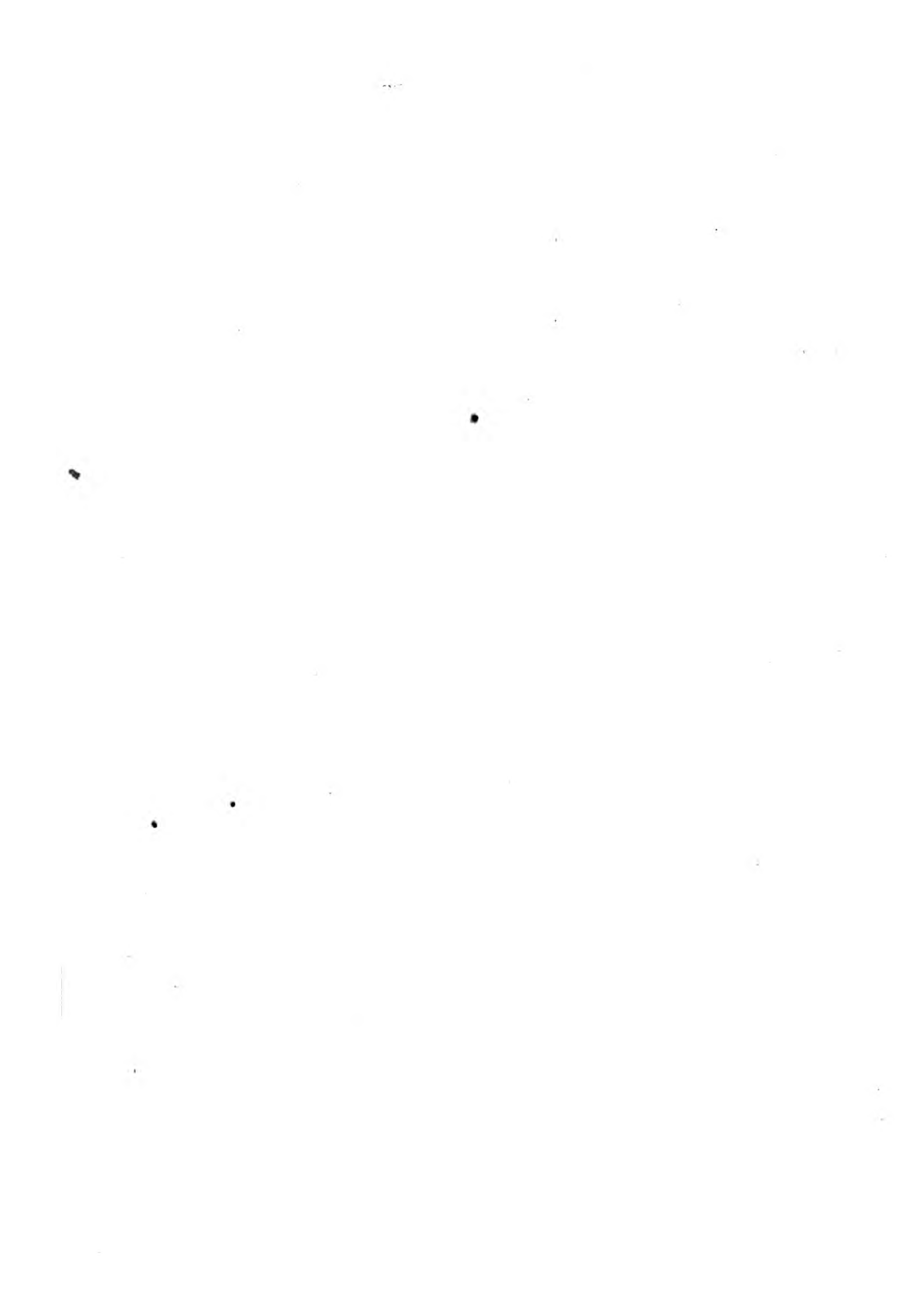
“ Some remarkable transactions of State have rendered this city famous: in the Days of King Arthur it was of great account for Arts and Sciences which were taught there, viz. Grammar, Philosophy, and the learned Languages. Cadway and Cadwan, two British Kings, having routed the Saxons, were both crowned in this city, and the former held a Parliament here. King Ethelwolf also was crowned here in a most magnificent manner. It is also *said*, that Henry IV. Emperor of Germany, who had married Maud, the Conqueror's grand-daughter, having in his turbulent reign imprisoned his Father, the Pope, and the Cardinals, and after reconciliation, being troubled for what he had done, withdrew himself, and lived a Hermit, unknown, at Chester for ten years; but Death approaching, discovered himself, and lies buried there. More lately, in the Wars begun in the year 1641, it declared for its lawful King, Charles I. and entertained a garrison of his soldiers, under the command of Lord Byron, who bravely defended it against the Parliament army led by Sir William Brereton; and when Sir George Booth took up arms for King Charles II. they again as

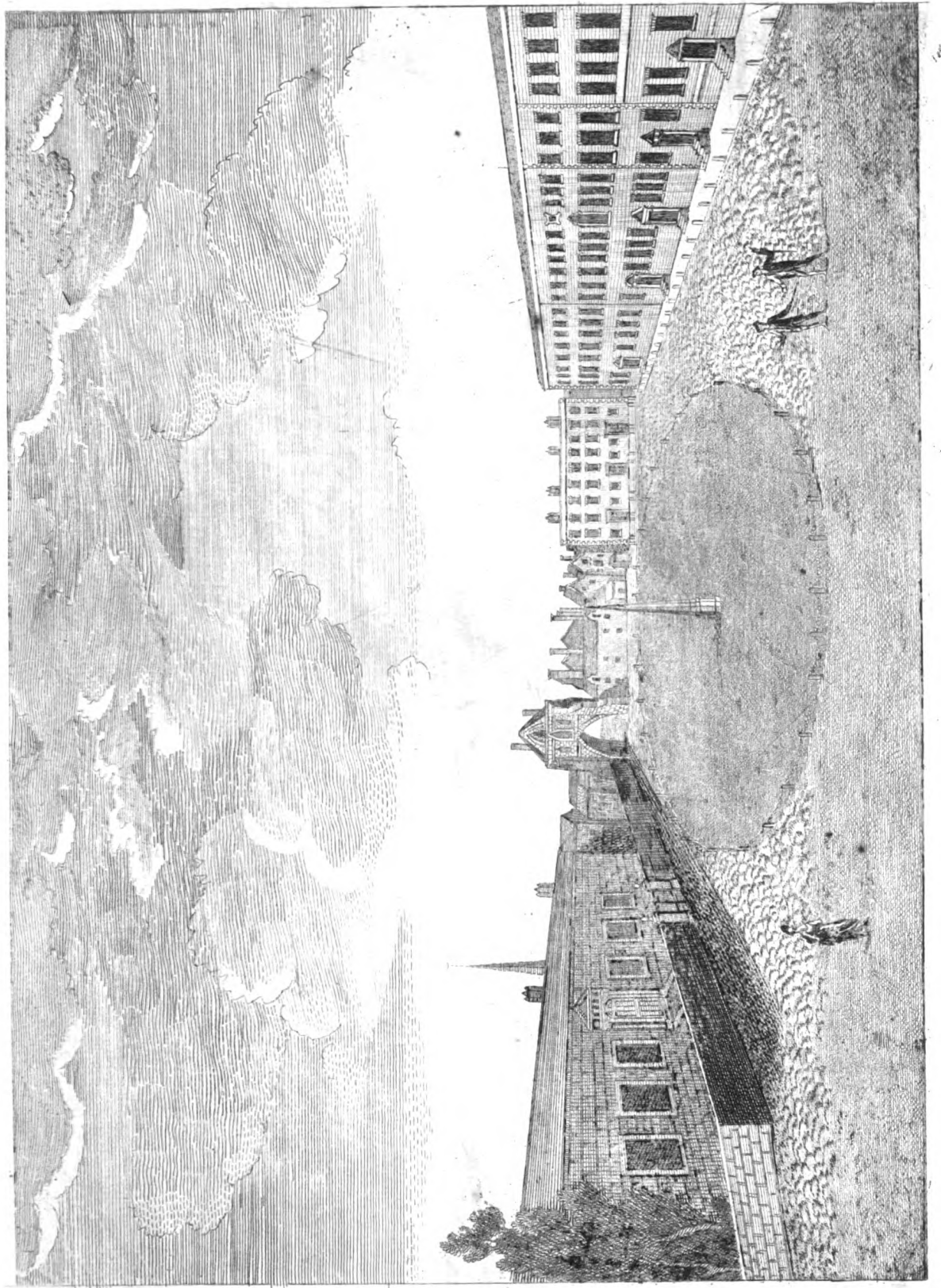
braveley declared for him. But that which is the greatest glory of this city, is, that it has not only given a title to men of the greatest worth ever since the Conquest and those many of them of the Royal Line, but that it now is annexed so closely to the Royal Family, that none but the eldest sons of the Kings of England may bear the title.

In the time of William the Conqueror, when he took that great Survey of England, which is contained in Domesday Book, the Earls, who had all the city, except what belonged to the Bishop, paid Geld or Tribute for fifty hides of land, and 431 houses, and seven Mintmasters. When the King came in person, every Carucat yielded him 200 liestas, one tun of ale, and one rusca of butter. From this time the city was in a flourishing condition and so continued for many ages."

CHESTER at the present period, 1838, is in a state of laudable improvement, its citizens liberal and enlightened, and the inhabitants generally most hospitable and benevolent, as its numerous Charitable institutions eminently testify. It contains two or more valuable Public Libraries, and is deservedly celebrated for the excellence of its establishments for the education of youth of both sexes. Its Public Press well is conducted. A County within itself, the See of a Bishop, the residence of many eminent Clergymen, members of the learned professions, and highly distinguished families, Chester is truly the "seed plot of gentility." Its tradesmen are highly respectable and intelligent. The wealth and munificence of the noble Grosvenor family, no doubt contribute to the general prosperity of the city. Population 21363.—*Editor.*







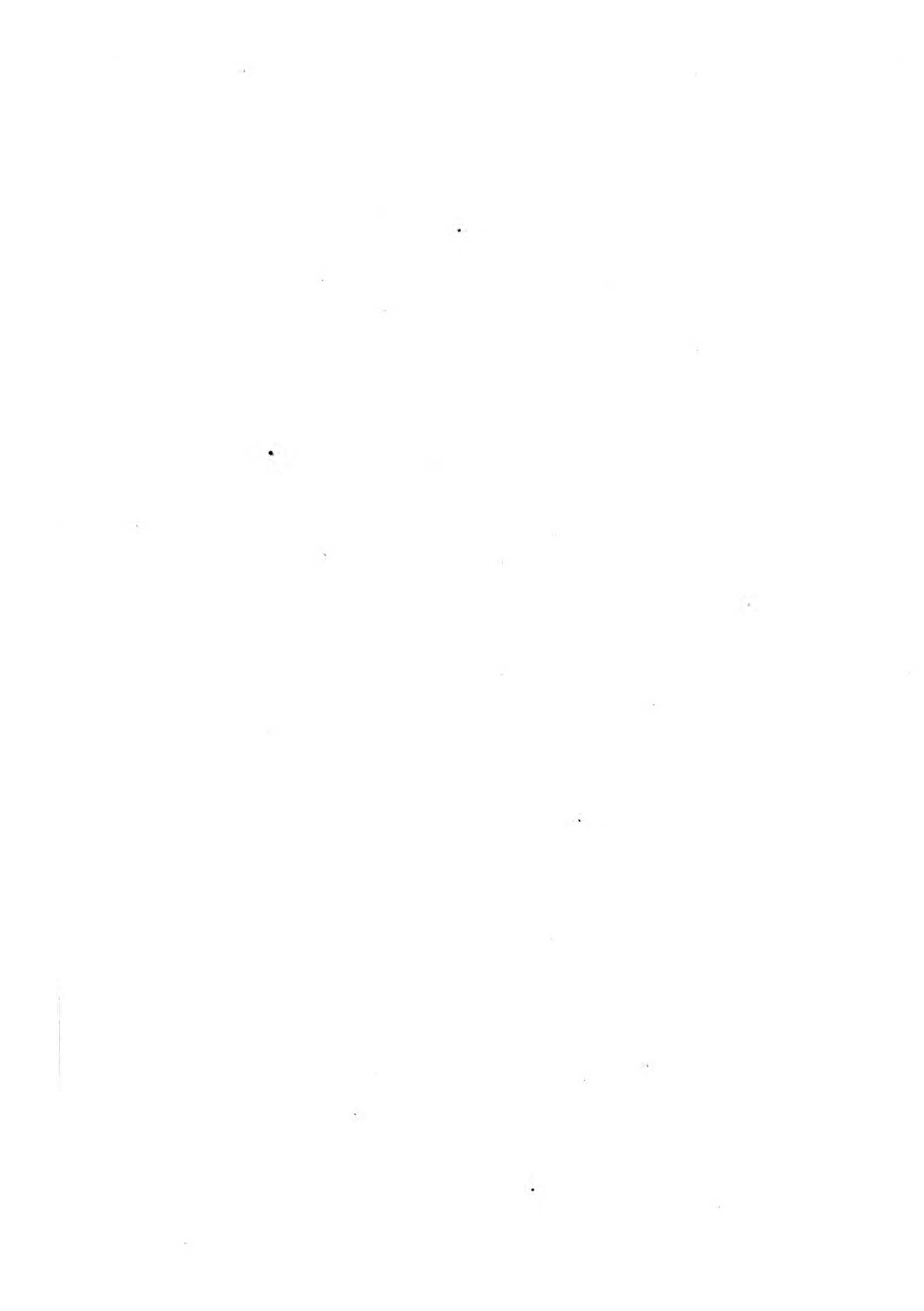
## PLATE II.

## THE ABBEY COURT,

## CHESTER.

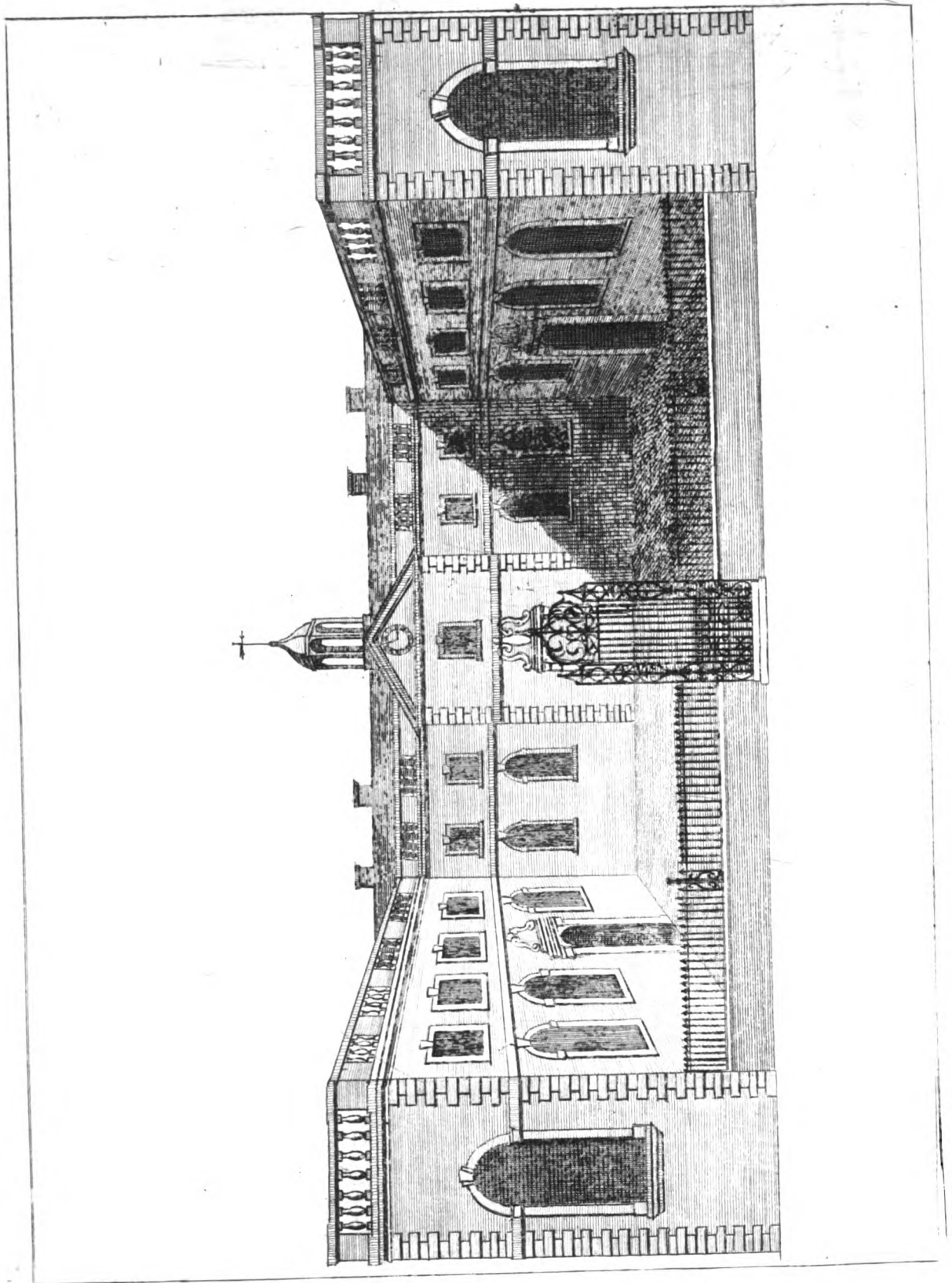
IN Mr. Nicholson's *Cambrian Tourist*, published in 1813, this Court is thus described.—“The Abbey Court is a small square, with a grass plot and an obelisk in the centre; two sides of the square are ornamented with rows of genteel houses, and on one is the Bishop's palace, a handsome stone building, erected by Bishop Keene, in the year 1753. The Deanery, which is in the same court, was built on the walls of a chapel dedicated to St. Thomas: the cloisters consist of only three walks on the north side of the Cathedral; in the wall of the south walk, which has long since been demolished, were deposited the remains of the first, second, third, and sixth abbots.”

At what period our View was taken is uncertain.





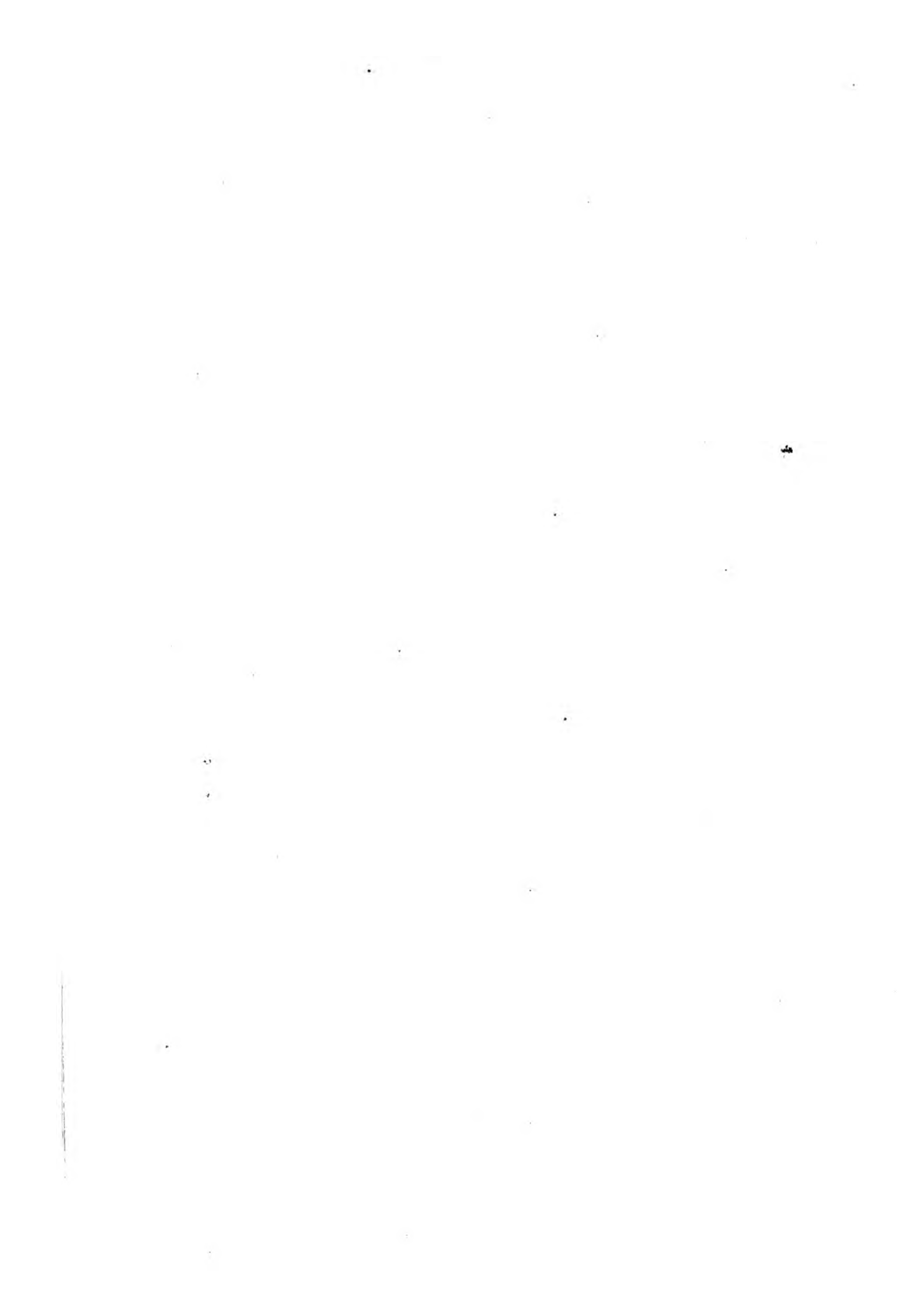


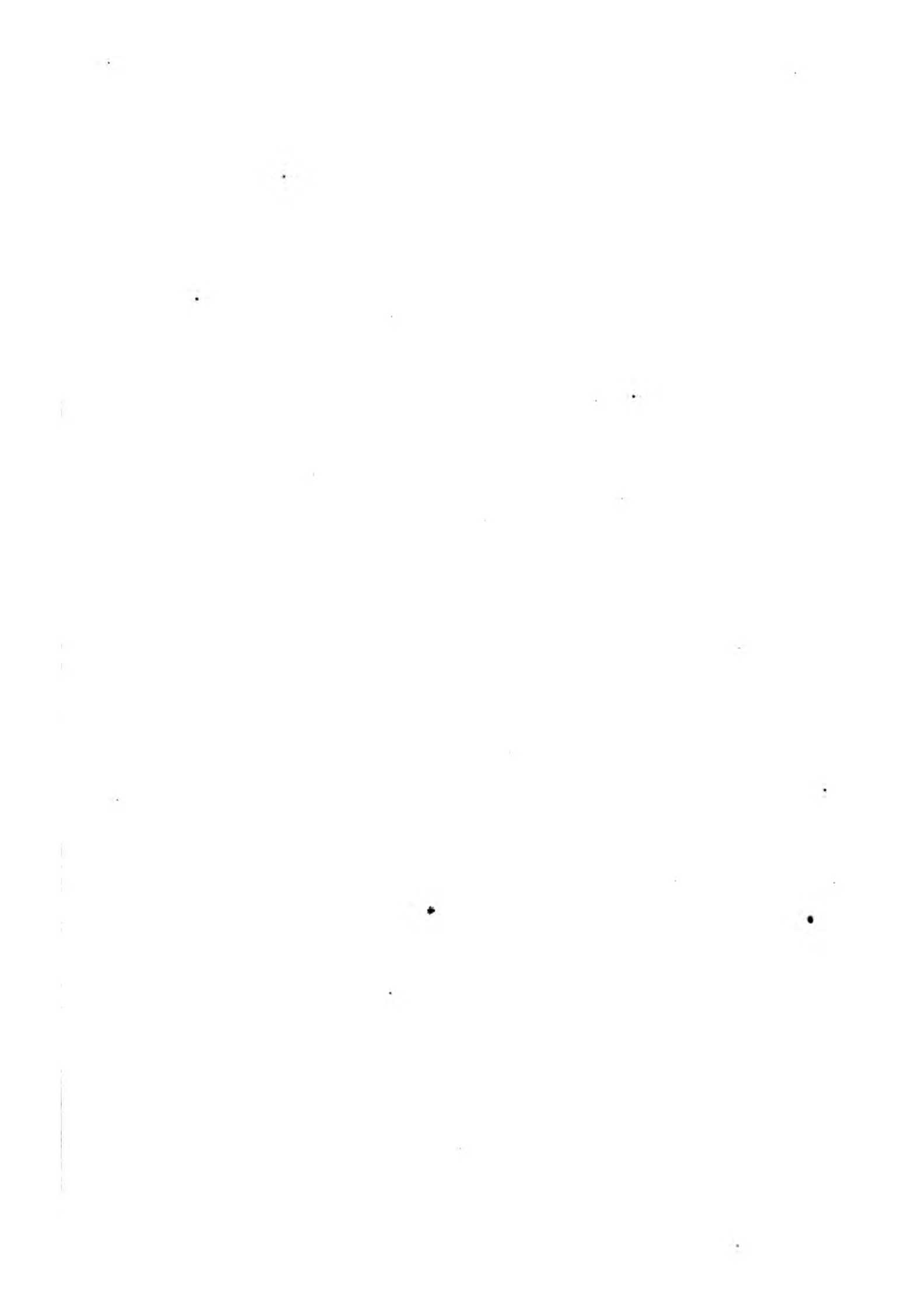


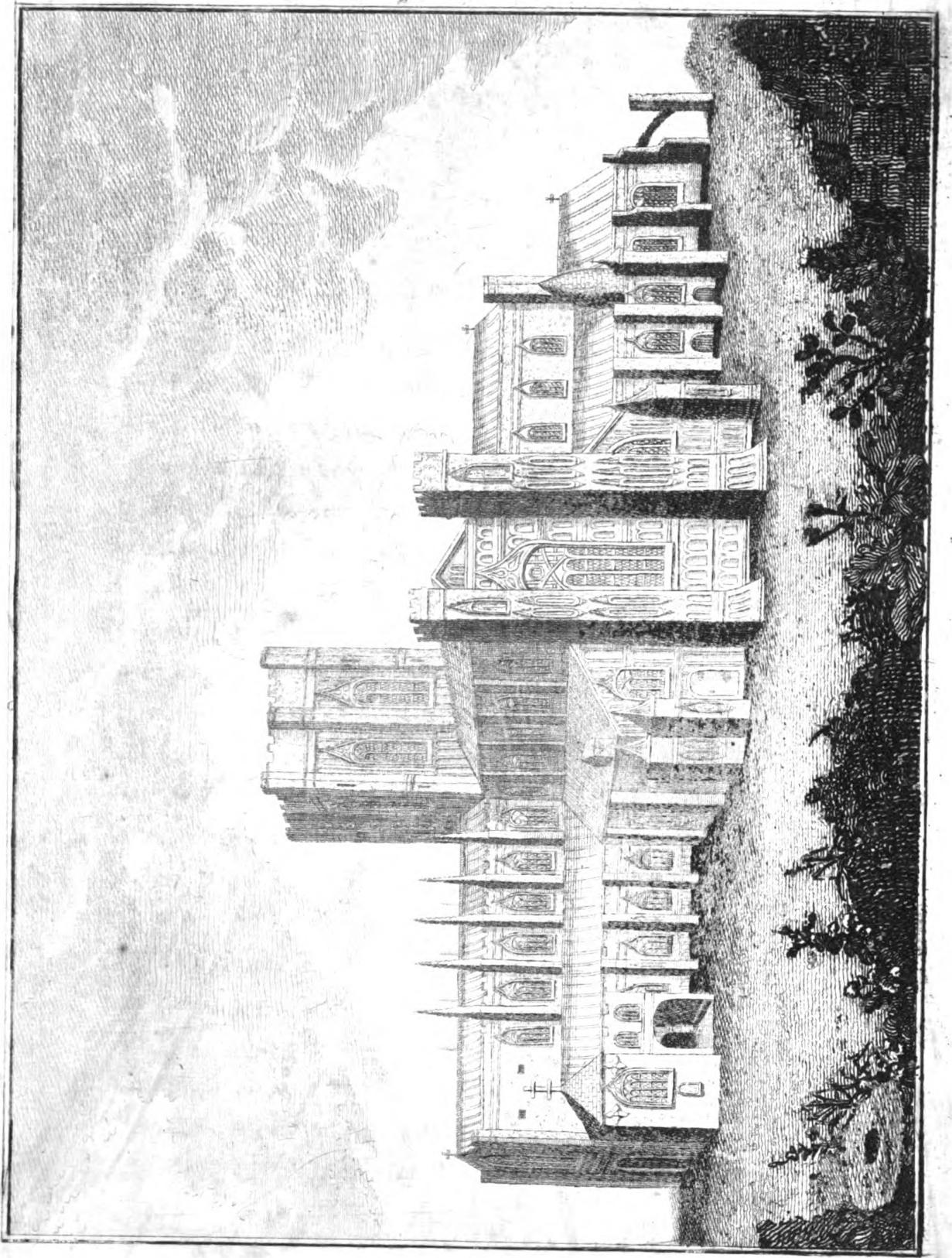
## PLATE III.

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**THE BLUE COAT SCHOOL,***CHESTER.*

Is without the north-gate, on the site of the ancient Hospital; it was established by Bishop Stratford, in the year 1700, and endowed for the maintenance of thirty-five boys; at the conclusion of their education they are apprenticed. In 1781 the revenue being augmented, a plan was adopted for educating one hundred and twenty day scholars in addition,—hence the origin of the green cap school.









## PLATE V.

**CHESTER CATHEDRAL,**

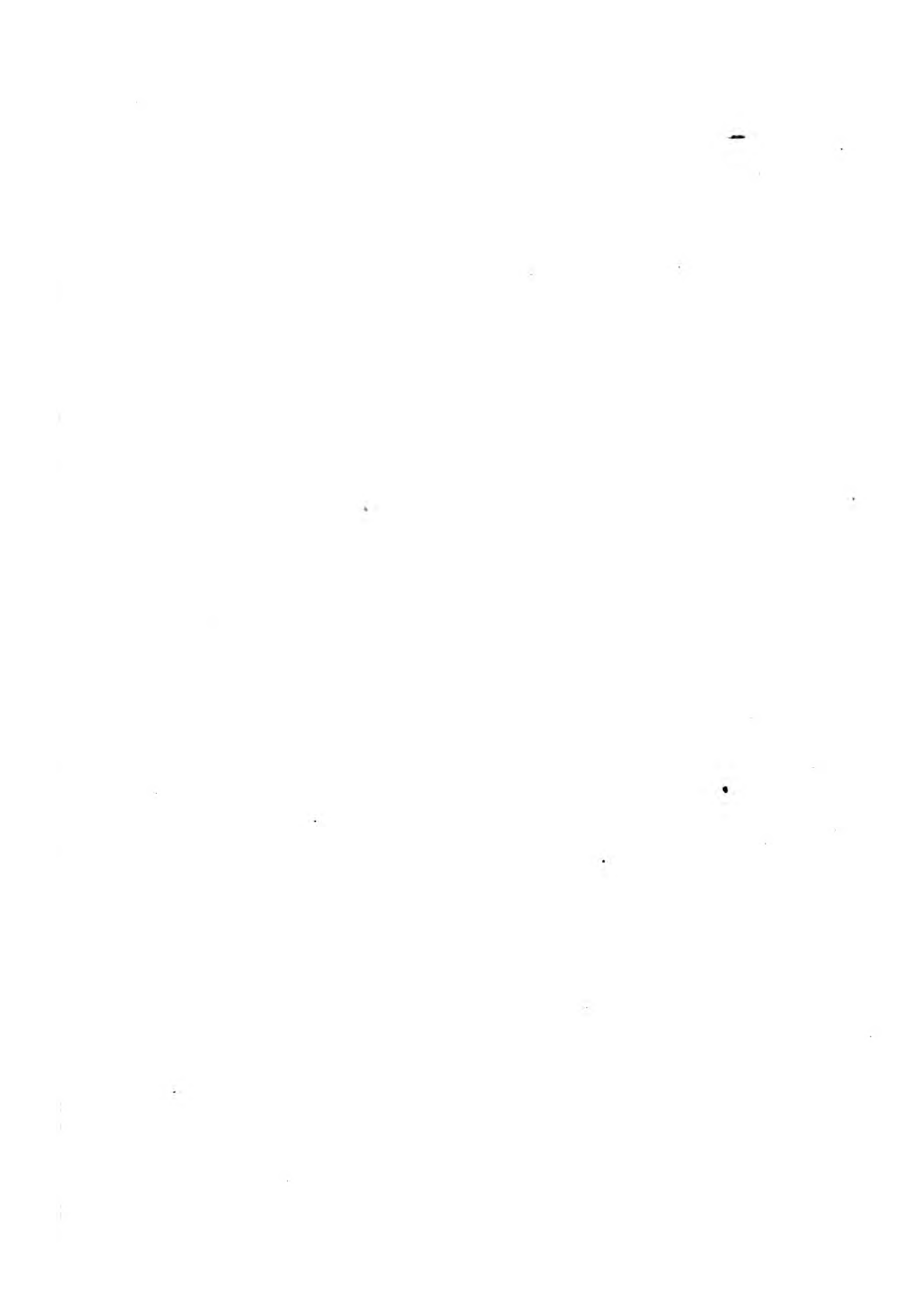
*DEDICATED TO CHRIST AND THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY,  
ORIGINALLY THE ABBEY CHURCH OF ST. WERBURGH.*

THIS venerable building is situate on the east side of North-gate street. It was originally a Nunnery, founded by Wulpherus, King of the Mercians, for his daughter St. Werburgh, to whom it was dedicated. It subsequently became the Abbey church of a Monastery, of which the great earl Hugh was the founder, and had several peculiar privileges; with the revenue of this Monastery King Henry endowed the Cathedral and erected a Bishopric. The present building is a spacious and irregular pile, formed of the red stone of the country, and with the exception of a few fragments, seems to have been built in the reigns of Henry VI., VII., and VIII. The tower, which is 127 feet high, springs from four appropriate pillars, and the western front is deemed very handsome; the Church is neat, and the Bishop's throne, which is formed of the ancient shrine of St. Werburgh, is richly ornamented; behind the choir is St. Mary's chapel, in the north-aisle of which is a tomb generally said to be that of Henry IV. Emperor of Germany, the husband of Matilda, daughter of Henry I., who, as Mr. Cox relates, lived here ten years in privacy. The two transepts are very dissimilar, and the north one, which is very large, is dedicated to St. Oswald, and forms the parish church of that name. The ancient Chapter-House stands in the eastern walk of the cloister, it is a noble hall of great dimen-

sions, and appears to have been erected in the time of Randle the First, Earl of Chester. In 1724 the remains of Hugh Lupus were discovered in the Chapter-House, in a stone coffin, wrapped in leather, with a cross on his breast.

“ The privilege of protecting criminals from punishment seems never to have belonged to this Abbey, in that full manner in which it was possessed by many other religious houses. It appears to have afforded only a temporary sanctuary, and *that* but for the short period of the celebration of the feast in honor of St. Werburgh. Hugh Lupus gave orders that no thief, or malefactor, should be attached, or punished, during the time of the fair held on this occasion, unless he committed some new offence. The vast concourse of loose people attracted through this indemnity, proved of singular advantage to Earl Randle, who being surrounded in the castle of Rhudland by a Welsh army, and in great danger, dispatched a messenger to Roger de Lacy, his general, or constable for assistance. This officer, when he received the message, was attending the fair, and, being assisted by Ralph Dutton, his son-in-law, immediately collected a numerous body of minstrels, musicians, and various idle persons, who had met together in consequence of the privilege. With this motley assemblage he marched in battle array towards the castle; and the Welsh, who had discovered him at a distance, and deemed themselves too few to support an attack from the multitude that accompanied him, raised the seige, and retired with precipitation.

At what time our view was taken is not certain, probably a century ago.—Various are the alterations in the external appearance of the venerable Cathedral since that period.





## PLATE IV.

**CHESTER CASTLE.**

THE View now presented, most probably, gives the appearance of the venerable Fortress, and objects in its vicinity, as they appeared about the middle of the last century.

Chester Castle is said to have been built by William the Conqueror, but very little of the ancient building now remains. The old hall, which stood in the lower ward, and had of late years been used as the shire-hall, bore the name of Hugh Lupus, and was often the scene of great hospitality; adjoining to it was a room, in which the Earls are said to have held their parliaments. Most of the original buildings of the castle were begun to be taken down in the year 1789, for the purpose of erecting a new county gaol, shire-hall, &c. The north-east and north-west sides of the area occupied by the barracks, no longer remain, but an exchequer court, to be used occasionally as a session house, has been built. New barracks also, and a large provost, for deserters, have been erected near the same site. All the upper ward of the castle remains, except the gateway which separated the two wards; at the south-east angle is the antient building, called Julius Cæsar's tower, formerly or now used as a magazine for gunpowder. A new magazine is erected in a more secure place, in the fosse, under the battery, on the south-side of the upper ward; in the same ward are store-rooms, and apartments belonging to the governor, which are occupied by the officers of the fort and barracks, except during the assizes, when the



judges reside in the castle, of which the chief justice then has the custody, and gives the watch-word. The castle is usually garrisoned by two companies of invalids, and is under the command of a governor, lieutenant-governor, and constable.

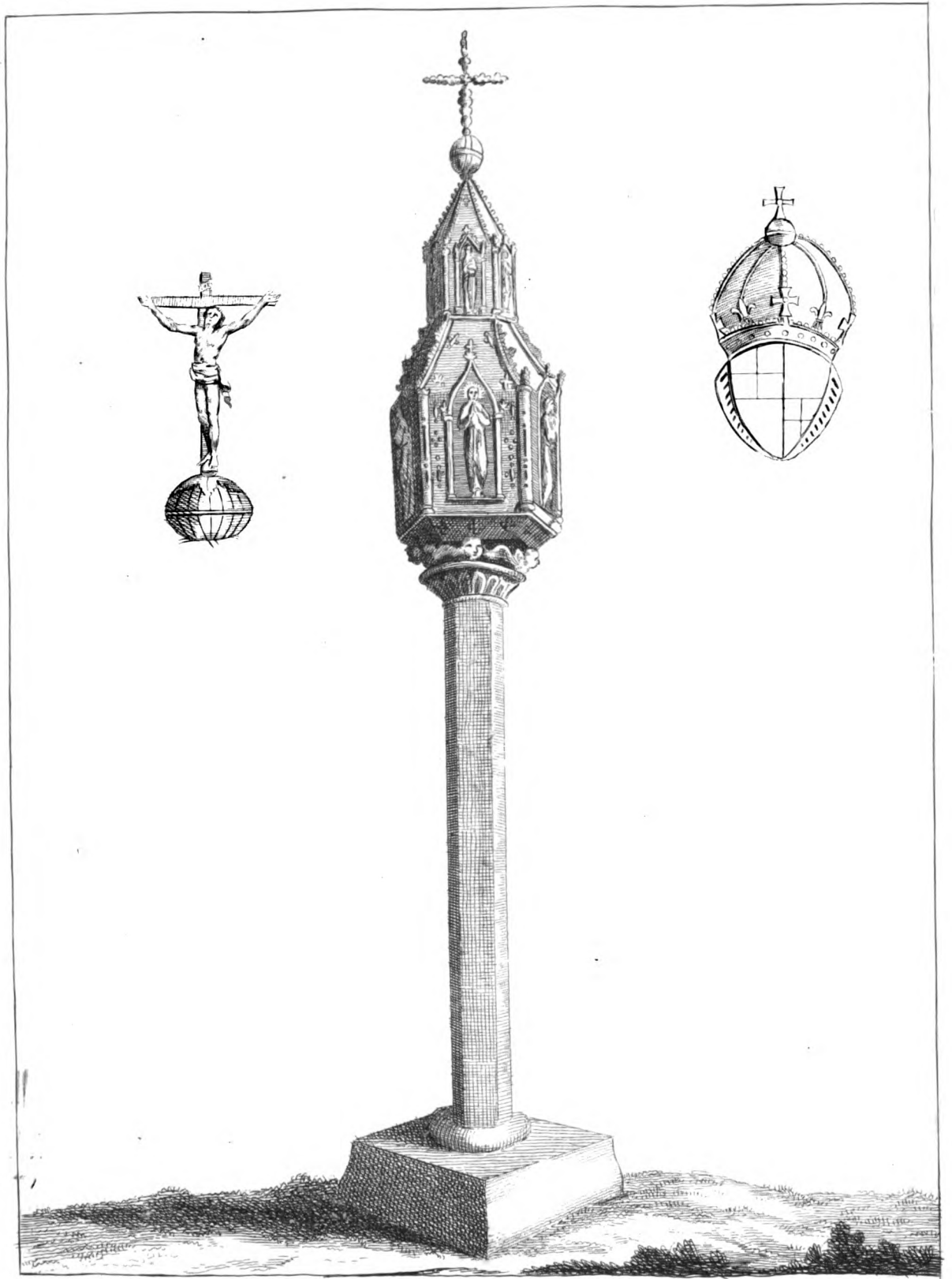
The old hall of Hugh Lupus, previously mentioned, was regarded as a superb specimen of Baronial magnificence, it was 95 feet long and 45 wide, with an antique roof of wood, curiously carved and resting upon brackets. It was taken down in 1790.

Chester castle is eminent as the place of confinement, for a short time, of James, the loyal earl of Derby, in which Richard II., and Margaret, countess of Richmond, were also confined. There was likewise a splendid chapel of admirable workmanship; but antiquity in these days, it seems, cannot withstand the assaults of modern improvement.

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## PLATE VI.

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**THE HIGH CROSS.**

MR. Ormerod says, vol. 1, page 290.—“ At the intersection of the the four principal streets, was formerly the **HIGH CROSS**, which was destroyed by the **Parliamentarians** in 1646, its site is marked in the cut of the church of **St. Peter**, where the base is represented remaining on the steps of the porch.” Mr. **Hanshall** observes, “ the only remains of the **High Cross** in existence are deposited in the garden of **Sir John Cotgreave**, of **Netherleigh House**.”









## PLATE VII.

**THE SEVEN NORMAN EARLS OF CHESTER.**

PREVIOUS to our notice of these high and eminent personages, it may not be out of place to introduce an Historical and descriptive sketch of that portion or division of our Island, over which they held Princely dominion, and exercised Sovereign power, for the long period of one hundred and sixty-six years.

Supposing the ancient boundaries of the County Palatine of Chester to be as at present, we may observe, it is bounded by Lancashire on the north, Shropshire and part of Flintshire on the south, Derbyshire and Staffordshire on the east and south-east, and Denbighshire and part of Flintshire on the west and north-west; being about 58 miles long and 30 broad, Mr. Holland's Survey, gives 676,600 acres, or about 1057 square miles.

At the period of the Roman conquest it formed part of the country inhabited by the Cornavii, which Territory took in four other counties, viz. Shropshire, Staffordshire, Warwickshire, and Worcestershire; the name of Cornavii continued till the declension of the Roman empire. The inhabitants of this District were a brave, skilful, warlike people, hence the Romans were compelled to keep strong garrisons and many troops within their territory. In the time of the Saxons, the city of Chester was called *Legecester*, and the county was called *Ceastre Scyre*, or Chester Shire, and was part of the Kingdom of Mercia. It continued a member of that kingdom 200 years, when, with various other Provinces, it fell into the hands

of the Danes, but remained only a few years, being re-conquered by the wise and valiant King Alfred. Mercia then became a Province to the West Saxons, of which Ethelbert was Duke, or Governor, whose wife, Ethelfleda, and her posterity succeeded in the same dignity for six generations, and were at last deprived of the government and power by Canute the Dane, who committed the Province of Chester to the government of chief men, called Earls of Chester. Three only enjoyed this dignity, viz. Leofric, the son of Leofwin, Algar, the son of Leofric, and Edwin, the son of Algar.—In the time of the latter, William the Norman, conquered the country, and ended the Saxon power and government altogether, giving the earldom of Chester to Gerhord, a nobleman of Flanders, one of his chief generals, and a most devoted soldier, but he was compelled to return to Flanders to protect his property there, when falling into his enemies hands, and being long detained a prisoner, King William gave the earldom to his sister's son, a valiant commander, calculated to controul and overawe the neighbouring Welshmen, to rule his Province by the sword, and to hold possession by that tenure, as his uncle did the Sovreignty of the Kingdom. These notices are merely introductory to the subjects of our plate, viz. the NORMAN EARLS OF CHESTER. The drawing for the engraving was most probably taken from the elegant window of stained glass, formerly in Brereton Hall, from thence removed to Aston Hall, in Warwickshire. The old Hall of Hooton, the seat of the Stanleys, was decorated with rude paintings of the Earls of Chester, but whether those in the window of Brereton Hall were derived from that source, the writer of these pages does not take upon himself to determine.

The Engraving gives the Earls from left to right, in order of succession, each bearing their OWN ARMS, an appropriate distinction.

The following particulars of each Potentate, are from the interesting work of Mr. Cox, previously mentioned.

“ HUGH LUPUS, son of Richard Auranches, and Emma, the Conqueror's sister, is noticed as the first Earl of Chester, A. D. 1071. He had a Palatine jurisdiction given him by the King, by virtue of which he created several\* Barons to assist him in his councils, and manage the government under him, some of which we find upon record, as Nigellus Cassa, Baron of Halton, whom he made Constable and Marshall of Chester. He was by his tenure to lead his army against the Welsh, when he had wars with them. and to march in the rear when he returned ; Sir Pierce Malbanc, Baron of Nantwich ; Robert Fitz-hugh, Baron of Malpas, *Clerk* ; Richard de Vernon, Baron of Shipbrook ; Hamon de Massey, Baron of Dunham ; Gilbert Venables, Baron of Kinderton ; Warren de Pointon, Baron of Stockport ; Eustace Crew de Rouhalt, Baron of Hawarden, Steward ; with several others ; whom he endowed with large possessions

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\* 'Tis very probable, that the Earl of Chester had as many Spiritual as Temporal Barons in his great Council or Parliament, which by ancient instruments appear to have been two Bishops and six Abbots : viz. 1. The Bishop of Chester, whose Episcopal Seat was St. John's Church. 2. The Bishop of Bangor, whose Diocese comprehended those parts of Denbighshire, Caernarvonshire, and Anglesey, which were under the Earl's Jurisdiction. 3. The Abbot of St. Werburgh in Chester. 4. The Abbot of Combermere. 5. The Abbot of Stanlaw. 6. The Abbot of Norton. 7. The Abbot of Birkenhead. 8. The Abbot of Vale-Royal. One Thomas Abbothen was Justice of Chester.



and great privileges, and placed them in divers parts of his jurisdiction, for the better ordering of it. He converted the church of St. Werburgh into an abbey, by the advice of St. Anselm, whom he sent for out of Normandy for that end. He died July 27, 1101, having been Earl 31 years.

“ RICHARD, his son, then about seven years old, succeeded him, and King Henry I. educated him with his own children, with whom, coming out of France, he was drowned, Nov. 25, 1120, being about 14 years old. His earldom, after his death, descended to

“ RANULPH DE BOHUN, surnamed Mecenis, or Meschines, son of John de Bohun, a noble Norman, who had married Margaret, sister to Hugh Lupus. He was a person of a peaceable temper. He married Maud, daughter of Aubrey de Vere, earl of Guisnes and Oxford, and Great Chamberlain of England, by whom he had issue

“ RANULPH II. surnamed de Gernons, his native place, who succeeded him, A. D. 1130. He was a great lover of Justice, and of a very heroical spirit. He ever opposed the Usurpation of King Stephen in defence of the right heirs, Maud the Empress and her son Henry. He married Alice, the daughter of Robert, earl of Gloucester, by whom he had his son and successor

“ HUGH DE BOHUN, who came to this earldom A. D. 1152. He joined with Prince Henry, the son of King Henry II. in a rebellion against his father, and was taken prisoner by the said King, and kept in the castle of Talois, in Normandy, yet was at length permitted to pay a ransom, and so he returned home. He married Beatrix, daughter of Richard Lincy, Chief Justice of England, and by her had

**RANULPH III.** who succeeded his father A. D. 1180. He was surnamed Blundeville, and usually termed, Ranulph the Good. He was very learned and religious, as well as a gallant warrior. He compiled a Book of our English Laws. He founded the Abbies of Grey-Friars in Coventry, and Delacresse in Staffordshire, but would not himself, nor suffer any Clerk or Laymen in his Earldom to pay Tenths to Rome. He was at the Holy War, and after his return, he with other nobles, drove Lewis, the French King's son, who was sent for by some English Barons to depose King John out of England. He had no Issue, and was therefore succeeded by his sister Maud's son.

**JOHN**, surnamed Scot, because his father, David Earl of Angus, Galloway, and Huntingdon, was brother to William, King of Scots. He took part with King Henry III, in his great quarrel with the Earl-Marshall, and carried the sword called Curtana before the King at his marriage to Eleanor, daughter of Raymond, Earl of Provence. He married Helena, daughter of Llewelin, Prince of Wales, in his uncle's life-time, to confirm the Peace then made between them; but she, not long after he was made Earl, contrived his death, which she at length effected by poisoning him, of which he languished awhile, and dying at Darenhale, now called Darnell-Green, was buried at Chester, in the Chapter-House of the Cathedral, by his uncle, A. D. 1237. He left for his Heirs four sisters, Margaret, Isabel, Maud, and Eva. After his death, King Henry III. in regard that many Regal Prerogatives belonged to this Earldom, took it into his own hands."

Our Engraving only gives the seven Sovereign Earls of Chester,

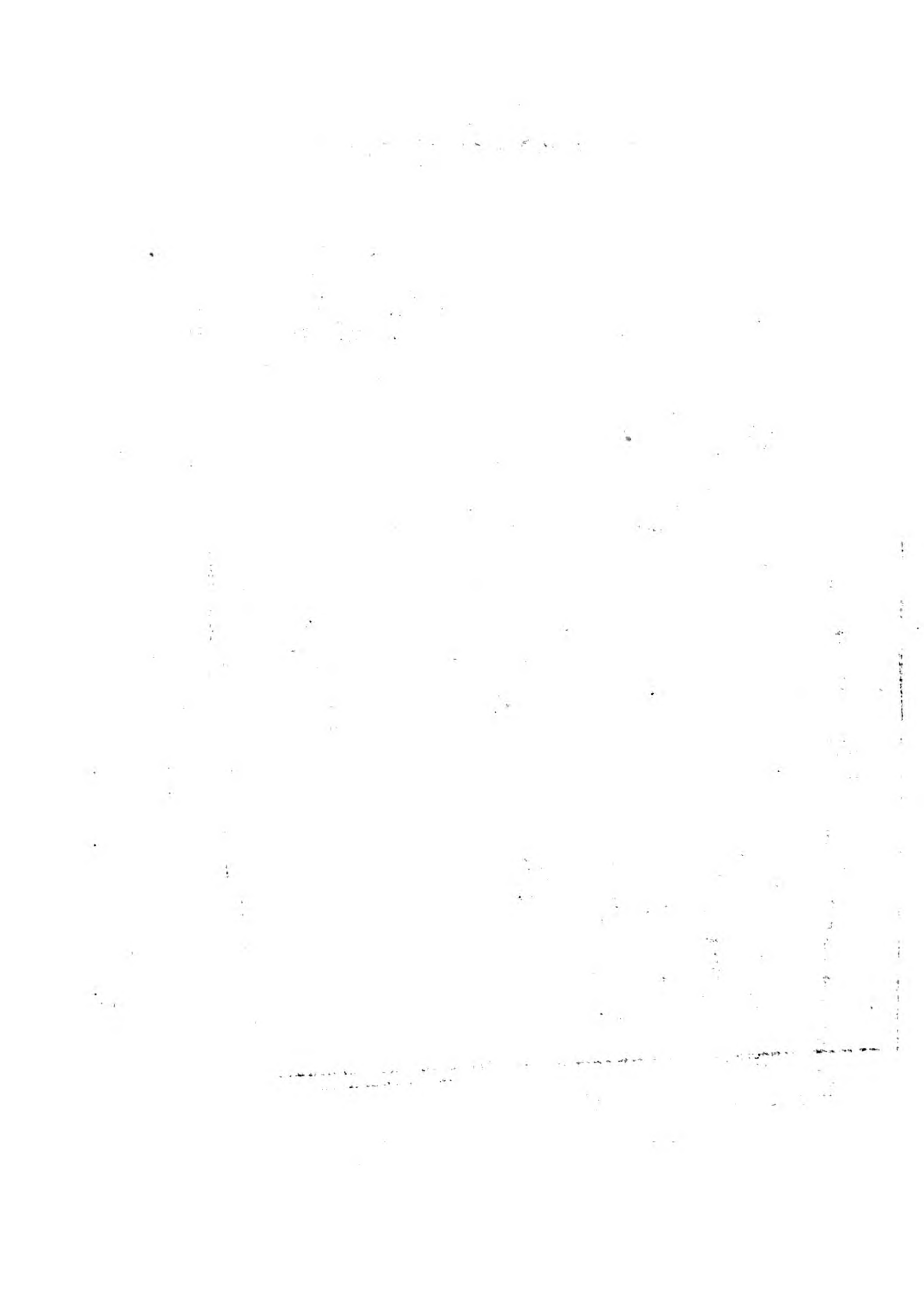
but to render this portion of our work the more complete, brief notices of several following after, and also bearing their title, are subjoined.

**HENRY III.** created his son **EDWARD**, Earl of Chester, who enjoyed the Earldom, under the Crown, 35 years in his father's life-time, and twelve years after his death, but being taken prisoner and his son in his wars with the Barons, by **Simon de Montford**, Earl of Leicester, he parted with it, to that Earl, for his ransom. **SIMON** enjoyed it a very short period, the battle of Evesham proving fatal to his cause, it returned to the crown, and the same King, **Edward I.** created his son, afterwards **EDWARD II.**, Prince of Wales, and Earl of Chester and Flint, who conferred the same title on his son, **EDWARD III.** and that illustrious King invested his son **EDWARD**, called the **BLACK PRINCE**, with the same dignity, but he died before his father, his only son **RICHARD**, was also Prince of Wales and Earl of Chester, and who, for the loyalty of his brave Cheshire people, constituted the county a Principality, himself being Prince. **Henry IV.** by whom he was deposed, reduced it to a County Palatine. The Heirs apparent to the British throne, in succession, are to this day, Princes of Wales and Earls of Chester.

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**ARMORIAL BEARINGS OF THE SEVEN NORMAN EARLS OF CHESTER.**

1. **HUGH LUPUS.**—Azure, a Wolf's Head erased, argent. 2. **RICHARD**, his son.—Crusilly, or a Wolf's Head erased. 3. **RANULPH DE BOHUN.**—Or, a Lion rampant, gules. 4. **RANULPH II.**—Gules, a Lion rampant, argent. 5. **HUGH DE BOHUN.**—Azure, six garbs, Or. 6. **RANULPH BLUNDEVILLE.**—Azure, three garbs, or, two and one; thus arranged, with the addition of the sword, is the present Armorial Coat of the City of Chester. 7. **JOHN SCOT.**—Or, three Piles, gules.









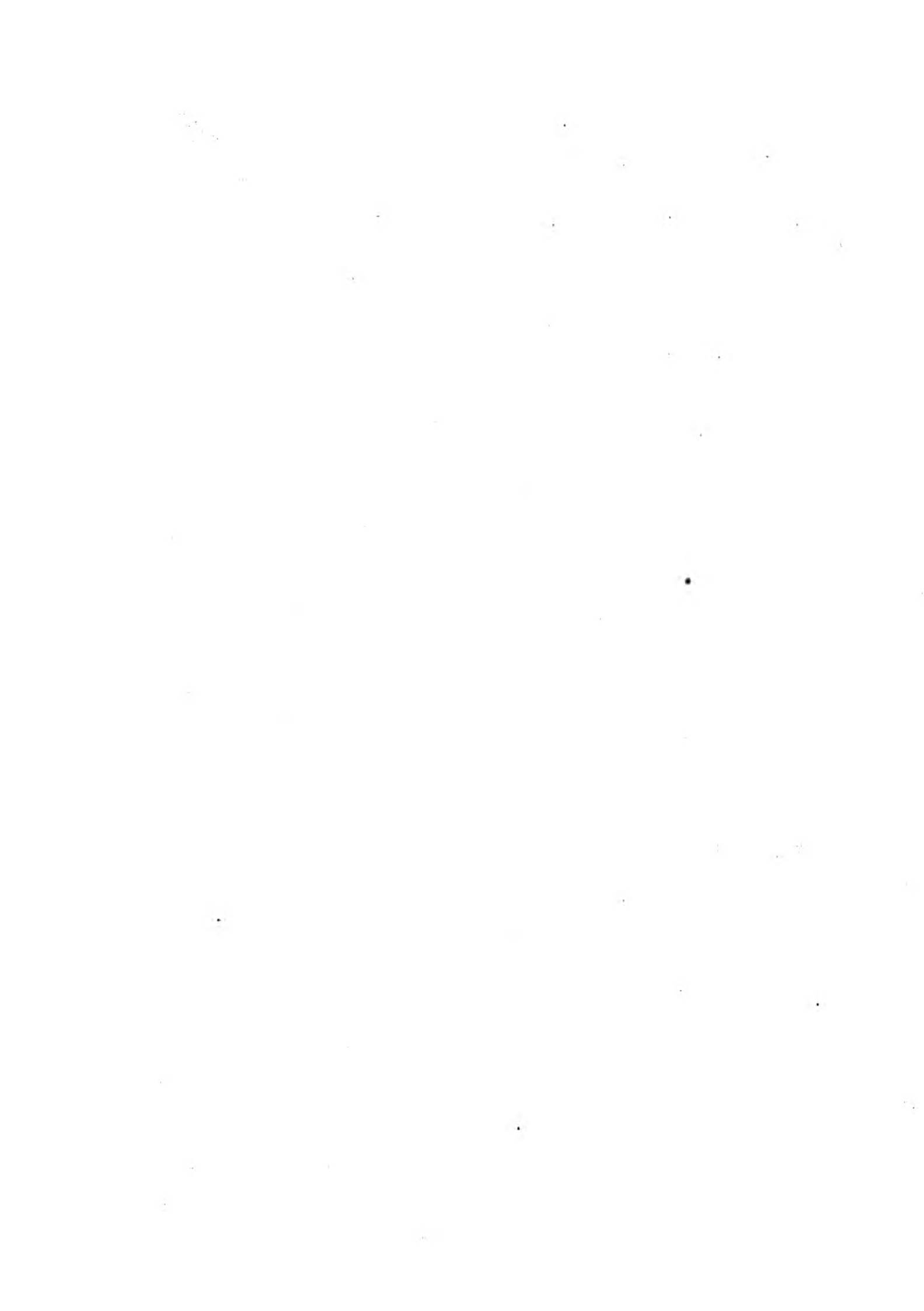
## PLATE VIII.

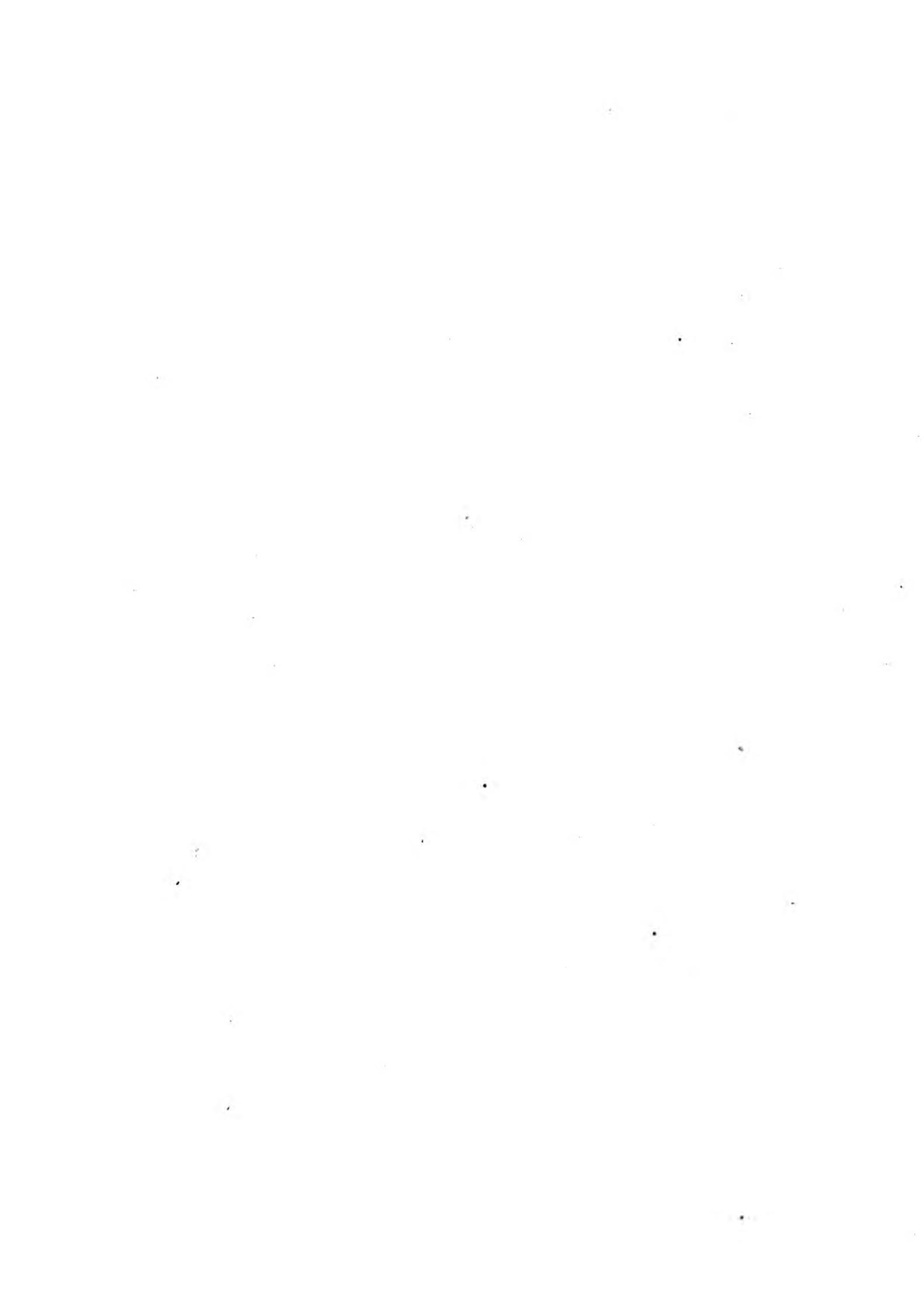
## THE ROMAN GLADIATOR.

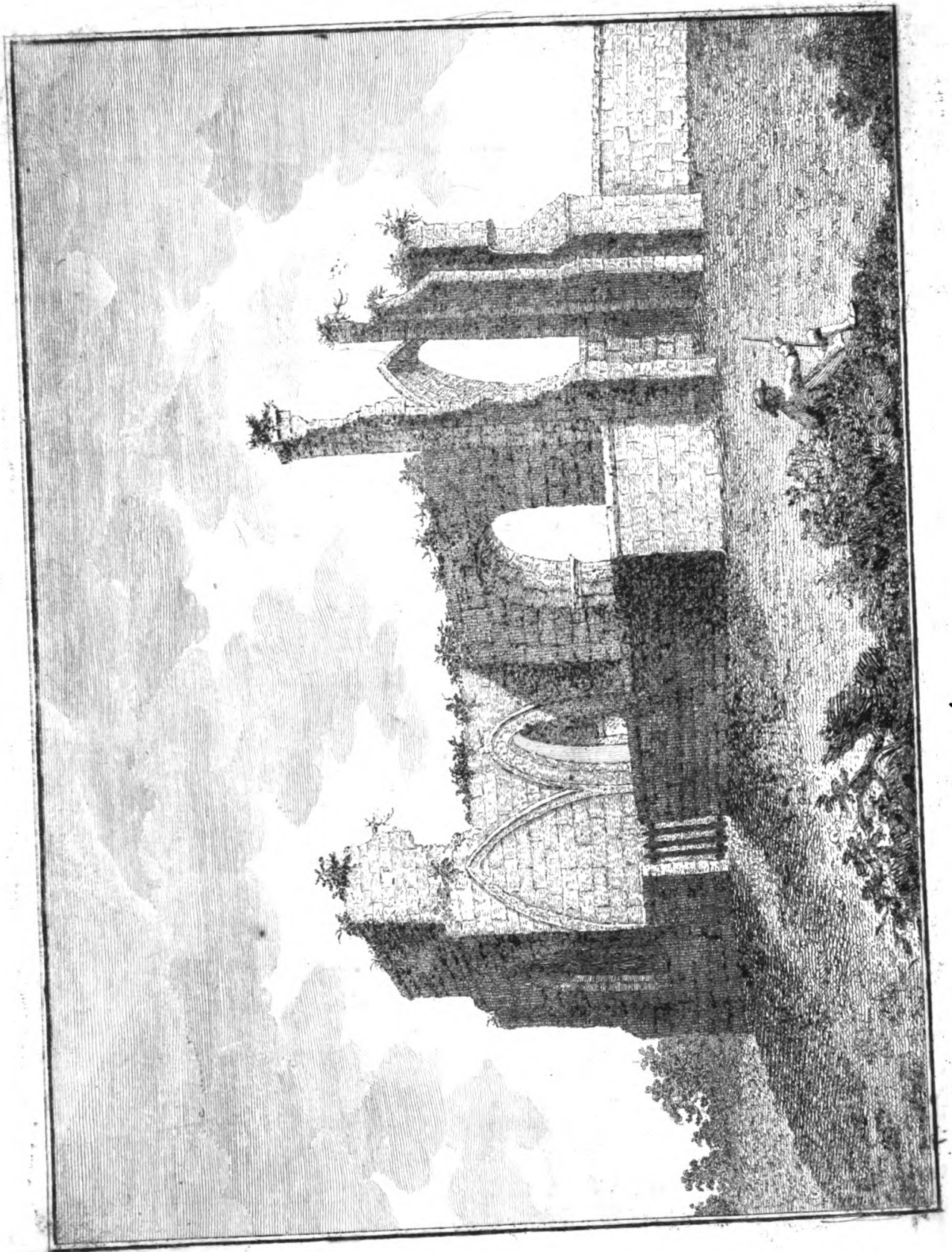
THE ANTIQUITY which our Engraving represents, was found in digging foundations in Chester Market-place in 1738. It is said by Mr. Ormerod, to be in the possession of Henry Potts, Esq. It consists of a fragment of slate stone, on which is cut, in bas-relief, the figure of a Retiarius,\* armed with a trident and net, and part of the Secutor.

\* RETIARIUM, among the Romans, were a kind of *Gladiators* who entered the lists armed only with a trident in the left, and a net in the right-hand. Their utmost address was to be used to throw the net over, and entangle their antagonists. If they missed of their aim, they were to betake themselves to flight, till they had the good fortune to recover their nets. The trident which they bore was called *Fuscina*, and was made use of to dispatch their antagonists when caught in the net. Their dress was a short coat, and a hat tied under the chin, with a broad ribbon. Their antagonists were called *Secutores*, who were armed with a sword and buckler, to keep off the net of their antagonist, and they wore a casque on their head, on which was the figure of a fish, in allusion to the net of their adversary.









## PLATE IX.

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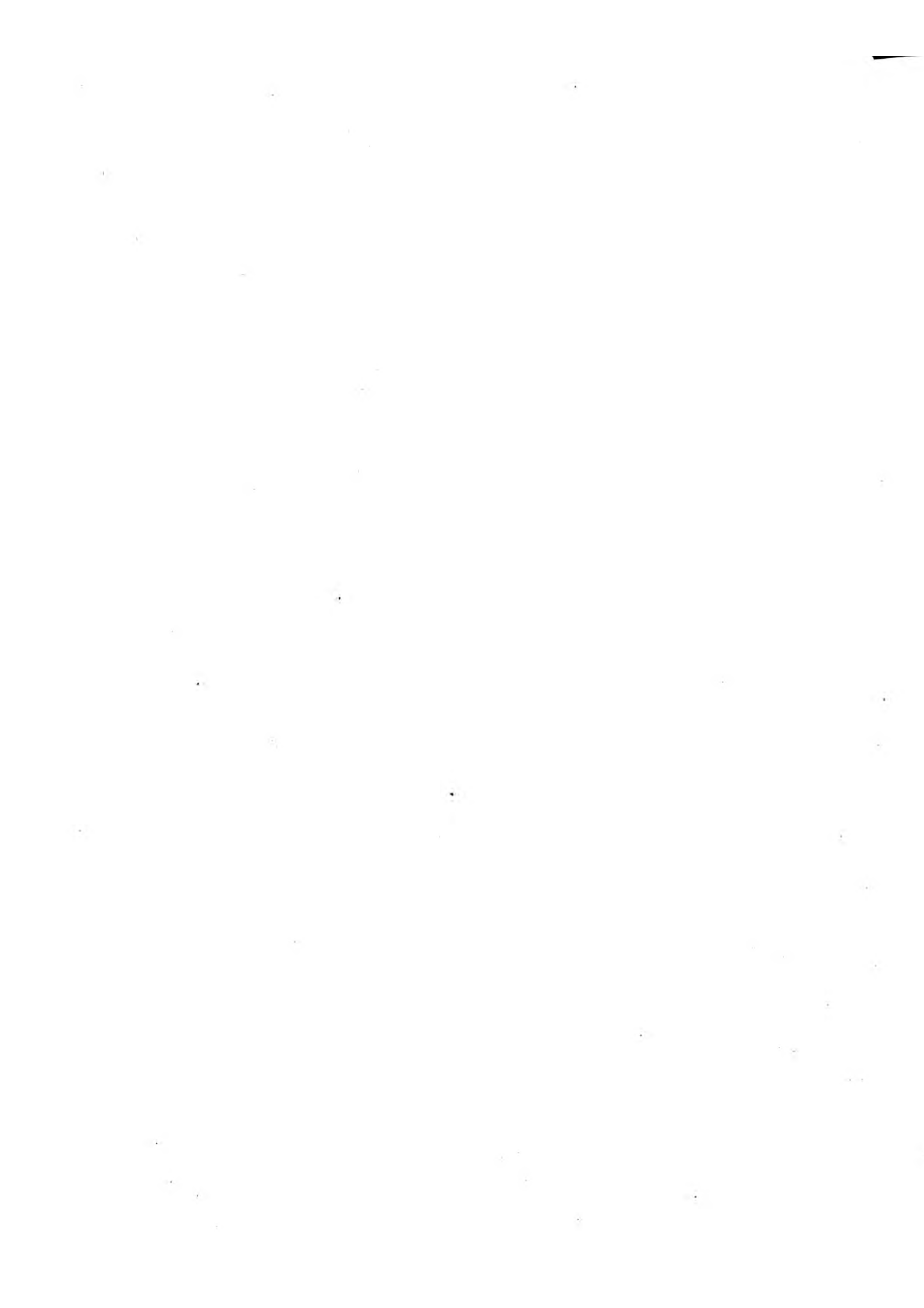
RUINS OF THE  
**ANCIENT NORMAN CATHEDRAL OF ST. JOHN,**  
*CHESTER.*

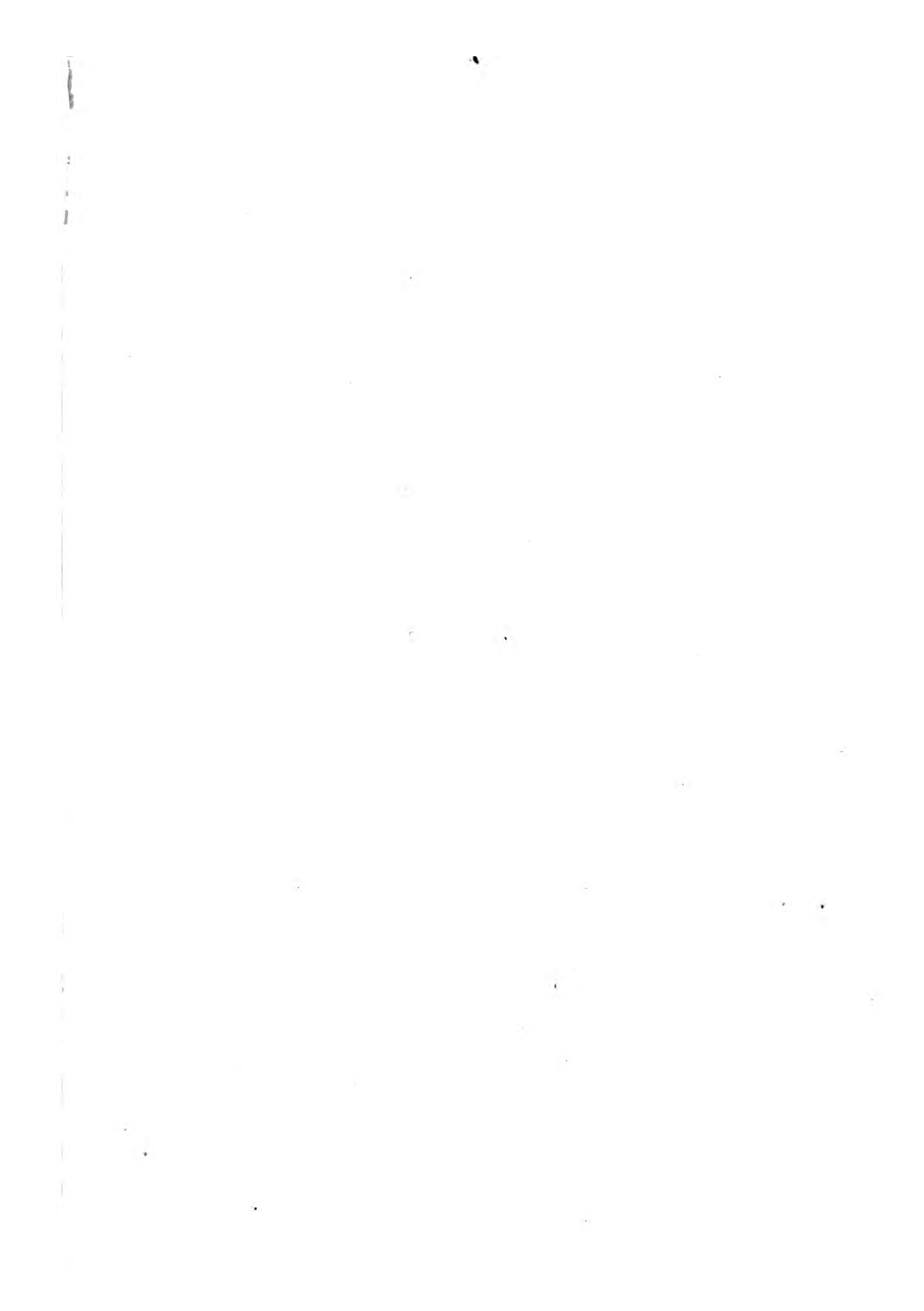
THE antient Church of St. John, of which ruins are presented, according to some Historians, was built by King Etheldred, and repaired by Leofric, Earl of Mercia, in 1057. In or about 1075, it was made a Cathedral, but was soon reduced to the rank of a Collegiate church. In 1572 the greater part of the steeple fell; two years after another portion fell on the west end of the church, and destroyed a large portion of it. In 1581 repairs were commenced, and all parts, except the chapel above the choir, were suitably restored. In 1810 the chancel of the present edifice was thoroughly repaired, and an elegant window introduced, by the munificent Earl Grosvenor, now Marquis of Westminster.

According to an Engraving, given by Mr. Hanshall in 1817, a considerable portion of the remains *then* existed.

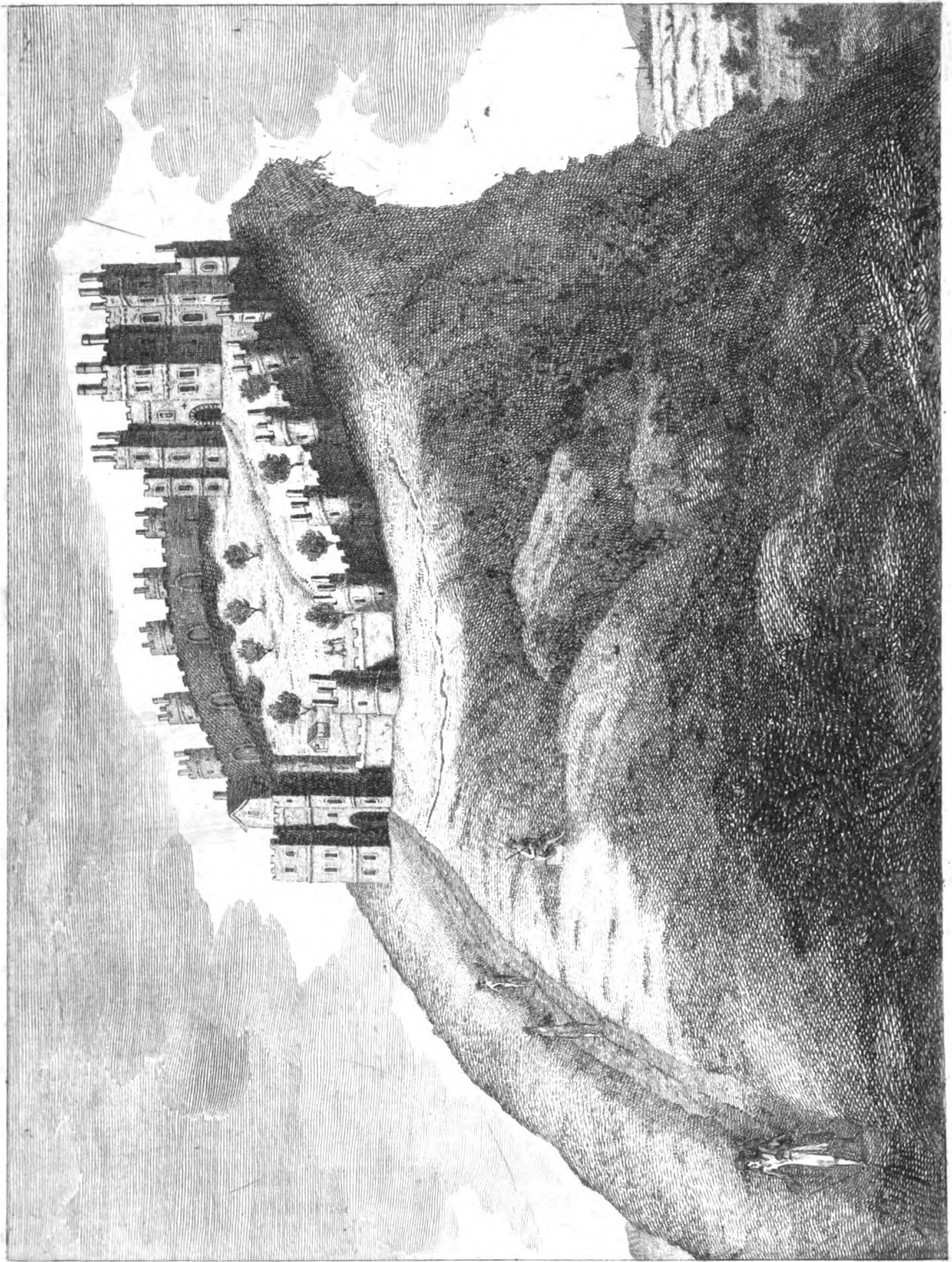
The church of St. John, and the ruins, stand without the city walls, about 150 yards south-east of the Newgate.

It may be noted that the artist, in the plate we have given, confines his view to the ruins only.









## PLATE X.

**BEESTON CASTLE,**

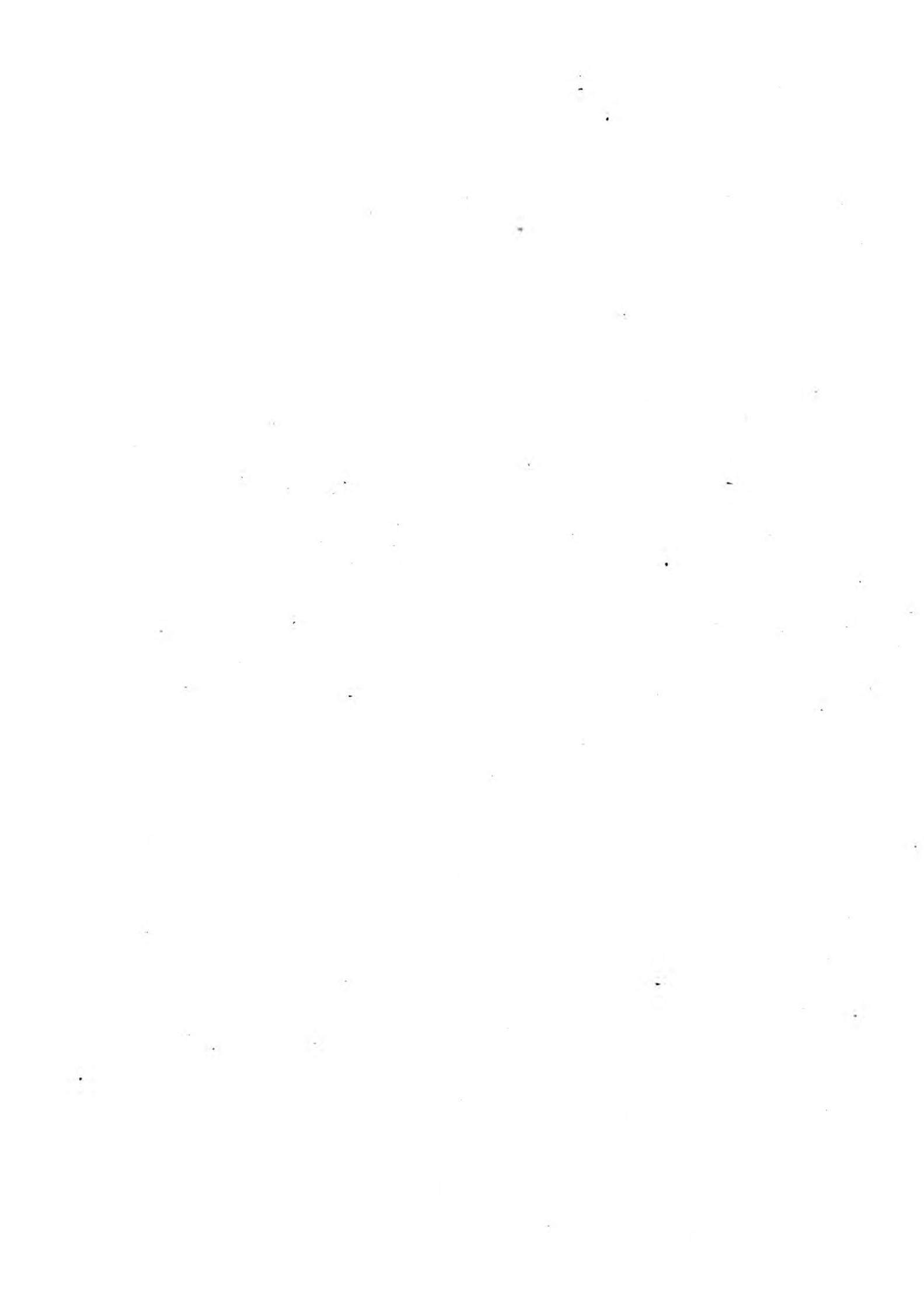
Two miles from Tarporley, was erected in 1220, by Randle Blun-  
deville, Earl of Chester. It is memorable for various sieges and  
extraordinary events. The present Engraving represents that For-  
tress apparently in its *perfect* state. The eminence on which it stands  
is 556 feet above the level of the sea, and on one side very precipi-  
tous, as exhibited in the View.

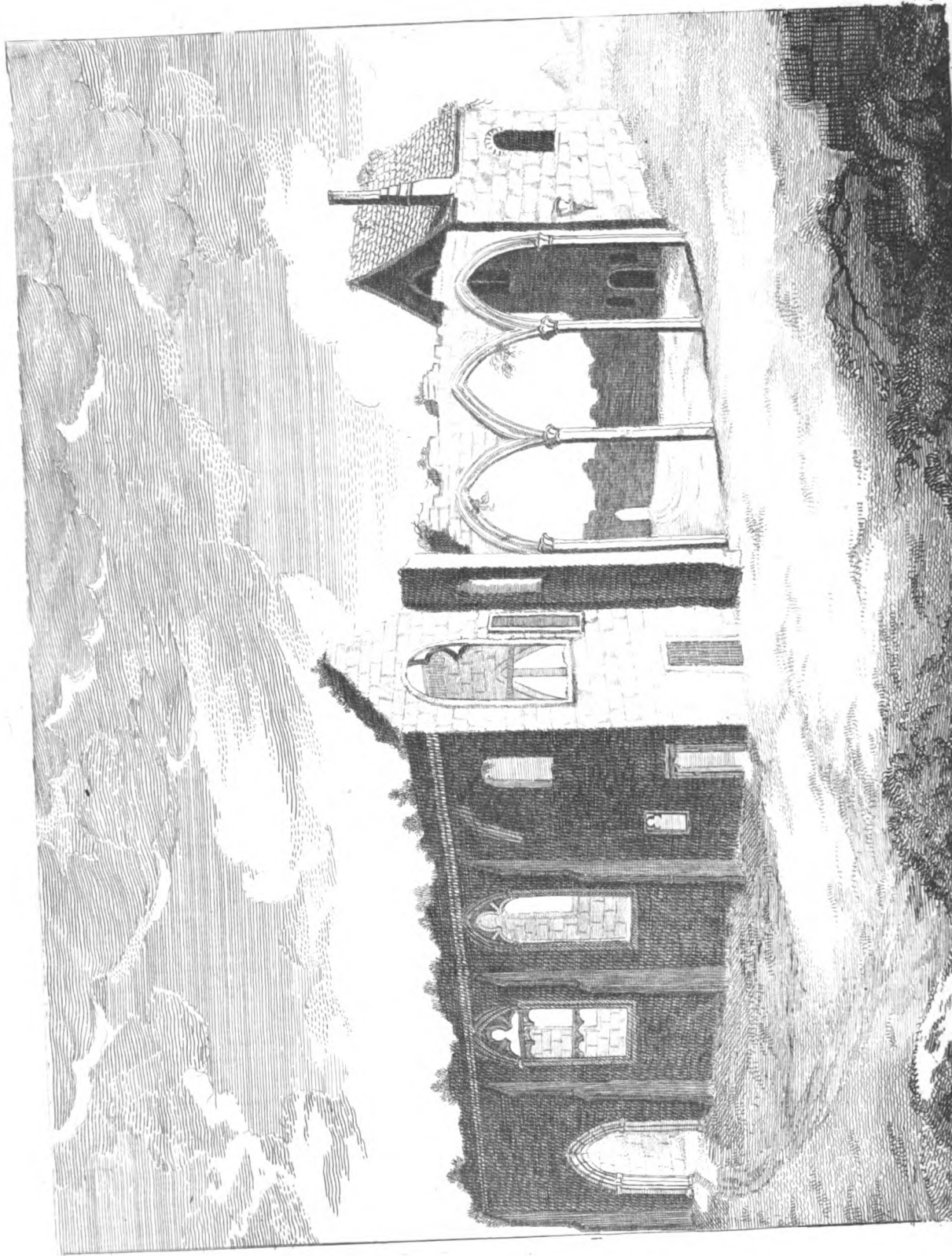
“During the civil wars in the seventeenth century, this castle,  
which is described by Leland as being, in his time, in a ruinous  
state, was repaired and garrisoned by the Parliament, having  
been taken possession of by a party of their forces on the 21st of  
February, 1643.

“On the 13th of December, 1643,” says Mr. Burghall in his Diary,  
“a little before day, Captain Sandford, who came out of Ireland,  
with eight of his firelocks, crept up the steep hill of Beeston castle,  
and got into the upper ward, and got possession there. It must have  
been done by treachery, for the place was almost impregnable.  
Captain Steel, who kept it for the Parliament, was accused, and  
suffered for it, but it was verily thought he had not betrayed it wil-  
fully; but some of his men proving false, he had not courage enough  
to withstand Sandford. What made much against Steel was, he  
took Sandford down into his chamber, where they dined together,  
and much beer was sent up to Sandford’s men, and the castle after

a short parley, delivered up." Captain Steel had liberty to march to Nantwich, where he was immediately put in prison, and about six weeks afterwards, (soon after the battle of Nantwich, and the relief of that town by Sir Thomas Fairfax,) was shot to death. Beeston castle was besieged by the Parliamentary army about the beginning of December, 1644; it was relieved on the 17th of March following, by Prince Maurice and Prince Rupert, but again besieged within a few weeks; the besieging army "had begun to raise a brave mount with a strong ditch about it, and had placed great buildings thereon," when on the reported approach of the King with his army from Shropshire, the works were abandoned. After the battle of Rowton-heath, it was again closely besieged, and at length the provision of the garrison being quite exhausted, was surrendered to Sir William Brereton on the 6th of November following. Burghall says, "there was neither meat nor drink found in the castle, but only a piece of a turkey-pie, two biscuits, and a live pea-cock, and pea-hen. Soon after after taking of Chester, which happened in February, 1646, Beeston Castle was demolished.

The site of the castle, which had been originally part of the manor, was granted by Queen Elizabeth in fee-farm, to Sir Christopher Hatton, of whom it is supposed to have been purchased by the Beestons, having been about that time re-united to the manor with which it has since passed. The remains of this venerable fortress form a striking object in the scenery of a large surrounding district."







## PLATE XI.

**BIRKENHEAD PRIORY,**

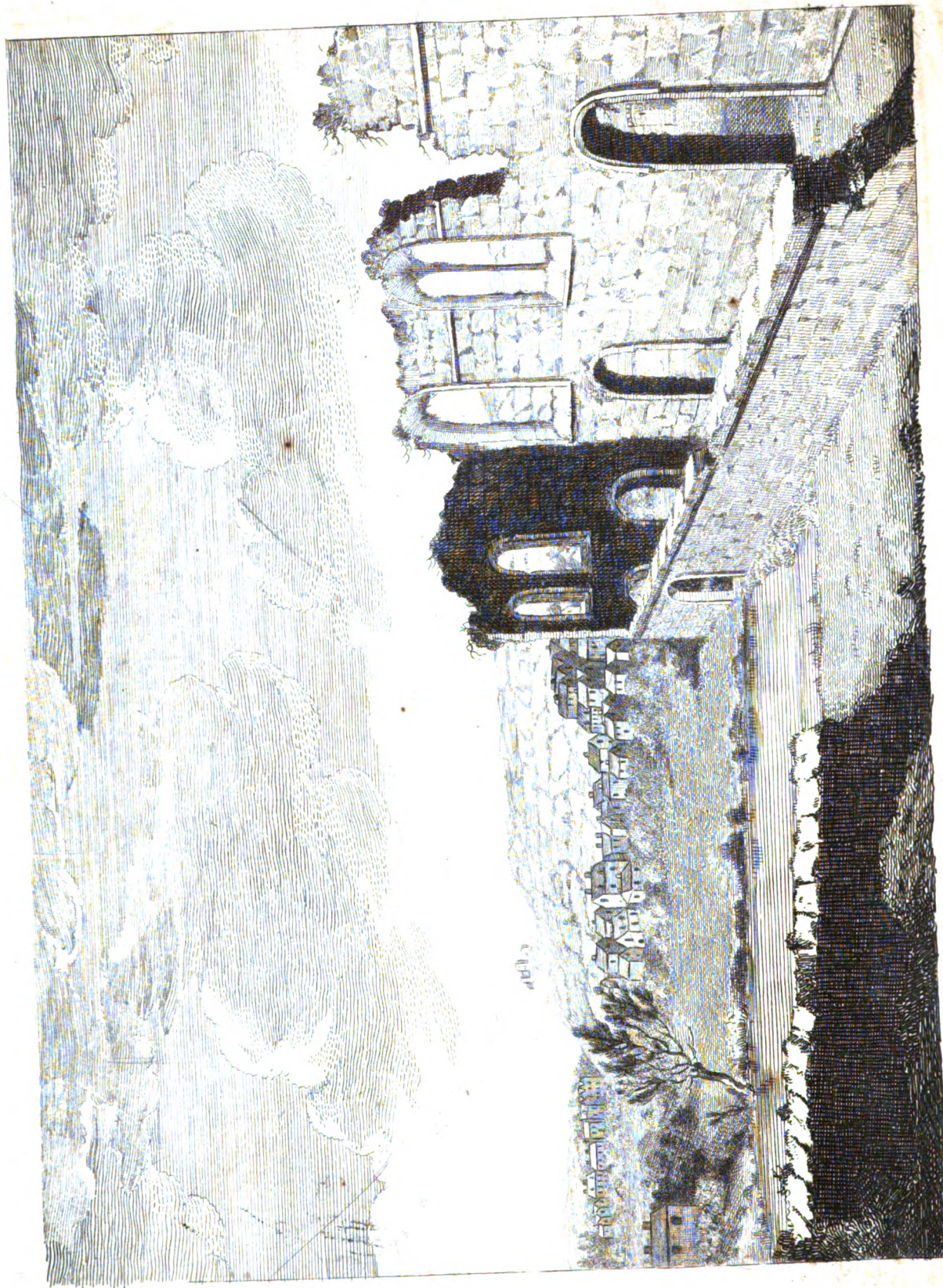
Is situate on the banks of the river Mersey, nearly opposite Liverpool. There are still venerable remains. It was founded, about the year 1150, by Hamo de Massey. This priory was dedicated to St. Mary and St. James, and made subordinate to the abbey of St. Werburgh of Chester; its revenues were valued at the time of the dissolution of monasteries. at £90. 13s. clear yearly income. The site of the priory and the manor of Birkenhead were granted to Ralph Worsley, Esq., son of William Worsley, Esq., of Worsley, in Lancashire. The Birkenhead estate was purchased about the year 1715, by John Cleveland, Esq. M.P.; Mr. Cleveland's only son dying without issue, it was inherited by his daughter Alice, married to Francis Price, Esq. of Bryn-y-pys, in the county of Flint, whose great grand-son, F. R. Price, Esq. is the present proprietor. Birket-house, near the remains of the priory, was garrisoned for King Charles during the civil wars, and taken by the Parliament the 22d Sept, 1644. The chapel of the priory, after the Reformation, was a domestic chapel, till augmented by Queen Anne's bounty.

Birkenhead is become a considerable village in consequence of its fine airy situation and proximity to Liverpool, united to the advantages of its ferry, which in the reign of Edward III. was the privilege of the Prior of the Monastery, who had the building of the Inns. The charge for crossing the river, in the reign of Henry III., for a horseman was 2*d.*, more than equal to 2*s.* 6*d.* at the present day, and one farthing for a foot passenger.









## PLATE XII.

**FRODSHAM CASTLE.**

Of which fortress or edifice little is known. It was built of red stone, and stood at the west-end of the town. It was bestowed by Edward I. on David, brother to Llewellyn, the last Prince of Wales. In the latter period of its existence it was inhabited by the Savages; the first earl Rivers died there, October 10th, 1654, on which day it was burnt down. There are no remains at the present time, a house, called Park-place, stands on or near the site.

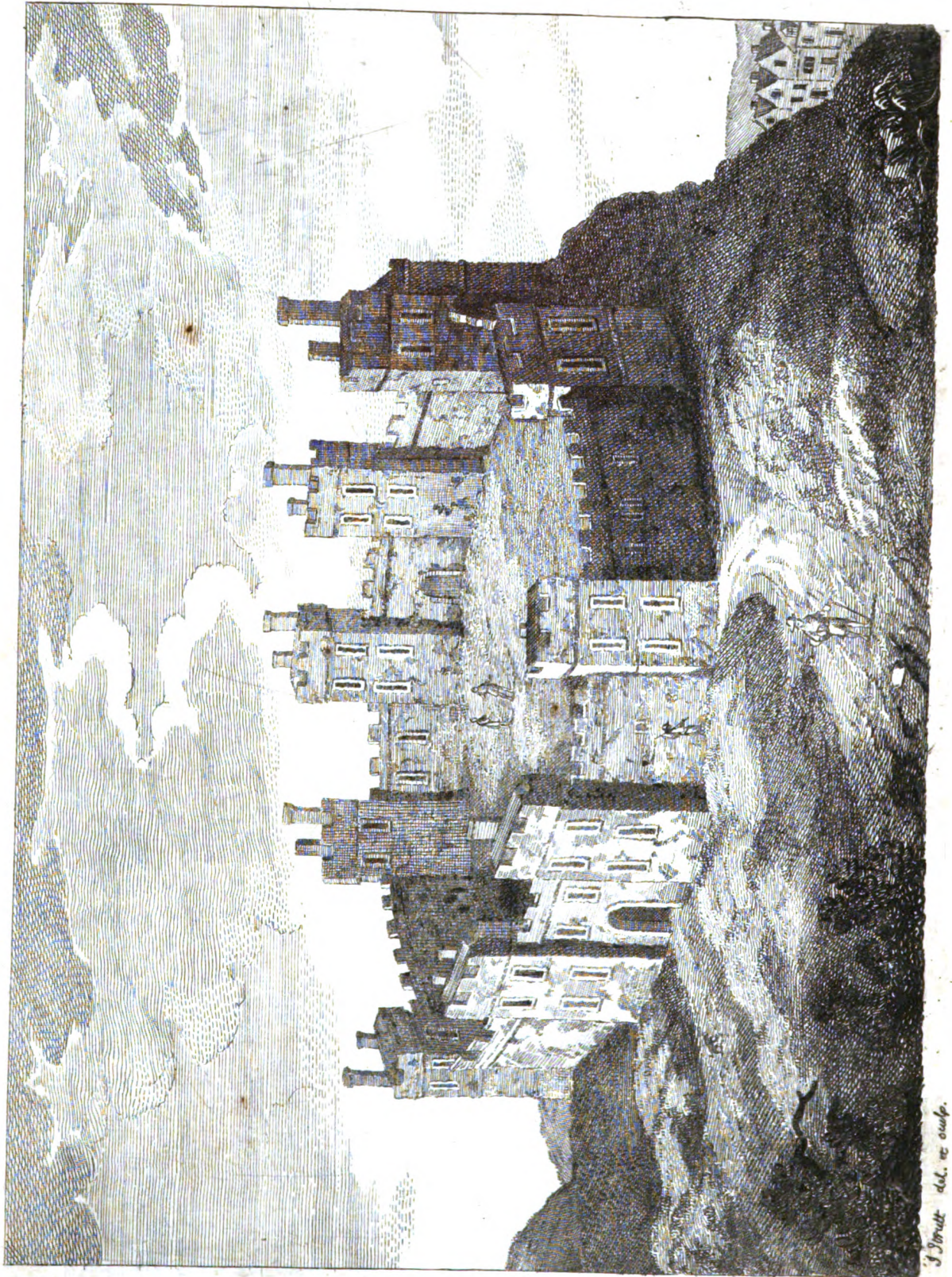
Our Engraving differs but little from that of S. and N. Buck, taken in 1727.

To the left, in the back ground, appears Halton castle, and below Rock Savage.









J. Smith del. et sculp.



## PLATE XIII.

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**HALTON CASTLE,**

IN the parish of Runcorn, was built by Hugh Lupus, the first earl of Chester, who gave it, with the barony, to Nigel, a Norman, on condition that he should be the constable of Chester; this office, with that of Earl's marshal, were attached to the barony, and enjoyed by his successors, the barons of Halton. On the death of William Fitz-Nigel, junior, the third baron of Halton, without issue, the barony devolved to Eustace Fitz-John, who married his sister Agnes; Richard, son of Eustace, married Albreda de Lizours, daughter and heir of Robert de Lizours, and half sister and heir of Robert Lacy; their son John, who was the sixth baron of Halton, is sometimes called John Lacy, but Sir Peter Leycester says that the name of Lacy was first assumed by his son Roger. John, his grandson, who inherited the barony of Halton, and was constable of Chester, became, in right of his wife, Earl of Lincoln. Alice, daughter and sole heir\* of Henry Lacy, earl of Lincoln, who died in 1310, married Thomas Plantagenet, earl of Lancaster, who became in her right constable of Chester, and was the eleventh baron of Halton; from him the

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\* It appears the family of Lacy, in the direct line, here ended; but there were undoubtedly collateral branches of the same family existing, descendants of which are found in various parts of the Kingdom, one of them settling in Shropshire, gave name to the present parish of Stanton Lacy, and also of Stoke Lacy, in the county of Hereford. The compiler of these notices has the happiness of near acquaintance with a highly respectable family of that name, settled in the Metropolis.

barony descended to Henry IV., since which time the honor, &c. of Halton, has been annexed to the crown. During the protectorate of Cromwell, "the honor, fee, manor, and castle of Halton," were put up to sale, and purchased by Henry Brooke, Esq. of Norton, but reverted to the crown at the restoration. Halton-park, having been granted in fee-farm to Sir John Savage, has descended with Rock-Savage and other estates to the Marquess of Cholmondeley, who holds the honour of Halton by lease under the crown. The barons of Halton possessed very extensive privileges, they were authorised to have a castle and prison at Halton; to hold it as a free borough; to hold a weekly market on Saturday; two annual fairs; a court for the cognizance of various offences, and for all the pleas and actions within the barony, except such as belonged to the earl's sword.

Halton-castle was built soon after the Norman conquest, its site is on the brow of a hill, commanding a very extensive and rich prospect over a great part of Cheshire, and across the Mersey into Lancashire. The survey of Halton castle made in Cromwell's time, describes it as then very ruinous, having been first a garrison for the King and afterwards for the Parliament, but we have not found any account of its having sustained a siege.\* The survey describes a gate-house, with five rooms over; one great hall with two ranges of buildings over it, consisting of nine rooms unfinished, and a prison for the honor of Halton. Colonel Henry Brooke, who afterwards purchased the castle and honor, was then steward, which

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\* Josiah Ricraft says, "Houghton castle in Cheshire," by which he probably means Halton castle, "was taken by Sir William Brereton, July 22d, 1644, with all the ammunition.

office had been held before the war by Lord Savage; Richard Brooke, Esq. was constable of the castle, and Thomas Cheshire, gent, was bailiff of the lordship of Halton and Whitley, under a grant of King James I. There are few remains of the ancient buildings of Halton castle, the habitable part of it, which appears to have been chiefly re-built since the civil war, is now a commodious inn; in which there is a room where the courts for the honor are held.

Our view is supposed to represent the castle in its *perfect* state.

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HALTON is a name, a place, so dear to the recollection of the editor of this publication, that he humbly hopes he will be excused a departure from the graver character of the work, to indulge in memory's most delightful exercise, viz. a remembrance of the cotemporaries, and events of his school-boy days.

To the instruction of Mr. Buckley, afterwards the Rev. J. Buckley, master of the school on the Edge, endowed for the *free* teaching of youth to *read only*, the writer is indebted for his knowledge of that art which now enables him to communicate his thoughts and recollections to the world. Mr. Buckley was a worthy man and a profound scholar, he had the honour of giving private lessons to the present excellent Sir Richard Brooke, Bart. at Norton Priory.

During the year 1788 and two following years, the time the writer was a scholar at Halton school, it was a most flourishing establishment; numbering within its walls 200 scholars, the greater proportion those who paid for their education. A few of the names, which the writer's memory holds in lasting abidance, he may be permitted to record:—John and Thomas Berrington, James Booth, Thomas Eaton, Samuel Horton, John Janion, Thomas Parr, Joseph Tipping, Samuel Wylde, and the writer's distant relatives John Blythe, Thomas Blythe, and Stanley Orred. Among Mr. Buckley's *fair* pupils, were Misses, Eaton, Lydiard, Pickering, &c. The town of Halton was one of rural peace,

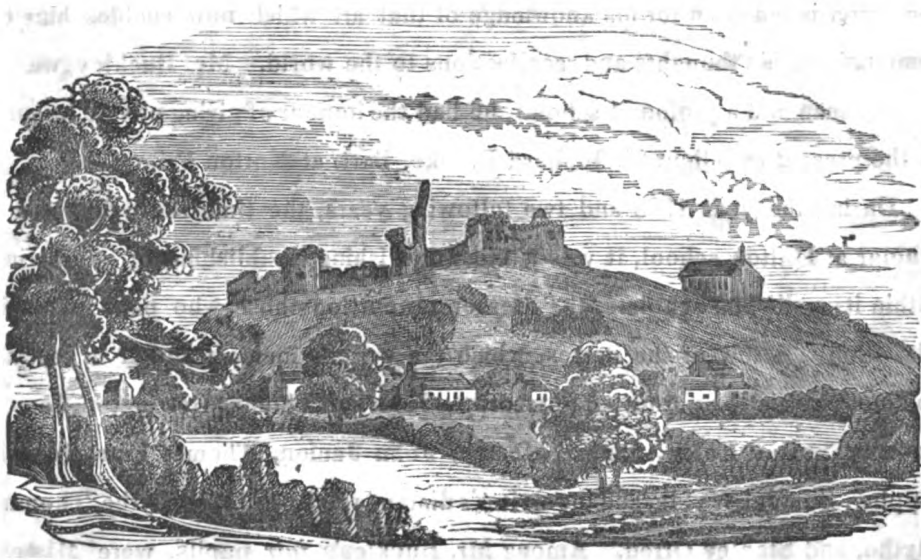
hospitality, and cheerfulness; ranked in its most eminent inhabitants, were the venerable and good "Tanner" Acton, the worthy but unfortunate "Attorney" Acton, "Doctor" Eaton, and the Rev. J. Trimble. The families of Pickering, Fletcher, Parr, Anderson, Blythe, Cheshire, of Halton Lodge, and Nixon, of Stockham, (the four latter nearly related to each other, and distantly to the writer's father,) were at that time considered leading families, and so the descendants of some of them continue to the present day: but many have passed to oblivion, once known, and loved, by the individual who pens these reminiscences.

SWEET HALTON! "LOVELIEST VILLAGE OF THE PLAIN,"

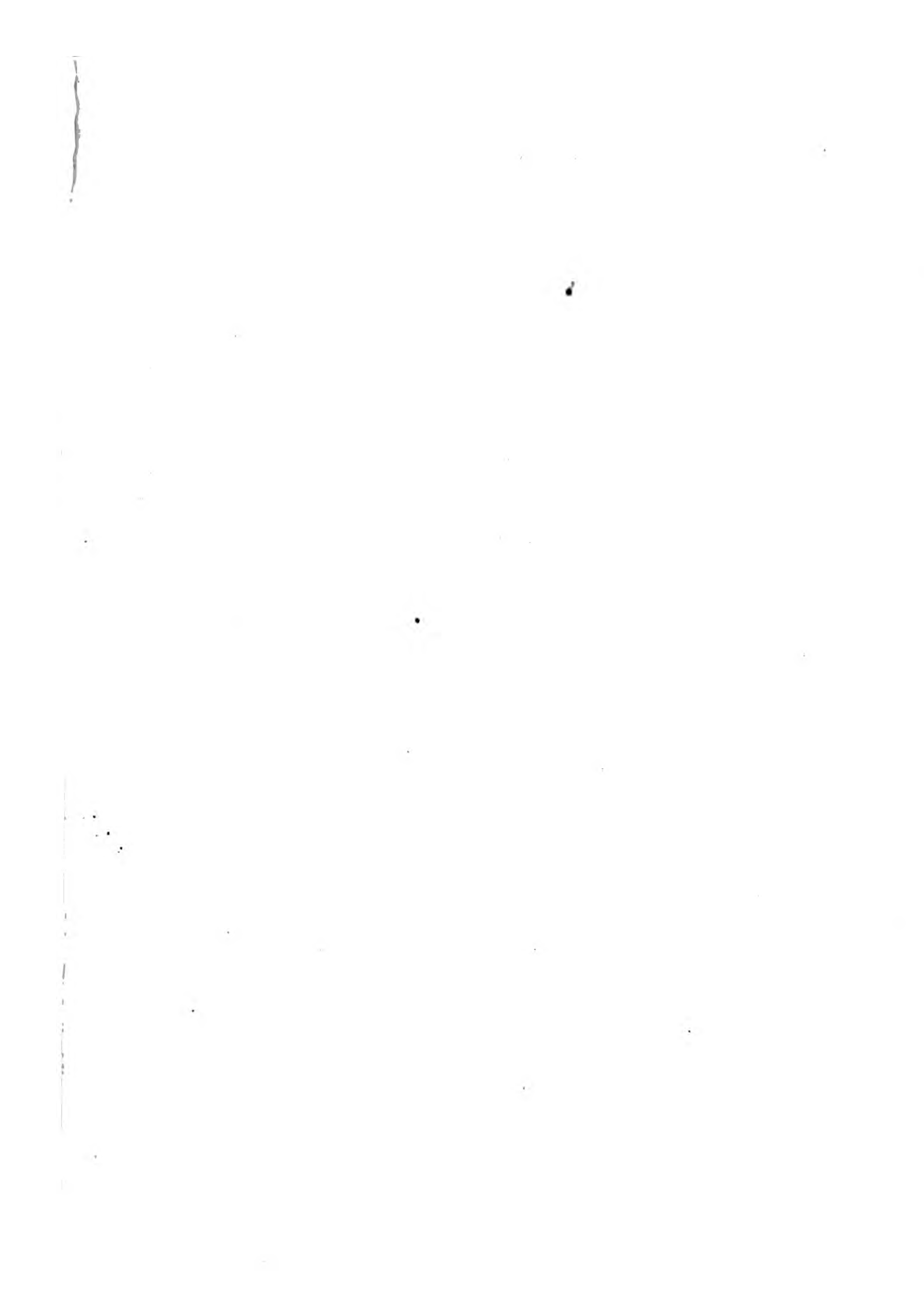
Scene of the most happy domestic enjoyments, of the deepest, bitterest, family afflictions and disappointments, ever experienced by *him*,

"Who in his wand'rings round this World of care,  
In all his griefs,—and God has giv'n his share,  
Has had desires, his latest hours to crown,  
And 'neath thy tow'ring rocks to lay him down.

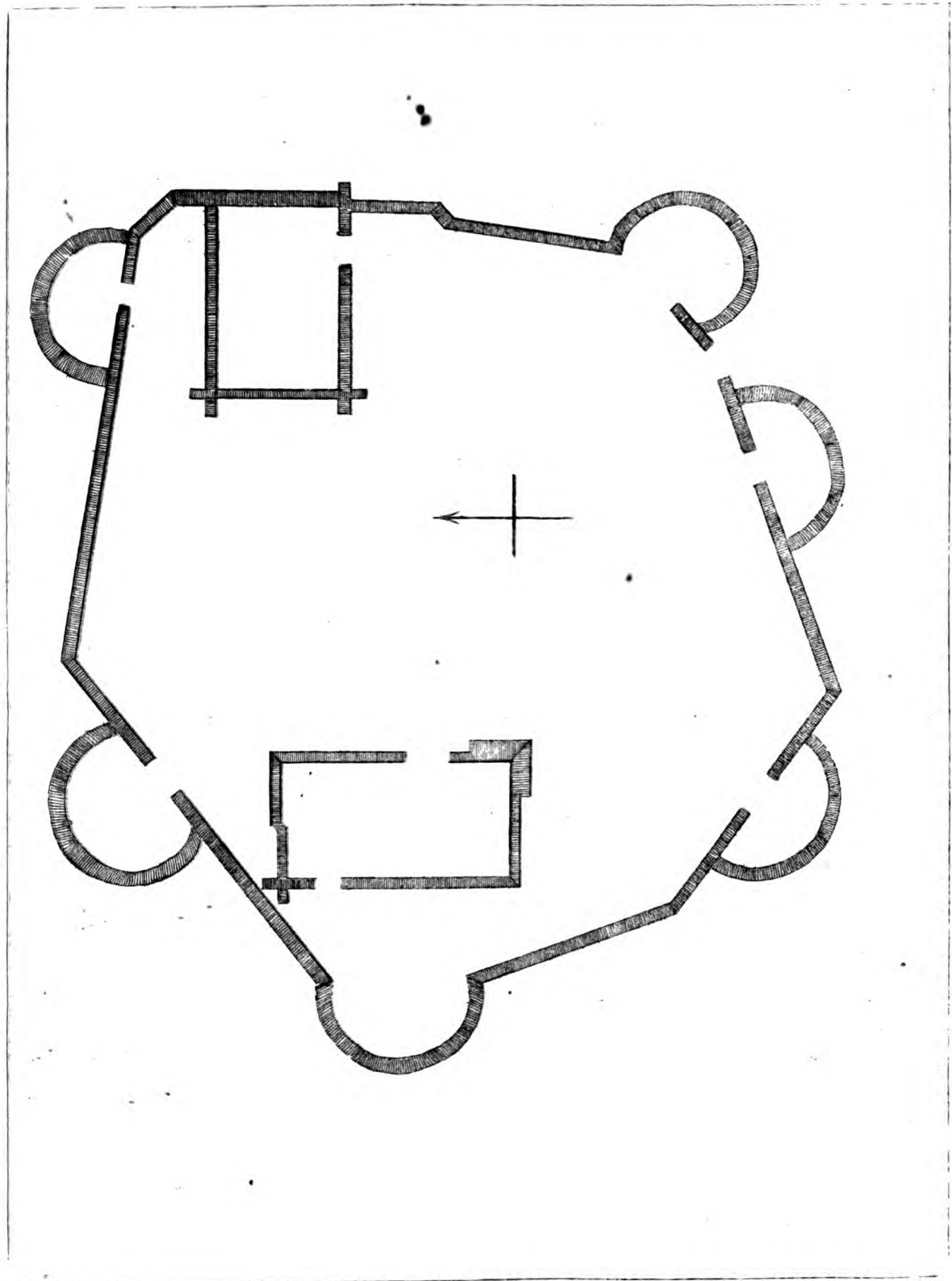
Has had desires, for pride attends man still,  
Amid thy swains to shew his book learned skill,  
Around his fire, an evening group to draw,  
And tell of all he did, and all he saw."



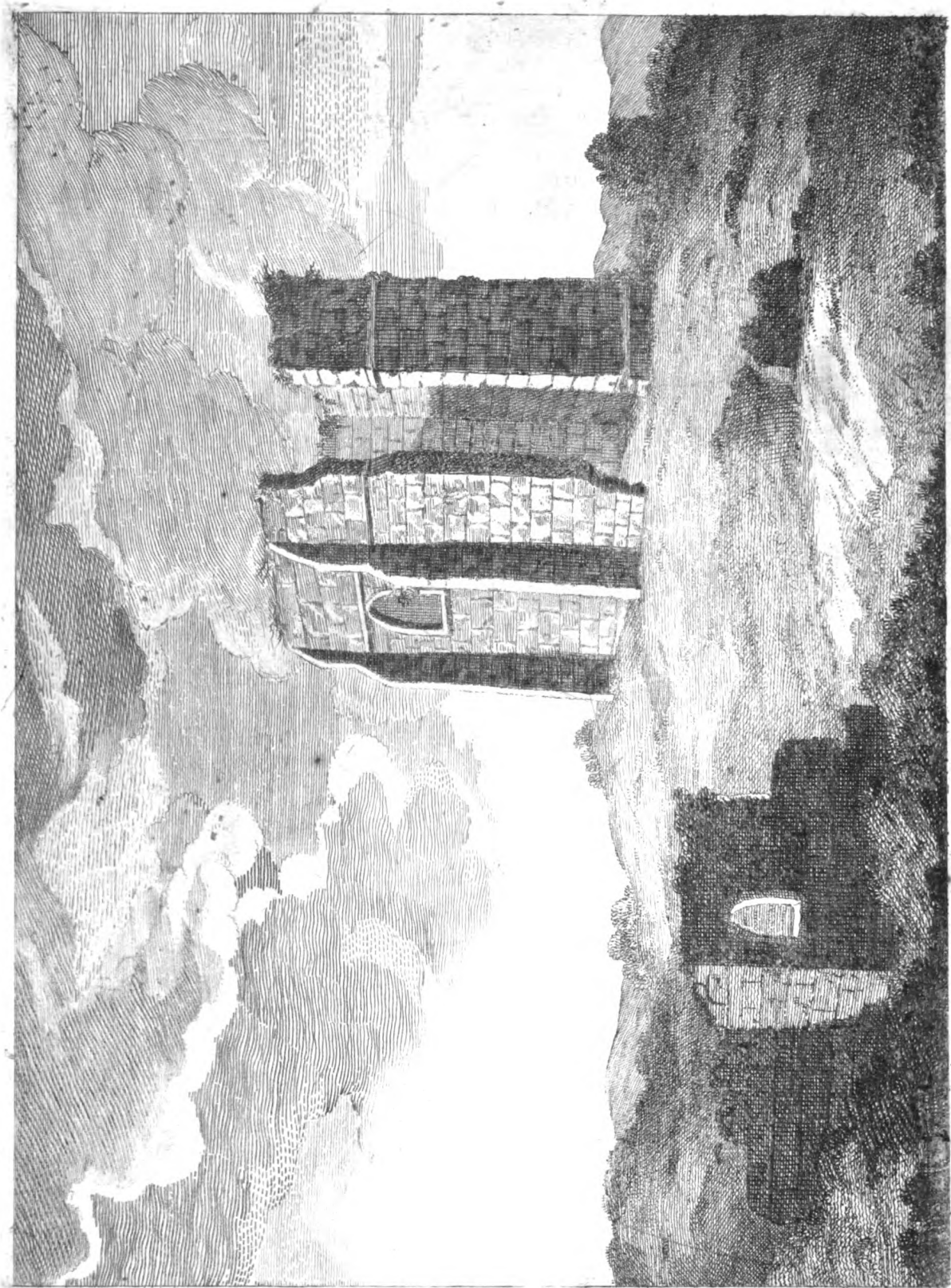
HALTON, FROM A STILE NEAR RUNCORN BROOK.











9. Frank. 20. 10. 11. 12.

## PLATES XIV &amp; XV.

**SHOTWICK CASTLE AND PLAN.**

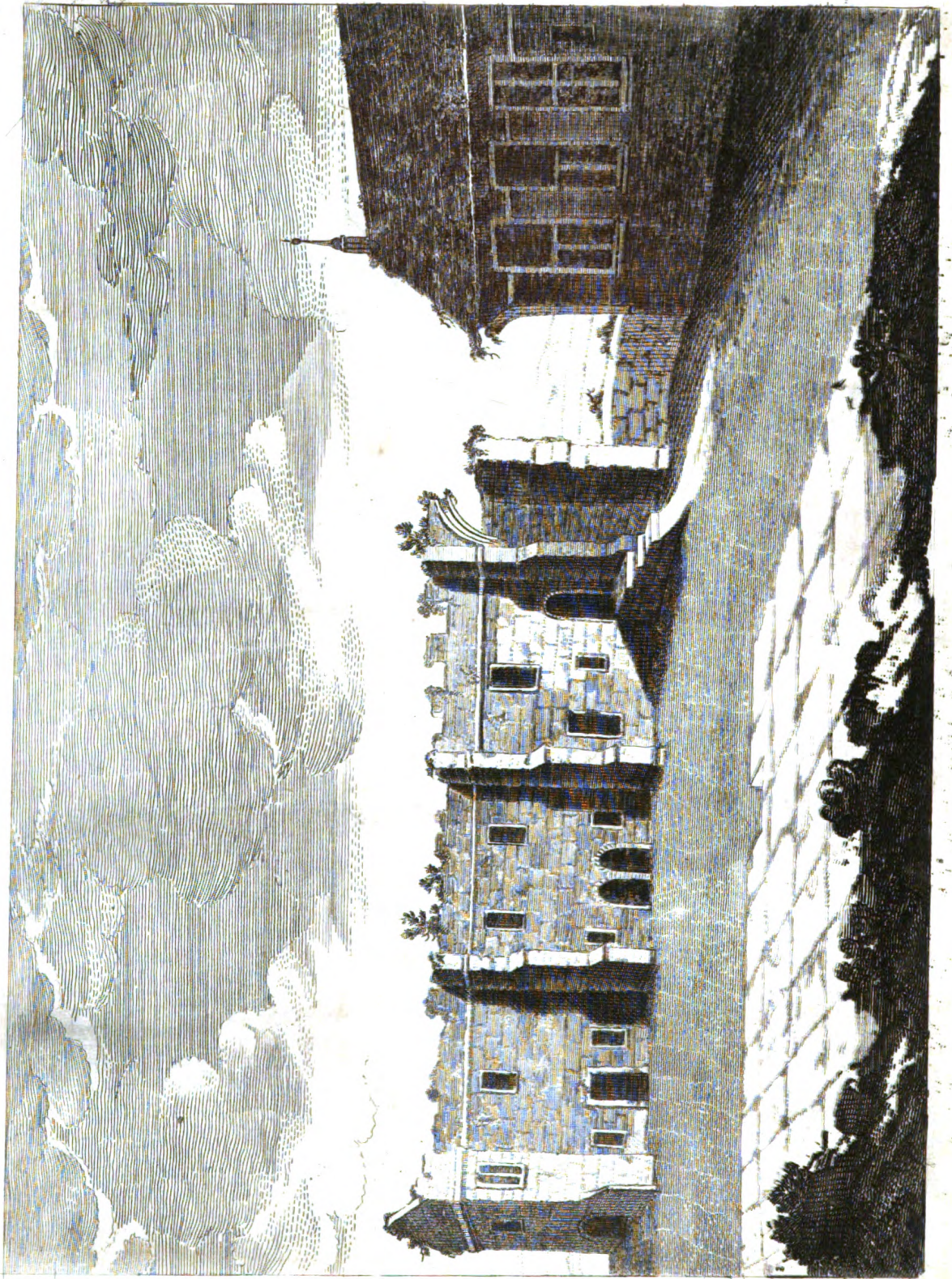
Shotwick castle was situated close to the mouth of the Dee, six miles from Chester. Mr. Hanshall says "it was erected by the *Earl*," (Hugh Lupus he probably means,) "for the protection of the borders of the Palatine from the Welsh." He gives a plan of the fortress, and says the building was of a Pentagon form, strengthened with six towers, one of them stated to be five stories high; the only remains now, are a large mound of a crescent form, with intrenchments, on the Shotwick Park side.

Our view preserves the character of the ruins as they existed at the commencement of the last century.









## PLATE XVI.

**STANLOW ABBEY.**

THE site of this religious establishment may still be traced on a rock, jutting out of the Mersey from the marshes between Whitby and Ince. It was founded by John Lacy, constable of Chester, in the year 1178. Mr. Hanshall gives a succession of eight abbots. Among the grants to this abbey, is the Church of Eccles in Lancashire. In the time of the 8th abbot, 1219, there was a dreadful inundation of the sea; seven years afterwards, the great tower of the church was thrown down by a great storm; and in 1289, a large portion of the church was burnt down, same year another inundation happened. An indulgence of forty days was granted to all who assisted the abbey with their contributions; indulgences were also granted for all who would pray for the souls of the Lacies buried there. In 1294, Henry Lacy granted the site of the church of Whalley to the monks of this monastery, who removed thither, leaving only four at Stanlow to perform Divine Service. The site is preserved in remembrance by the existence of some remains forming part of a farm-house. The Stanlow estate consists of nearly 200 acres of grass land, now deemed extra-parochial.

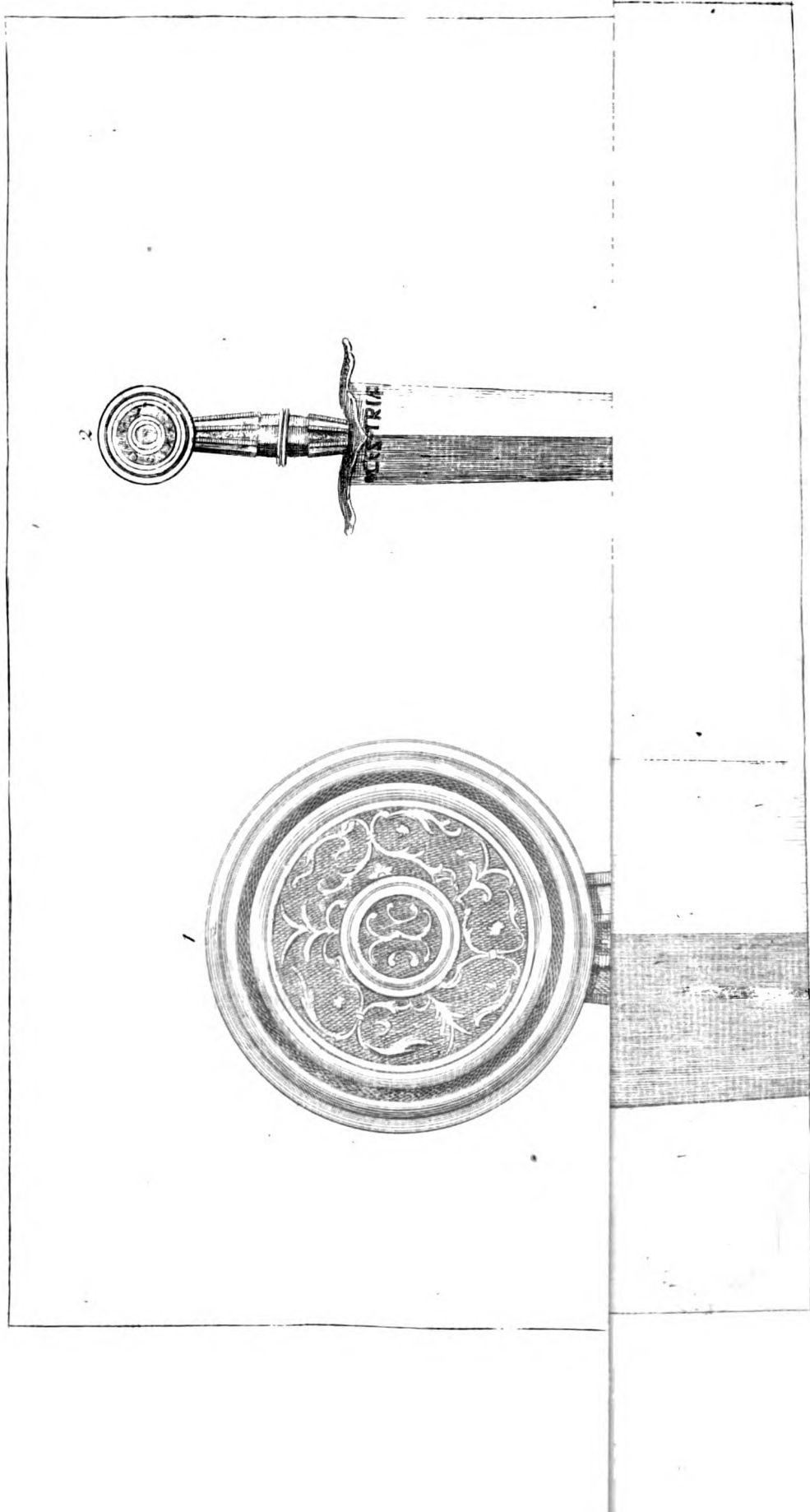
The ruins are represented, in our Engraving, as they appeared about a century ago.











*The SWORD of DIGNITY of  
the Earldom of Chester*

*2 Whole Length about 4 Feet.*

*1 Hilt & Guard*

## PLATE XVII.

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**THE SWORD OF DIGNITY,  
BELONGING TO THE FIRST NORMAN EARL.**

THIS famous Sword is still remaining in the British Museum. Its length is about four feet, "and so unwieldy," says Dr. Gower, "as to be brandished with difficulty by a very strong man with both his hands, the blade is two-edged, and has this inscription beneath the hilt, "*Hugo comes, Cestriæ.*" The hilt itself is decorated with pearls; the guard is wanting." In the annexed Engraving the guard is given detached. This sword, was indeed the sword of dignity, and had its dignified courts and offices. The Earl's Barons had their *free courts*, for all pleas except those pertaining to the dignity of the Earl's sword, and they had power of life and death; the last instance of this power, was exerted in the case of Hugh Stringer, who was tried for murder, in the Baron of Kinderton's court, and executed in 1579. In referring again to our plate, it may be remarked, the hilt and part of the blade of the sword are there presented in their full size.



A BRIEF REVIEW, OR GENERAL SUMMARY OF CHESHIRE  
ANTIQUITIES, PARTICULARLY AS TO THEIR PRESENT  
OR RECENT STATE, COMMENCING WITH  
**ROMAN ANTIQUITIES.**

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“THE walls of Chester rank amongst its principal antiquities, and are the only specimen of this species of ancient fortification in Britain remaining entire: they comprise a circuit of nearly two miles, and, in the narrowest parts, are sufficiently wide for two persons to walk abreast. Of the small towers, or turrets, erected within bow-shot of each other, only the Phoenix and Water towers exist.

In the neighbourhood of the castle were formerly numerous Roman antiquities, particularly at Nensfield, where remains of a tessellated pavement have been discovered. The esplanade, when cleared of the ancient parts of the castle, was given by government to the county, for the erection of the splendid public buildings which now ornament the site; but the right of establishing a fortification, whenever necessary, was reserved for the crown. The eastern wall is built over part of a Roman well; but a segment of the circle is left outside the esplanade, for the purpose of clearing it. In a cellar belonging to the Feathers hotel, is a Roman hypocaust, in a remarkably perfect state; and in a close at the southern end of the bridge, termed Edgar's field, the supposed site of Edgar's palace, and adjoining a cavity in a rock, is a stone figure of the goddess Pallas, a relic alluded to by ancient writers. Remains of Roman altars, with figures and inscriptions, have at different times been discovered; one in a cellar in Eastgate-street, dedicated by Telarius Longus, of the twentieth legion, to the emperors Dioclesian and Maximian; another inscribed to Jupiter the Thunderer, now preserved with

the Arundelian marbles at Oxford; another, in 1693, in Eastgate-street; one in 1779, in Watergate-street, now preserved in the grounds of Oulton Park; and, in 1821, one in a field in Great Boughton: the last was purchased by Lord Grosvenor, and is placed in a temple in the garden at Eaton Hall; it is of red sandstone, with bold mouldings, and has no ornament but the scroll which supports the thuribulum. Henry Potts, Esq., of this city, has in his possession the figure of a Retiarius, armed with his trident and net, *vide page 27*, and the principal portion of the shield of the Secutor, found in the market-place in 1738. Randle Higden, Roger of Chester, and Bradshaw, mention subterraneous passages under the city; one of these was discovered about the commencement of the present century, extending in a south-eastern direction from the ruins of the abbey, but it was soon closed up."

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### CASTLES.

"WITH respect to the Norman castles," observes Mr. Ormerod, "of the Earls of Chester and their followers, Chester castle exists as a modernized gaol, and Beeston as a venerable ruin: Shotwick may yet be traced in its earth-works: but nearly every vestige of Frodsham and Macclesfield castles are destroyed, the latter was situated near the Park Lanes. That of the Barony of Halton still exists in ruins; and those of Malpas Barony,—Malpas, Shocklach, and Old Castle, may be traced by outworks, as those of Dunham, and its dependent fort, the Castle Hill. In Ullesford may, or lately might have been, the last vestiges of Shipbrooke.\*

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\* The Lysons and Mr. Hanshall say, "there are no remains of the ancient seat of the Vernons of Shipbrooke. These Historians mention a Sir Ralph Vernon, who flourished in the 13th and 14th centuries, and lived to the age of 150 years. This instance of extreme



“NANTWICH † and STOCKPORT ‡ castles have been destroyed within memory. Kinderton yet retains its fosse, and the remains of the mound of a round tower; and the sites of two castles of the Baron of Montalt, Mold and Hawarden, are also identified, the first by earthworks, and the latter by considerable ruins. The castles of the Norman Lords of Aldford, Pulford, and Doddleston, near the Welsh frontier, may also be traced by strong earthworks.” Of the castle of Runcorn, erected by Ethelfleda, about 916, there are no remains whatever; its scite is marked by a triangular piece of land, opposite the gap which juts into the river, by which it was defended; it was cut off from the land by a ditch six yards in breadth. RUNCORN is a place of great antiquity and some eminence, but was formerly neglected: within the time of the editor of

Cheshire longevity is however surpassed by that of Thomas Damme, of Church Minshall, in the same vicinity, who died in 1648, at the age of 154. The parish registers of the county, if generally examined, would, no doubt, afford abundant proof of the power of the vital principle existing in Cheshire men:—that of Frodsham records two remarkable instances, viz. Thomas Hough, who died March 14th, 1592, aged 141 years, and Randle Wall, buried the following day, aged 103. Nantwich register, records the burial of John Archer, 1770, aged 105. These venerable patriarchs may not improperly be recorded as *Antiquities peculiar* to the county.

† Nantwich castle is said to have been built by William Malbedeng, or Malbanc, the latter end of the 11th century.

‡ That there was a castle at Stockport, and that it occupied the site still called “the Castle Yard,” is undoubted; but the period of its erection, and by whom, is not so certain. In 1173, it was possessed by Geoffrey de Constantine; it was afterwards the property of the Despencers, and, under them, it was held by the Stockports. Its ancient site, the yard of the Castle Inn, is so judiciously surrounded by a wall, as to represent a castellated fortress, and as the town is approached from Manchester, the erection has an imposing effect.

this volume, it contained only a few straggling dwellings ; there was, notwithstanding, a good provision store, kept by a respectable family of the name of Greenwood. RUNCORN is now a FREE PORT, a place of considerable trade, containing handsome hotels, inns, spacious shops, &c. and includes a population of 10326 inhabitants.

CASTLE NORTHWICH, so called, though eighteen miles from the town of that name, was situated at the point of junction of the Dane and Weaver, where the latter river was forded by the Watling-street. No vestiges of this fortress remain, except two mounds, the highest nearly circular, " and about," says Mr. Hanshall, 90 feet in diameter.

OF NEWHALL CASTLE, in the parish of Audlem, there are no vestiges and few particulars extant. A tower or castle once existed at THELWALL, about three miles from Warrington, in which King Edward I. had a garrison.

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### MONASTERIES, &c.

IN attempting an enumeration of RELIGIOUS EDIFICES and INSTITUTIONS, the editor will confine himself chiefly to " The Lyson's" valuable work :—" The Benedictine monks had a Cell in the Isle of Hilbree, and a Priory at Chester. The Cistercians, had an'Abbey at Vale-Royal; another at Combermere ; another at Stanlow, afterwards removed to Whalley, in Lancashire ; and a fourth at Poulton, afterwards removed to Deulacres, in Staffordshire ; the Austin canons had a Priory at Runcorn, afterwards removed to Norton ; and a small Priory at Mobberley ; the Præmonstratensian canons had a monastery at Warburton ; the Knights Hospitallers had a Preceptory at Barrow, and the black, grey, and white friars had houses at Chester. Mention is made in ancient writings of the monasteries of St. Michael's and St. Anne's in Chester ; we read of ancient monasteries existing in the Saxon times at Bromborough and Runcorn ; of these no particulars are known. At Chester was the ancient collegiate church of St.

John the Baptist, for a dean and prebendaries, or canons. There was a college at Bunbury for secular chaplains, founded by Sir Hugh Calveley; another at Macclesfield was intended by archbishop Savage. At Chester were the ancient hospitals of St. John, St. Giles, and St. Ursula; there were hospitals also at Bebbington, Boughton; Denwall, in Neston; Nantwich, Tarvin, and Wybunbury."

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OF ANCIENT STONE PILLARS AND CROSSES there are various remains.—Two very ancient Pillars, the Bow Stones, just without the borders of Lyme Park; they, in some degree, resemble the Pillar of Eleseg, near Vale Crucis Abbey, in Denbighshire. The most remarkable stone Cross, or Obelisk, in the county still stands in Sandbach market-place. The height was originally eighteen feet, and the top must have measured about three feet more; it is sculptured, and, from its rudeness, is supposed to have been erected soon after the first introduction of Christianity into the Island. The Cross at Lymm, is of late erection, probably on the site of one more ancient. In Great Bebbington churchyard, is the stump of an ancient Cross.

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### ANCIENT DOMESTIC BUILDINGS AND ARCHITECTURE.

MR. ORMEROD, among the chief specimens enumerates, Peel tower of Brunstath, a single remaining tower of Doddington castle, and the ruins of the Abbot of Chester's granges, at Saughton and Ince; the halls of Bramhall\* and

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\* Bramhall Hall, is the seat of the gallant Rear Admiral Sir Salusbury Price Humphreys, K. C. H. and C. B., who acquired the mansion and fine estates by marriage with a daughter of Wm. Devenport, Esq. The hall greatly resembles that of Pitchford, near Shrewsbury, the seat of the Earl of Liverpool. Moreton Hall, in the parish of Astbury, is probably the finest specimen in the county, if not in the whole Kingdom.

Moreton, are specimens of ancient timber buildings almost unrivalled; and to these may be added, those of Pool and Harden, as fine remains of stone-built mansions: and the great Hall of Baggulegh, is a noble specimen of an apartment which occurs only in a mutilated state in other Cheshire mansions.

THE gradual introduction of Italian Architecture, and its early grotesque decorations, may be traced, satisfactorily, in the halls of Brereton, Lyme, Tabley, Dorfield and Crewe.

“THE Ecclesiastical Architecture” of the county, says the same author,\* appears to the greatest advantage in the Collegiate church of St. John, which was the Norman Cathedral of the diocese of Chester and Lichfield; the present Cathedral, and the churches of Nantwich, Bunbury, and Astbury. Generally speaking, the parish churches are good specimens of the manner of the 15th and 16th centuries; and in a few instances, the fine circular arch yet occurs, with

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\* Continuing his valuable information, after Ecclesiastical Architecture, Mr. Ormerod, alludes to the dialect of the humbler inhabitants, observing, “the dialect of the lower orders would afford an interesting and extensive field for discussion, if the variations were perceived to be purely Cheshire, but this is by no means the case, it closely resembles that of the southern parts of Lancashire, excepting that it is marked towards the centre of Cheshire by a broader and harsher drawl, and has certainly fewer of original words of northern etymology.”

Of the Cheshire and Lancashire dialects, the editor of the present work can speak experimentally, having, from many years residence in each county, a practical knowledge of their respective peculiarities; the chief distinction in the dialects of the two counties which he has observed, are, viz. in the former county, Cheshire, the *Hou* in House is pronounced *Aye* very hard, as in the adverb *Aye*, being, *Aye-cc*. In Lancashire the same is pronounced *Heawse*, the *Hou* being pronounced *Heaw*. The same difference occurs in *Cow*, *Now*, *How*, &c. In the vicinity of Halton, *Cons* are called *Keigh*, or *Keye*, whereas they are *Keaws* in Lancashire: in pronouncing Calves, *Kawves*, they both agree; so in Head, *Yed*; Hand, *Hond*; Belly, *Bally*; Rightly, *Gratheley*; Aching,

the ornaments of the still popularly termed Saxon, but in most cases more properly Norman.”

*Wartching*; *Water*, *Weyter*; *Father*, *Feyther*, &c. &c. Their customs at Easter, Christmas, Marling-time, Wakes, &c. very nearly resemble each other, exhibiting much of the Saxon character, notwithstanding the great Norman influence, which for ages existed, especially in the county of Chester.

The following short dialogue between a farmer's servant maid, a native of Cheshire, and a young man, her fellow servant, but a native of Lancashire, will more particularly illustrate the distinction which exists, and also the very considerable distance each particular dialect appears to be from the present English language. But all these Provincialisms, and remains of Antiquity, are fast hastening to oblivion; education will eventually destroy the ancient distinctive character in the dialects and habits of the two counties. All who have seen, or known but little, of the lower orders in each, must have observed that a considerable degree of archness, or rustic wit is prevalent among the labouring classes in Cheshire and Lancashire, and also in all the adjoining counties: seldom is conversation continued without some joking, or quizzing, relative to courtship and marriage.

#### DIALOGUE.

*Servant Maid*.—Hey, hey, Dick, where arr e goink e sitch o hurry, wot cannot e stop a minnit. Aye, yone bin aye-t oth Haye-ce aw neet, cooarting Meg Midgley, I con see beh yor een.

*Servant Man*.—Neaw, I anno bin eawt oth Heawse afore neaw,—aum goink after the Keaws an Kawves, that an brocken into eawer messters kurn felt. Theaw may cut my yed off, if e ha put my hond on Pegg o Midgley, sin aw clipt thee.

*Servant Maid*.—That's lung sin—au seen o better mon than thee,—thaygh thinks Megg's feythur has Keigh an Kawves, so tha shannot tutch me ogen,—goo' after the Keigh.

#### TRANSLATION.

*Servant Maid*.—Ah, ah, Dick, where are you going in such a hurry, what, cannot



To the foregoing particulars relative to Cheshire Antiquities, various and interesting as they may appear, another will be added, which though not sustaining the character of the mouldering "gorgeous palace," the tottering "cloud capt tower," or the bending, waving spire of the "solemn temple," being far less elevated in Antiquarian dignity, than the crumbling remains of Roman, Saxon, and Norman days; yet is it an object of the proud admiration of "the worthiest minds."\* It was *erected* soon after the time of our glorious Elizabeth, by an *architect* of pure Cestrian origin, whose work perpetuates the name and dignity of "a Shire which has never been stained by the blot of rebellion," and now sustains the high the appropriate appellation of "England's Royal Vale."

Impressed with this view, the editor does not for a moment hesitate to introduce to his readers, a FRAGMENT, detached from that venerated *Literary Edifice*, "THE THEATRE OF THE EMPIRE OF GREAT BRITAIN," by JOHN SPEED, and that portion is

### The Countie Palatine of Chester.

you stop a minute. Yes, you have been out of the House all night, courting Margaret Midgley, I can see by your eyes.

*Servant Man.*—No, I have not been out of the House before now,—I am going after the Cows and Calves which have broken into my master's corn fields. You may cut my head off, if I have put my hand on Margaret Midgley, since I put my arms round you.

*Servant Maid.*—That is long since—I have seen a better man than you—and you think Margaret's father has *Cows* and *Calves*,—so you shall not touch me again,—go after the *Cattle*.

\* *Vide*, Sanderson's Address to Mr. John Speed, in the introduction to "The Theatre of the Empire."





**C**HESSE-SHIRE, by the Saxons written *Cester-scyre*, and now the County *Palatine of Chester*, is parted vpon the North from *Lanca-shire* with the Rieur *Mercey*, vpon the East by *Mercey*, *Goit*, and the *Dane*, is separated from *Darby* and *Stafford-shires*; vpon the South toucheth the Counties of *Shrop-shire* and *Flint*; and vpon the West with *Dee* is parted from *Denbighshire*.

(2) The forme of this Conntie doth much resemble the right wing of an *Eagle*, spreading it self from *Wirall*, and as it were with her pinion, or first feather, toucheth *Yorke-shire*, betwixt which extremes, in following the windings of the Shires diuider from East to West, are 47 miles: and from North to South, 26. The whole circumference about one hundred fortie two miles.

(3) If the affection to my naturall producer blind not the iudgment of this my suruey, for aire and soile it equals the best, and farre exceeds her neighbours the next Counties: for although the Climate be cold, and toucheth the degree of Latitude 54. yet the warmth from the *Irish Seas* melteth the Snow, and dissolueth the Ice sooner there then in those parts that are further off; and so wholesome for life, that the Inhabitants generally attaine to many yeares.

(4) The Soile is fat, fruitfull, and rich, yeelding abundantly both profit and pleasure of man. The Champion grounds make glad the hearts of their Tillers; the Medowes imbrodered with diuers sweet smelling flowers; and the Pastures makes the Kines vdders to stout to the paile, from whom and wherein the best *Cheese* of all *Europe* is made.

(5) The ancient Inhabitants were the CORNAVII, who with *Warwicke-shire*, *Worcester-shire*, *Stafford-shire*, and *Shrop-shire*, spread themselues further into this countie; as in *Ptolemie* is placed; and the CANGI likewise if they be the *Ceangi*, whose remembrance was found vpon the shore of this Shire, on

The borders of *Chesse-shire*.

The forme.

The Ayre and Climate.

The Soile.

The ancient Inhabitants. CORNAVII. CANGI.

the surface of certain pieces of Lead, in this manner inscribed ; IMP. DOMIT. AVG. GER. DE CEANG. These *Cangi* were subdued by *P. Ostorius Scapula*, immediately before his great victory against *Caractacus*, where in the mouth of *Deua* he built a \**Fortresse* at the back of the *Ordouices*, to restrain their power, which was great in those parts, in the raigne of *Vespasian* the Emperor. But after the departure of the *Romans*, this Prouince became a portion of the *Saxon Mercians* Kingdome; notwithstanding (saith *Ran. Higden*) the Citie it selfe was held by the *Britaines* vntill all fell into the Monarchy of *Egbert*.

Of the dispositions of the since Inhabitants, heare *Lucian* the *Monke*, (who liued presently after the Conquest) speake ; *They are found* (saith he) *to differ from the rest of the English, partly better, and partly equall. In feasting they are friendly, at meat chearfull, in entertainment liberall, soone angry, and soone pacified, lauish in words, impatient of seruitude, mercifull to the afflicted, compassionate to the poore, kinde to their kindred, spary of labour, void of dissimulation, not greedy in eating, and far from dangerous practises.*

And let mee adde thus much, which *Lucian* could not ; namely, that this Shire hath neuer beene stained with the blot of rebellion, but euer stood true to thier King and his Crowne : whose loyaltie *Richard* the second so farre found and esteemed, that he held his Person most safe among them, and by authority of Parliament made the County to be a *Principalitie*, and stiled himselfe *Prince of Chester*.

King *Henry* the third gaue it to his eldest sonne *Prince Edward*, against whom *Lewlyn* Prince of *Wales* gathered a mighty Band, and with them did the County much harme, euen vnto the Cities gates. With the like scarre-fires it had oft times beene affrighted, which they lastly defenced with a Wall made of the *Welsh-mens* heads, on the South-side of *Dee* in *Hanbridge*.

*Tacit. Annal.*  
li. 12. cap. 8.

\* *Chester.*

*Romans.*

*Saxons.*

*Annal. Britan.*

*Cheshire made*  
a *Principality.*

*Nic. Treuct.*

An. D. 1255

The Shire may well be said to be a *Seed plot of Gentilitie*, and the producer of many most ancient and worthy families: neither hath any brought more men of valour into the *Field*, then *Chesse-shire* hath done, who by a generall speech are to this day called *The chiefe of men*: and for *Natures endowments* (besides their noblenesse of mindes) may compare with any other Nation in the world: their limmes strait and well-composed, their complexions faire, with a chearfull countenance; and the Women for grace, feature, and beaunie, inferiour vnto none.

(6) The Commoditie of this Prouince (by the report of *Ranulphus the Monke of Chester*) are chiefly *Corne, Cattle, Fish, Fowle, Salt, Mines, Metals, Meares, and Riwers*, whereof the bankes of *Dee* in her West, and the *Vale-Royall* in her midst, for fruitfulnessse of pasturage equals any other in the Land, eyther in graine or gaine from the Cow.

(7) These, with all other prouision for life, are traded thorow thirteene Market-Townes in this Shire, whereof *Chester* is the fairest, from whom the Shire hath the name. A Citie raised from the Fort of *Ostorius*, Lieutenant of *Britaine*, for *Claudius* the Emperour, whither the twentieth Legion (named *Victrix*) were sent by *Galba* to restraine the *Britaines*: but growne themselues out of order, *Iulius Agricola*, was appointed their Generall by *Vespasian*, as appeareth by Monies then minted, and there found; and from them (no doubt) by the *Britaines* the place was called *Caer Legion*, by *Ptolemy*, *Deunana*; by *Antonine*, *Deua*; by the *Saxons*, *Legen-cesder*; and now by vs *West-chester*; but *Henry Bradshawe* will haue it built before *Brute*, by the Giant *Leon Gauer*, a man beyond the moone, and called by *Marius*, the vanquisher of the *Picts*.

Ouer *Deua* or *Dee* a faire stone-bridge leadeth, built vpon eight Arches, at eyther end whereof is a gate, from whence in a long Quadren-wise the wals doe incompassse the Citie, high and strongly built, with four faire Gates opening into the foure windes, besides three posternes, and seuen Watch-

The Gentility  
of Chesse-shire

Cheshire chiefe  
of men.

Chesheshire wo-  
men very faire

Ranulph. Cest.  
lib. 1. cap. 48.

An. D. 70.

Hen. Bradshaw

Chester descri-  
bed

Towers, extending in compasse one thousand nine hundred and fortie paces.

On the South of this Citie is mounted a strong and stately Castle, round in forme, and the base Courts likewise inclosed with a circular wall. In the North is the Minster, first built by Earle *Leofrike* to the honour of *S. Werburga* the Virgin, and after most sumptuously repaired by *Hugh* the first Earle of *Chester* of the *Normans*, now the Cathedrall of the Bishops See. Therein lyeth interred (as report doth relate) the body of *Henry* the fourth, Emperour of *Almane*, who leauing his Imperiall Estate, lead lastly therein an *Hermites* life.

The Minster built.

*Henry* the 4. Emperour of *Almane*, buryed in *S. Werburgs*.

This Citie hath formerly beene sore defaced; first by *Egfrid* King of *Northumbreland*, where he slew twelue hundred Christian Monkes, resorted thither from *Bangor* to pray. Againe by the *Danes* it was sore defaced, when their destroying feete had trampled downe the beauty of the Land. But was againe rebuilt by *Edelfleada* the *Mercian Lady*, who in this Countie, and Forrest of *Delamer*, built *Eadesburg* and *Finborow*, two fine Cities, nothing of them now remaining besides the *Chamber* in the *Forrest*.

*Eadesburg*.

*Finborow*.

*Chester* in the daies of King *Edgar* was in a most flourishing estate, wherein he had the homage of eight other Kings, who rowed his *Barge* from *S. Johns* to his Palace, himselfe holding the Helme, as their supreme.

*Eadgars* triumph.  
*Martianus* Scotus.

This Citie was made a County incorporate of it selfe by King *Henry* the Seaunth, and is yeerely gouerned by a *Maoir*, with Sword and Mace borne before him in State, two *Sheriffes*, twenty-foure *Aldermen*, a *Recorder*, a *Towne Clerke*, and a *Sergeant of Peace*, four *Sergeants*, and sixe *Yeomen*.

*Ioh. Fiki*  
*Wil. Malmes.*  
*Ran. Higden.*  
*Roger Houen.*  
*Alfiil Benerid.*  
*Flores Hist.*

It hath beene accounted the Key into *Ireland*, and great pitie it is that the Port should decay as it daily doth, the Sea being stopped to scoure the Riuer by a Causey that thwarteth *Dee* at her Bridge. Within the Wals of this Citie are eight Parish Churches, *S. Johns* the greater and lesser: in the *Suburbs* are the *White Fryars*, *Black Fryars*, and *Nunnery* now suppressed.

The Causey.

From which Citie the Pole is eluated vnto the degree 53. 58. minutes of Latitude, and from the first point of the West in Longitude vnto the 17. degree and 18 minutes.

(8) The Earledome whereof was possessed from the *Conquerour*, till it fell lastly to the *Crowne*, the last of whom (though not with the least hopes) is Prince *Henry*, who to the Titles of *Prince of Wales*, and *Duke of Cornwall*, hath by Succession and right of Inheritance, the *Earledome of Chester* annexed to his other most happie Stiles: Vpon whose Person I pray that the Angels of *Jacobs* God may euer attend, to his great glory, and *Great Britaines* happinesse.

The Earles.

(9) If I should vrge credit vnto the report of certaine Trees floating in *Bagmere* onely against the deaths of the Heyres of the *Breretons* thereby seated, and after to sinke vntill the next like occasion: or inforce for truth the Prophecie which *Leland* in a Poeticall fury fore spake of *Beeston Castle*, highly mounted vpon a steepe hill: I should forget myself and wonted opinion, that can hardly beleue any such vaine predictions, though they be told from the mouthes of credit, as *Bagmere Trees* are, or learned *Leyland* for *Beeston*, who thus writeth:

*The day will come when it againe shall mount his head aloft,*

*If I a Prophet may be heard from Seers that say so oft.*

With eight other *Castles* this Shire hath been strengthened, which were *Ould Castle*, *Shoclach*, *Shotwitch*, *Chester*, *Poulefourd*, *Dunham*, *Frodesham*, and *Haulten*: and by the prayers (as then was taught) of eight religious houses therein seated, preserued; which by King *Henry* the eight were suppressed: namely *Stanlowe*, *Ilbree*, *Maxfeld*, *Norton*, *Bunbury*, *Combermere*, *Rud-heath*, and *Vale Royall*, besides the *White* and *Black Fryers*, and the *Nunnery* in *Chester*.

This Counties diuision is into seuen Hundreds, wherein are seated thirteene Market-Townes, eightie six Parish Churches, and thirtie eight Chappels of ease.



## MEMOIR OF



*Fac-simile of his hand-writing.*

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JOHN SPEED, and as he has often been denominated, "the Elucidator of the Biography and History of Great Britain," was born in 1552, the year following that of the learned Camden, whom he survived only four years.

The lovely rural village of Farndon on the Dee, of which particulars will be given hereafter, was the birth scene of our venerated Cheshire Historian. With the occupation or degree of his parents, probably humble, the education he received, or whether he learned any part, or the whole of his trade as a tailor, and practised it in the place of his Nativity, before he engaged himself as an apprentice to some master tailor in the Metropolis, whereby he obtained the Freedom of the Company of Merchant Tailors, no publication, the present writer has had an opportunity of consulting, has supplied him with data. The small endowed school now existing in Farndon, was not erected of a year subsequent to the demise of the Historian. In whatever way Mr. Speed obtained the first rudiments of his learning, it appears, that while industriously engaged in his business in London, he was diligently attentive to the acquirement of knowledge; which was in him the more meritorious and distinguished, as the Nation was then but just immerging from the darkness of a long night of contention, disorder, and ignorance.

Had John Speed been well educated, and his great native talents fully expanded, he would, most probably, have been far more eminent as a scholar, than

were two of his great patrons, Sir Fulke Greville and Sir Robert Cotton: and he might have been quite equal to Sir Henry Spelman, or even Camden himself.

By the generous assistance of Sir Fulke Greville, John Speed was enabled to withdraw from the drudgery of business, and devote himself to his favourite pursuit, the study of History. This great and munificent patron of learning, had the discernment to discover, and the generosity to encourage talent and genius, however humble in rank, or obscure in birth.

Of our Historian's patron, a few particulars may be related without greatly injuring the thread of our memoir:—Sir Fulke was afterwards Lord Brooke, and stood high in the court of his Sovereign, King James I. He was a statesman, a scholar, and an author; he wrote several works, among which are, A Treatise of Human Learning, in verse; two Tragedies; Alaham and Mustapha; The Life of Sir Philip Sydney: and An Inquisition upon Fame and Honour, in eighty-six stanzas. The fate of this great promoter of Literature, impresses the mind with the deepest regret: neglecting to reward one Hayward, who had spent the greatest part of his life in his service, the latter expostulating with his Lordship, rather impertinently, was thereupon sharply rebuked, this prompted him to revenge, and being alone with him in his bed-chamber, at Brook-house, in Holborn, he gave his Lordship a mortal stab in the back, of which he died September 1628, aged seventy four. The assassin immediately withdrew into another room and stabbed himself. This great man was buried in St. Mary's church, Warwick, and over his remains was placed a beautiful monument of black and white marble. This melancholy catastrophe only happened ten months prior to the death of Mr. Speed; about the same period, or a month later, the Historian lost his wife, Susanna, with whom he had spent fifty seven years of his life, and had by her twelve sons and six daughters. The afflicted husband died July 28th, 1629, and was buried in St. Giles church, Cripplegate, where a monument was erected to his memory, on which was inscribed:—

*“ Civis Londinensis mercatorum scissorum, fratris servi fidelissimi regiarum majestatum Elizabethæ, Jacobi, et Caroli tunc superstitis.”*

Of Mr. Speed's high and valuable attainments as an Historian, numerous were the testimonies of his cotemporaries, several of which he was induced to publish in the introduction to the work from which the preceding description of Cheshire, has been extracted. As an author he very modestly informs his readers, that "applying himself wholly to the frame of this most goodly building, he only as a poor labourer, carried the carved stones and polished pillars from the hands of more skilful architects, to be set in their fit places." To effect his purpose, it appears, he "travelled through every Province in England and Wales:"—how much superior then must be the information of such a writer, compared with that of one of his cotemporaries, a much esteemed author, the Rev. William Harrison, who published "The Description of Britaine, in 1587, and informs his readers, that excepting to the Universities, he "never travelled forty miles foorth right in one journey, in all his life;" we may repeat, how much more estimable must be the labours of John Speed, and how great the value of his information even at the present day.

Mr. Speed published his "Theatre of the Empire of Great Britain," in 1606; accompanied with the first set of Maps ever published in England. It has been remarked, "that they make a most noble apparatus, as they were designed, to his History," comprising Maps of all the counties, the ichnography of the principal towns, with brief descriptions. For a considerable portion of his information, he was, undoubtedly, indebted to William Camden; but John Speed, in his work, embraced a wider Historical and Geographical field than his more *erudite* fellow labourer.

In the year 1644, appeared Mr. Speed's "History of Great Britain;" it is chiefly a compilation from preceding authors and manuscript records, as all Histories of a similar nature must ever be, comprising all the events in British History, from the Invasion of Julius Cæsar to the Reign of King James I., which though rude in style, contained more valuable matter, and is better arranged, than any of the Chronicles of his predecessors. This was the first History of England,

or indeed Historical work of any kind, ever read by the individual who now pens these lines; and to which circumstance he may probably have received some portion of that veneration, for the name, works, and character of the Cheshire Historian, he now professes and publishes to the world.

Mr. Speed, it is said, was the first English writer who, slighting Geoffrey's tales, fell upon more solid matter. In this work he was assisted by one of the brightest ornaments of that period, Sir Robert Cotton, who revised and corrected the whole.—Dr. Johnson says “the name of this Sir Robert Cotton, must always be mentioned with honour.” He greatly assisted Camden in his *Magna Britannia*, and was himself a distinguished writer; but is most famous for a valuable collection of manuscripts, now in the British Museum, which still bears his name. Sir Robert only survived Mr. Speed about two years, dying in 1631. The illustrious Sir Henry Spelman contributed to Mr. Speed's work, the description of the county of Norfolk. Our Historian's character, talents, industry, and perseverance had raised him friends among the most distinguished individuals in the Kingdom for learning and transcendant abilities. Sir Henry Spelman lived to see his eightieth year, and died in London 1641, being the last of five Antiquarian luminaries, cotemporary with each other.

Mr. Speed was not only distinguished as a writer on History, but, as a divine, he composed an elaborate work, entitled “*The Cloud of Witnesses; or the Genealogies of Scripture confirming the truth of the Sacred History, &c.*” He was a man of genuine enlightened piety, and made his talents and his studies subservient to the cause of virtue and true religion: he concludes his preface to the “*Theatre of the Empire of Great Britain,*” in the very emphatic and appropriate language of Holy Writ.

I CHRON. 28 c. 8 v.

Now therefore in the sight of all Israel the congregation of the Lord, and in the audience of our God, keep and seek for all the commandments of the Lord your God: that ye may possess this good land, and leave *it* for an inheritance for your children after you for ever.

**FARNDON,***THE BIRTH PLACE OF MR. SPEED,*

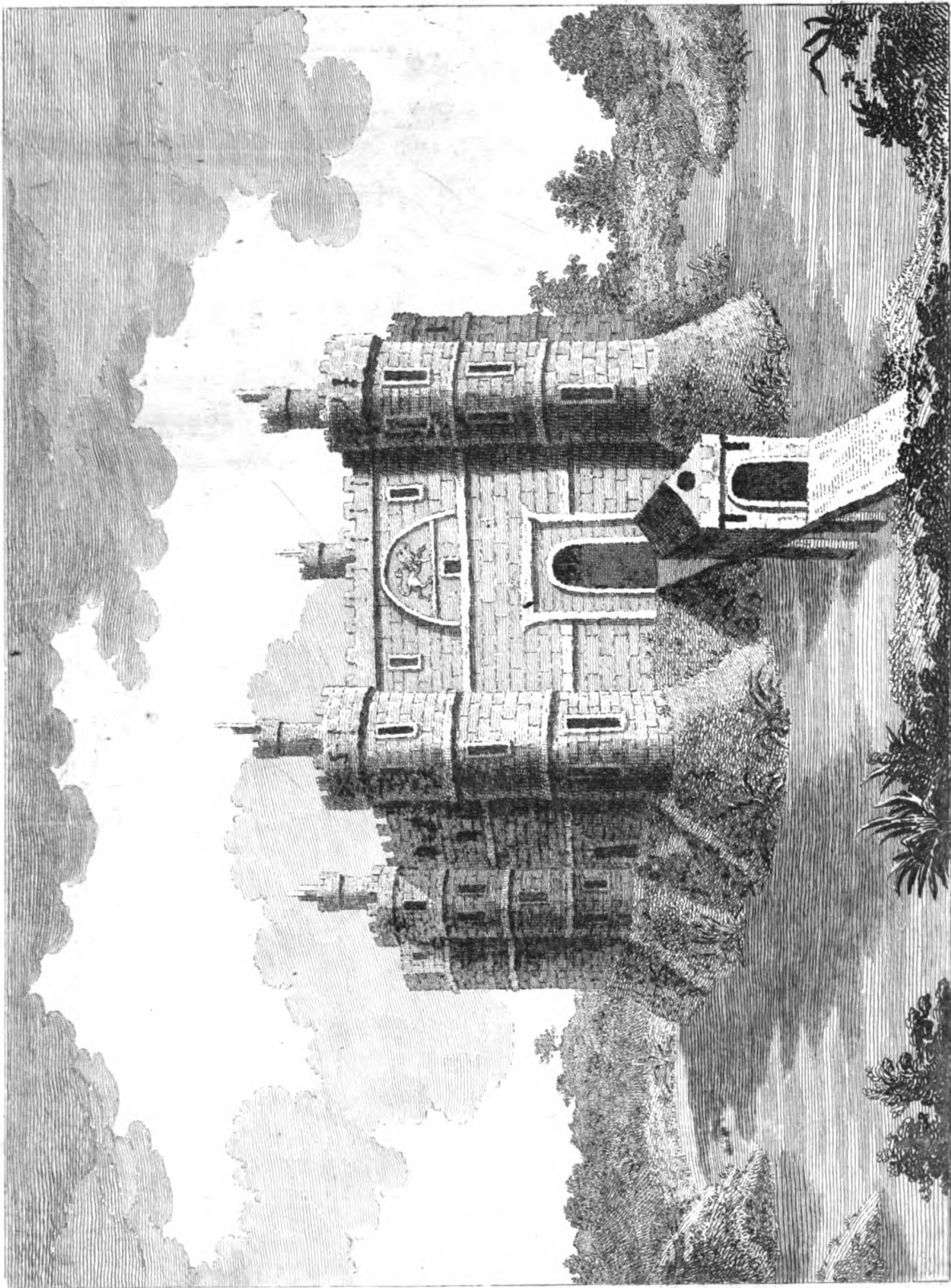
IS a Parish in the higher Division of the Hundred of Broxton, eight miles and three-quarters south of Chester, and contains 857 inhabitants.—The church is dedicated to St. Chad; the living is a perpetual curacy, in the gift of the Marquess of Westminster, value £115 per annum. It appears there was a church at Farndon before the Conquest. The present edifice stands on a red sand-stone rock, and is described, by Webb, about two centuries ago, as being a “fair new building.” In the civil wars Farndon suffered greatly, the church was made a garrison, burnt and much injured by the Parliamentary forces. In 1658, it was repaired, and the window in the Barnston chancel ornamented with stained glass, as it remains at the present time. The Architecture of the church is chiefly of the pointed gothic. In the interior are many interesting monuments, well meriting the inspection of the visitor and antiquary.

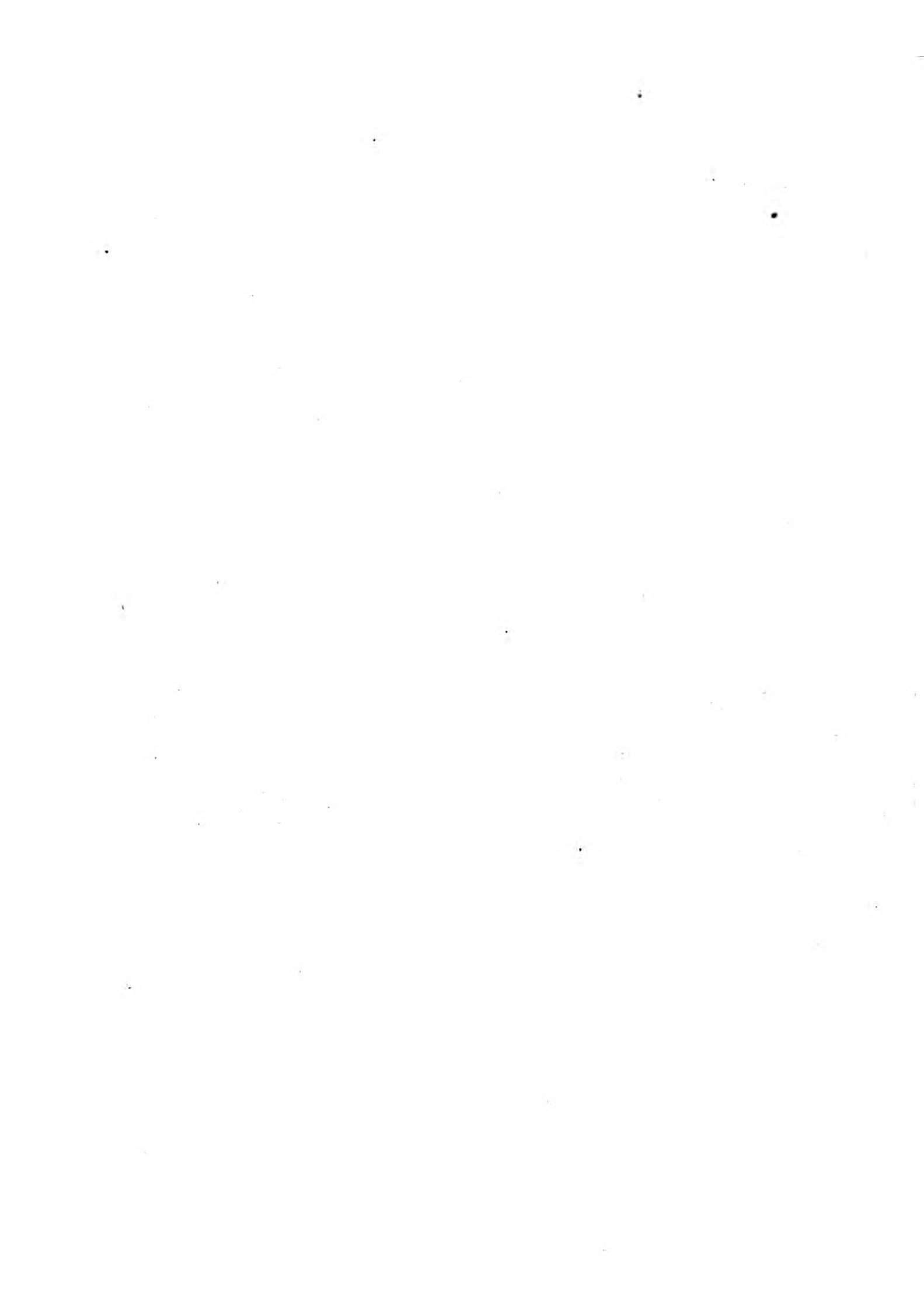
A venerable bridge,\* of ten arches, built in 1345, connects FARNDON with

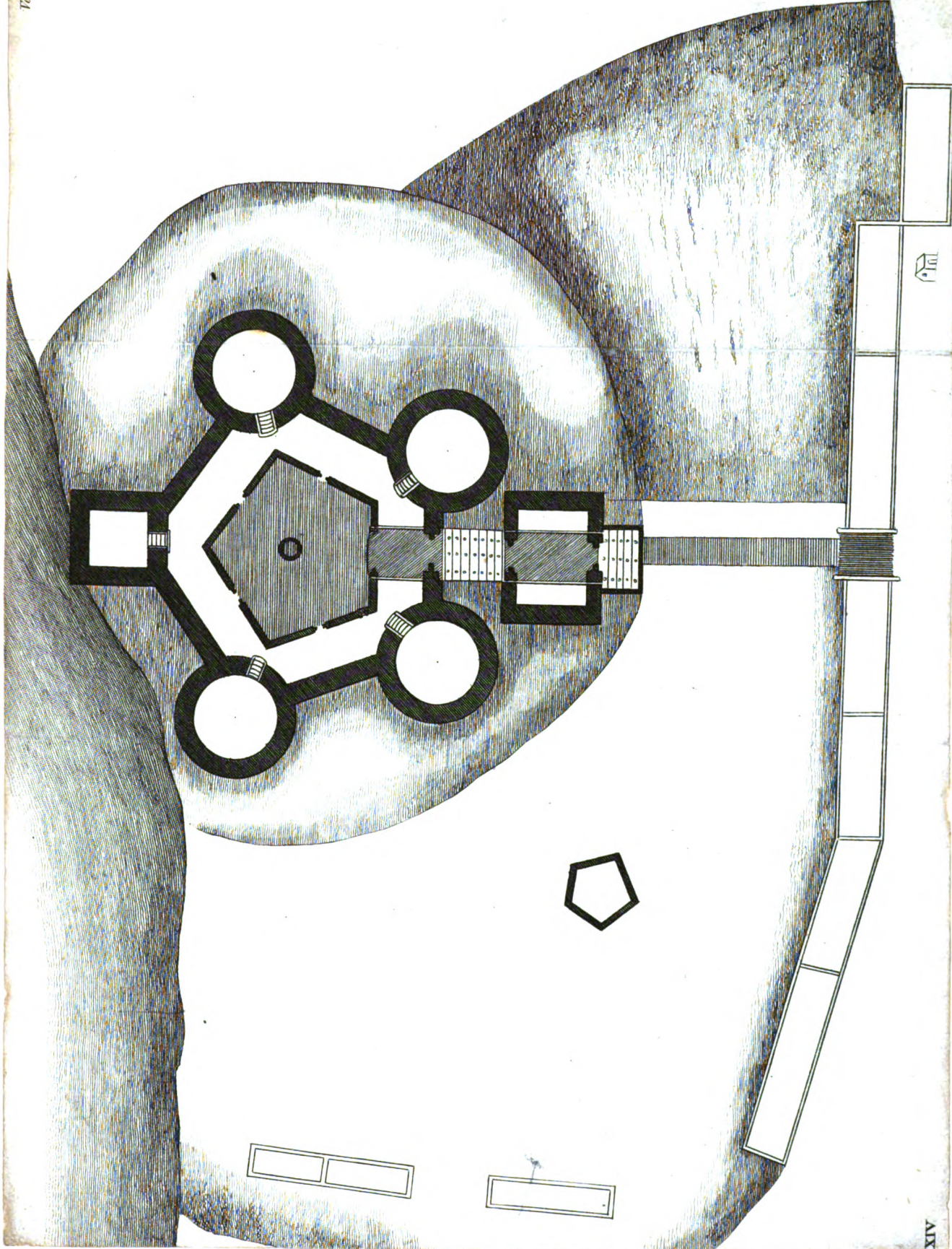
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\* There is a tragical tradition relative to this bridge:—“Edward I. on the death of Madoc lord of Dinas Bran, appointed the guardians to his two sons: Of the one, who was to have had for his share the lordship of Bromfield and Yale, the castle of Dinas Bran, and the reversion of Maelor Saesneg, after the death of his mother Emma, daughter of James Lord Audley, to John Earl Warren; and of the other, who was to have possessed the lordships of Chirk and Nanheudwy, to Roger Mortimer, son of Lord Mortimer, of Wigmore.—These lords soon conspired to free themselves from their charge, and possess themselves of their estates: and accordingly caused the poor children to be drowned under Holt bridge. This I discovered in a manuscript, communicated to me by the Rev. John Price, keeper of the Bodleian library. Before that, the manner of their deaths was current in the country, under the fable of two young fairies, who had been destroyed in that manner, and in the same place; but the foundation of the tale was, till very lately, totally lost.”—*Pennant's Tours in Wales.*













the borough of HOLT, in the county of Denbigh; a place eminent as being anciently an out-post to the Roman station *Deva*, and the castle or fortress erected here, according to some antiquaries, was, in consequence, called *Castra Legionis*, or the Castle of the Legions; synonymous with the Welsh name of *Castell Leon*, which was afterwards changed to the Castle of Lions. This castle was begun to be erected in the reign of Edward I., by John Earl Warren.—In the reign of Richard II. it was the property of the Crown, and, it is said, that unfortunate Monarch, placed there all his treasure, jewels, &c. to a very great amount, which, in 1399, fell into the hands of his cruel deposer, Henry of Bolingbroke.

During the civil war in the reign of Charles I., this castle was an important fortress, and was alternately in the possession of each of the contending parties. In 1643, it was besieged and taken for the Parliament, by Sir William Brereton and Sir Thomas Myddelton; but was shortly after retaken by the royalists, and valiantly defended by Sir Richard Lloyd, of Esclusham, near Wrexham, in 1646, against the parliamentary forces under Major-General Mytton, to whom, after an obstinate resistance, it was finally surrendered upon honourable terms, and was immediately demolished by order of the Parliament.

HOLT CASTLE as represented in the accompanying View and Plan, was a strong pentagonal fortress, occupying the summit of a rock, environed on three sides by a broad moat, excavated in quarrying stone for its erection, and on the fourth by the river Dee: it was defended at four of the angles by massive circular bastions, from which issued slender embattled turrets, and at the fifth angle and also at the entrance by square towers, of which the former was the "donjon," or keep, while the approach to the latter was defended by a drawbridge and portcullis. Of this once strong and important fortress there are no remains, except slight vestiges of the moat. Coins of Antoninus and other Roman emperors have been found here; and slight traces of earthworks, supposed to be of Roman construction, are yet visible near the castle, and on the opposite side of the river.



IN publishing a work professing to treat on Cheshire Antiquities exclusively, the introduction of one situate within the County of Denbigh, may have the appearance of irregularity, the proximity of that county to Cheshire, and the near connexion of Farndon with Holt, must be the editor's justification in the present instance, and also for subjoining the following brief account of the latter ancient town.—“This borough,” says the Rev. Mr. Evans, “is associated in the elective franchise with Ruthin and Denbigh;” the Reform bill has added to the association the flourishing and populous town of Wrexham.—Holt was incorporated as a borough town, under a charter granted by Thomas, earl of Arundel, with royal sanction, dated from his castle of *Lions*, A. D. 1410. But the grant was partial, and like many others, made at the same period, exclusively cruel. “To the burgesses of our town, and to their heirs, and successors, being *Englishmen*.” By virtue of this grant, Holt has the privilege of a corporation, being governed by a mayor, two bailiffs, coroner, &c. In the time of Leland it appears to have passed the acme of its consequence. “*The Holt* is a praty riche Walsche toun, governid by a maire, having ons a yere a fair; but surely no celebrate market. Yn it is a praty church, and a goodly castle.” The market has long been discontinued, and the dismantling of its castle, reduced this town to its present state, a humble, but interesting Welsh village.



THE END.









