

CHAPTER VI.

Ecclesiastical History.—The Parish Church.



AT the time of the Domesday Survey it is not improbable that on the site of the present church, which was not far from the ruins of the castle of the Anglo-Saxon thane, there stood a Saxon church, or it may be only the ruins of one. No evidence however can be brought to prove that such was the case; but the presumption is very strongly supported by the fact that the church of Rochdale was dedicated to St. Chad, an Anglo-Saxon Bishop of Lichfield in 673. One of the oldest churches in Lancashire, Poulton-le-Fylde, had a similar dedication. It is also well-known that one of the requisites which entitled a commoner to be made a thane was the possession of five hides of land and a church.¹ During the extensive alterations of the church in 1816 several fragments of masonry were discovered which had undoubtedly formed portions of a very early Norman structure; amongst these were a zig-zag moulding of an arch and the stones forming a single Roman light less than six inches in diameter, and widening inwards; on the north side of the nave and choir was found an almost shapeless stone (but approaching to a circular form) with an excavation eleven inches in diameter and about eight inches deep, with rivets on the outside to fasten some metallic lining; this Dr. Whitaker (who saw it) believed to have been the original font;² in the Trinity chapel was exhumed a small lachrymatory, which would point to a still greater antiquity.³

Roger de Lascy, on 2nd February, 1194, succeeded to the Honor of Pontefract, and he then found Geoffrey the dean of Whalley holding the

¹ Early England and the Saxon English, W. Barnes, 1869; and Turner's Hist. of the Anglo-Saxons, 1805.

² Whitaker's Whalley, 3rd Edition, li., 411.

³ Raines' MSS., i., 23. The lachrymatory was given in 1827 by the parish clerk to the Rev. George Dodds, then curate.

church of "Rachedham" for his life; how long he had thus held it is unknown, but very shortly afterwards, Roger de Lascy granted the reversion of it to the Blessed Mary and the abbot and monks of Stanlawe, for the salvation of his soul and for the souls of his wife and his father and mother and all his ancestors.¹ Roger de Lascy died 1st October, 1211, and the grant of the advowson to Stanlawe was confirmed by his son, and it was further confirmed by a Papal Bull of Honorius III, dated at the Lateran, 6th Kalends of July, the second year of his pontificate [26th June, 1217]. In this Bull the monks were authorized to enter upon the revenues of the church and devote themselves to relieving their own poverty, to hospitality and other good purposes, saving always a proper provision for the minister there.²

The confirmation, which was made about the same time as the papal one, by William de Cornhull (Bishop of Coventry) set forth more clearly that the monks were to set aside five marks per annum and four bovates of arable land³ for the glebe and a residence for the vicar, who was to discharge all episcopal claims and archidiaconal fees and dues. The grant of the church and its appurtenances to Stanlawe, the bishop confirmed on account of the poverty of the monastery and to strengthen the cause of religion; at the same time he stipulated that whoever should be appointed as vicar by the monks should be presented by himself or his successors.⁴

Another confirmation was made by the prior and convent of Coventry which was dated in the octaves of St. Peter and St. Paul the apostles [6th July], 1222.⁵

Between 1224 and 1238 [see Chap. XII.] the monks became the owners of both the vicarage and the rectory and thus entitled to the great tithes in the parish.

Towards the end of the century a claim was set up by John de Lascy of Cromwelbotham and John de Eland to the patronage of the church [see p. 19] and was heard at the Lancaster assizes, 15th July, 1292, when they pleaded that Rochdale was neither a borough nor a town [*nec burgus nec villa*] and the church was called the church of Castleton-in-Rochdale and not the church of Rochdale.⁶ The case was removed to Westminster and came on for hearing 16th January,

¹ Coucher Book of Whalley, p. 135.

² Do., pp. 138, 168.

³ Probably the four bovates referred to on p. 65.

⁴ Do. " " 139.

⁵ Do., " 140.

⁶ Ass. Lanc., 20 Edw. I., M. 31, in dorso.

1293, when the abbot called upon Henry the earl of Lincoln (then lord of the manor) to warrant his title against John de Lascy. The result of this trial is not to be found amongst the Duchy Records, but by a fine, made at Westminster 5th June, 1295, John de Lascy acknowledged that the advowson of the church of Castleton in Rochdale belonged to the abbot, who gave him £20 for the fine;¹ at the same time John de Eland also relinquished his right, or supposed right to the advowson.² The patronage of the church now remained in the hands of the monks until the dissolution.

Adam de Spotland about the end of the twelfth century,³ for the love of God and the salvation of his soul and the souls of his wife and of his ancestors and successors, gave to God and all the saints, and to Saint Cedde and the church of Rachedam, three acres of land at Watlondewod and two acres at Donyngbothe and an acre at Chaddewyk, with common of pasture pertaining to the vil of Spotland; this was witnessed by Hugh de Eland, Henry de Eland, Henry de Werdull, Hugh de Werdull, Stephen his brother, Martin de Wolstoneholm, Robert his brother, Andrew de Wolstoneholm, Henry his brother, and many others.⁴ This land was granted by Robert "persona de Rachedham" to Alexander de Spotland for the payment of an annual rent of eightpence at the feast of St. Cedde. In the time of William de Dumlington, who was vicar about the year 1238, John the son of Adam de Spotland surrendered any right which he might have to these lands to the abbot for the consideration of six marks of silver; in this quit-claim the land in Chadwick is called "Ireforde."⁵ The same vicar was a witness to the charter whereby Robert de Stapylton confirmed to the mother church of Rachdale the tithes of "Sadelword" [Saddleworth] which had been granted by his father forty years before.⁶

In the thirteenth century a large number of grants of land [see Township History] were made to Stanlawe, and in not a few of these the church of "St. Cedde de Rach" was mentioned. Amongst them are the following: Nicholas the son of Roger de Berdeshull gave to God, St. Mary and the church of Saint Cedde de Rach, an acre of land in Butterword, situate on the crofts near the house of Roger the son

¹ Feet of Fines, Lanc., 23 Edw. I., No. 71.

² Coucher Book of Whalley, p. 141.

³ As no mention is made of Stanlawe in the charter it must have been executed before Roger de Lascy's grant.

⁴ Coucher Book, p. 727.

⁵ Coucher Book, p. 731.

⁶ Coucher Book, p. 146.

of Richard de Butterword, which land his father had purchased from the Hospitallers of Jerusalem; this was subject to an annual rental of six silver pieces; Gilbert de Barton conveyed to the church of Rachdale his lands in the western part of Hasponwalsiche, near the land of Baldwin de Thyas, and with free exit on to the lands of William the vicar, together with common of pasture in Cromton.¹

In the present building there are yet a few details which, in the opinion of an eminent ecclesiastical architect, belong to this period, such as the most easternly respond² on the south side of the chancel, the respond on the south side of the tower and the tower arch in the nave.

The grant of the church of Rochdale to Stanlawe was confirmed by a Papal Bull of Pope Innocent IV. [1243-54] and by three other Bulls of Alexander IV., the first of which was dated on the 4th of the Nones of August, 1255, and the other two on the 2nd and 7th of the Ides of January, 1258, respectively.³

Roger de Meuland, bishop of Coventry ~~and~~ Lichfield, by a brief dated at Heywood on the 14th of the Kalends of May, 1277, ordered that in future the endowment of the church of Rachdale should be four bovates of land and eighteen marks, together with a fitting manse or vicarage; the eighteen marks were to be paid by the abbot and convent. The vicars were personally to perform the duties of their office unless prevented by some legitimate cause; they were also to see that mass was duly said by fit priests in the chapels of the said church, and they were to pay all archidiaconal dues; this brief was confirmed in the same year by the prior and convent of Coventry and the dean and chapter of Lichfield, and in July, 1280, was further confirmed by the archbishop of Canterbury.⁴ According to the *taxatio ecclesiastica* of Pope Nicolas, taken in 1291, the abbots received in rents from Rochdale three pounds a year, with six shillings and eightpence for pasture, &c., in Brendwode; the tithes were valued at two pounds six shillings and eightpence.

During the fourteenth century there is little to record about the parish church, except that its vicars were regularly appointed in succession, a few charters were executed within its walls, and here in

¹ Coucher Book of Whalley, p. 624.

² During recent alterations this has been slightly altered.

³ Do., „ pp. 169, 174.

⁴ Coucher Book, p. 851.

1330 Roger Northburgh, bishop of Lichfield and Coventry, held an ordination.¹ The abbots of Stanlawe (now removed to Whalley) had by this time become possessed of large estates in Rochdale, but no doubt the feeling which pervaded the county at the close of the fourteenth century had its effect here in arresting the rapid conveyance of lands to the religious house. The English had begun to resent the interference of the Pope of Rome and many statutes were passed to prevent ecclesiastics sending money beyond the seas as tributes to their religious superiors. This was fortunate for Rochdale as otherwise the house of Whalley might soon have had possession of the greater part of its soil.

The following curious case illustrates the feeling at this time as to priority of places in the church, which it is noticeable are not referred to as places to sit in but to kneel at. It appears that "trespasses and debates" had arisen between Edmund Howarth of Howarth and his wife and Margaret, wife of James Collynge, which they mutually agreed to refer to John Byron, Esq., and for this purpose all the parties were "sworn upon the holy evangelists to obey, abide, perform and fulfil the awarde, ordinance and dome" of the arbitrator, who, having investigated the merits of the case, gave his decision as follows :

"I awarde the said Margaret to knele at such fforme and place in the church of Rachedale as I the said John have lymitt^d and merkyt for the said Margret, and I also awarde the sayd Issabel peacibly to suffer the said Margret to have fre entr' and asselle to the same place and service to come and goo at the will of the s^d Margret wt'out int'uption or lettyng of the said Issabell or any p'son by her m'king 'pairing or assent. Provided always that yf the said Mergret be wedded, or diseasse, that then this myne awarde be voide, and that the said Mergret nor non other p'son by her ryght or tytle claym noo ryght at the said forme and place by any colour of this myne awarde."

This was dated 16th January, 12 Edward IV. [1473].² From this it is clear that at this time some part of the church was furnished with formes or benches.

In 1477, Geoffrey Buckley [see Chap. XVIII.], Rector of the Church of St. Albans, Wood Street, London, by will dated 28th June in that year, left forty shillings to the church of Rochdale. Considerable structural alterations were probably made in the church about this time, and possibly its perpendicular features may have now been introduced, but of this

¹ Reg. Northburgh, Lichfield.

² Haworth Deeds.—Raines' MSS., xi., 44.

there is no positive evidence. It is, however, certain that in 1487 was founded the Trinity Chapel at the east end of the south aisle. The following is a copy of the foundation deed:

This Indentor maid the xxiiii day of Septembre in the yeare of our lorde a thousand cccc l xxx vii., and the yeare of the Reigne of Kyng Henry the VII., after the Conquest of England, the iiird. Berys wittnes that y^r y^s a Brotherhode maide and ord^{nyd} in the worshipp of Glorious Trinite in the church of Rachedale by Doctor Adam Marland, Syr Randull Bott^{worth}, Syr James Myddelton, Confondators of the said Brotherhode and fraternitie, to laist perpetuallie in the said Church of Rachedale. We wyll that the (said) Syr James be the said Trynyte Prest duryng his lyf, or who he putteth in to occupy by him and rulars of the goods, and we will that the said Preste who that ever he be during hys tyme daylye off^r his masse, or after^{da} at the ault^r say a commemoracion of the Glorius Trynyte, alsoe dayly in his masse saye a Collec, a Service,¹ with the post-coms for the fondators with all the Brethrene and Susters h^{rof} and all that they were bondon to pray for qwkike and deid. Alsoe ev^y weke ons [once] to say *Placebo* and *Dirige* with ix. lect^s and the commendac^{on}, alsoe evry Friday to say in the worshipp of the blessed wondes that o^r Lorde J^{hu} Christ sufferyd fo^r us, xv. pⁿr^s, xv. aves and one crede, alsoe every Satturdaye in worshipp of our Ladye qwhene of mercy to say qu^v and psanytor [P^r quinqueaves and paternoster]. Als as sone as the said Prest haith knowledge that any of the cofondat^{ors} is dep^{ted} owten of this worlde, they do begyn and say ye Tryntale of Saynt Gregore, continuynng ons yeare so that for ychet fondator he say on Trentall, and for the benefactors also every quarter, ons he say *Placebo* and *Dirige* with ix. lec. and the commendac^{on} with masse of Req^{um}, on the mornynng of the confondators and benefactors, and also that they whe^r bonde to pray for inespéciall with all oth^r soules in Purgatory in generall, also twyse in the weke the said Prest shall pray for the confondators of the said ffraternitie, wth all the brethren and susters, when he goeth to the lavatory, standyng at the ault^r ende with *de profundis*. Also the said Randull Dysyrith [P^r Bott^{worth}] that his father and his mother, Bernarde and Agnes, his broth^r Alexand^r, his wife Margaret, wth all the brethern and susters of the said Syr Randull, wth all oth^r good friends, wth the noble Prince Omffrey Ducke of Buckyngham, wth ladye Anne his wyf, our Prince be prayed for, and for the sauls of Rog. Haislyndon doctor of divinitie, also the said Syr Jamys will that his father Richarde and Agnes his moth^r c^u fratrib^s and sorosib^s, Geffray Sondeforth, isabell his wife in especiall, with all those y^t holpt hi^r to y^e Scole in gerall be py^d for. Also it is our wych that this fondac^d indentyd be kept on p^{te} with the Abbote of Whalley and Convent, and another with Barnardo Bott^{worth} and his heyre, and the oth^r ptie Syr Jamys Mydelton and assignes. The wiche Abbot Bernards with assignes of the said Syr Jamys shall have pouer to chose the said Prest wth assynt of the Brethren of the said ffraternitie. Also it .y^s the will of the said Syr Randull and Syr Jamys that if the saide Prest be evyll disposyd, auth^r [either] by lechary, Drunkenhode, couety, dyser or wakyng² out of time, that they monyshe hymn thre tymes betwn every tyme iiij weks, and

¹ The "collect," the "secret" and the "post-communion" were the prayers for various objects and occasions, according to the ancient English use of Sarum.

² A player with dice, or playing unseasonably.

if he amend not then, to putt owt of the said s'vice and to putt in anoth' honest and well disposyd Prest. Also the said Prest shall kepe the grocet [? great] Sondays at Matyns masse and Owster [? Easter] and holydayes, wth the Vicar or the parish Prest for the tyme being, and to have his p'lauhdyg [?] to ex. [?] said gods and service.

Indorsed, A Deed concerning Trinitie Chappell adjoining to Rachdall Church.¹

In 1665 this chapel became the property of Alexander Butterworth of Belfield, as on the 12th October in that year James Marland of Marland, yeoman, conveyed to him the moiety which he had inherited; it passed with the rest of the Belfield estate to Richard Greaves Townley of Belfield who on 8th August, 1823, sold it for £650 to James Dearden of the Orchard, whose grandson now owns it.

There was a second chantry founded about the same time in the east end of the north aisle, dedicated to St. Katherine; the foundation deed is not extant, but it is mentioned in 1516 in an award made by Thomas Holt of Stubley, wherein he directs that Henry Sale and Thomas Chadwick shall pay to William Node, upon "the auter of Saynte Katerine within ye p'ysse church of Rochdale, xiii. s. iv. d. of gud ynglysse money;" this is dated 8th June, 8 Henry III.² In the same year Jeffrey Walsden and his sons, James and Perys, were by award ordered to pay iij. s. iv. d. to Randal Haworth to "open the hy auter at Rachdale kyrke," and to keep in repair certain ditches.³ The custom of paying money in dispute on the altar appears to have been a common custom here. In 1535 the priest of the chantry was paid by Thomas Chadwick, gentleman, so possibly the Chadwicks of Healey Hall were the founders. All subsequent trace of this chantry is lost, except that it was in use in 1552, and in modern times the site of it was used partly as a vestry and partly as a "singing pew." In 1886 an organ chamber was built on the north of this chapel.

In 1478 the "spiritualities" of Rochdale Church were valued by the bursar of Whalley at £64 a year; in 1521 their value (with the chapelries) amounted to £111 os. id.;⁴ and according to the *Valor Ecclesiasticus*, taken in 1535, the clear value of the possessions, "spiritual and temporal," of the abbey in the parish were worth £550 4s. 6d. a year. The estimated value of the tithe of grain was £24, of wool and lambs £11 6s. 8d., and of oblations and Easter dues £14 6s. 8d. per annum. On 10th May,

¹ Raines' MSS., xv., 165. (Original in possession of J. Griffith Dearden, Esq.)

² Pike House Deeds.—Raines' MSS., xxvi., 13.

³ Haworth Deeds.—Raines' MSS., xi., 52.

⁴ Whitaker's Whalley, i., 116 (last edition).

1536, John Paslew, abbot of Whalley, was executed for treason, and immediately afterwards the Crown took possession. The forerunner of the downfall of this powerful monastery was the rebellion known as the Pilgrimage of Grace, in which the unfortunate abbot took a prominent part.

Henry VIII., by letters patent dated 20th May, 1538, let for twenty-one years the rectory and parsonage of Rochdale to Henry Parker, one of the pages of His Majesty's chamber, together with the tithes and all profits arising from the church and its chapels, and after the twenty-one years the same was to go to Cranmer, the archbishop of Canterbury. This reversion, at the desire of the King, the archbishop demised to Thomas Strete, gentleman, groom of His Majesty's chamber, for twenty-one years, at a rental of £120 6s. 7d. The lessee had to cause the cures of the church and chapels to be duly served, but the archbishop was to allow him £12 a year, the "pension of the vicar," and £10 for the curates of the two chapels, as had heretofore been allowed; Strete was to repair the buildings and maintain the chancel. After the death of Henry VIII. one of the first acts of Edward VI. was to confirm to the archbishop the rectorial rights and revenues of Rochdale, which he did by indenture dated 12th June, 1547, and in 1550 (27th May) the archbishop demised the reversion (after the expiration of the lease to Thomas Strete) to Sir John Byron¹ for twenty-one years, at a rental of £80 os. 7d.² From this time to 1814, when the rectory was sold, the archbishops were rectors and patrons.

In 1590 Archbishop Whitgift released Sir John Byron from the cures of the Parish Church and the cures of the chapels of Saddleworth and Butterworth, on condition that he paid (besides the £80 os. 7d.) £8 a year to the vicar, who was to have the herbage of the churchyard; to the curate of Butterworth he was to pay forty shillings, and permit him to have the herbage of the chapel yard. In 1597 the rectory was again leased to Sir John Byron for twenty-one years at the same rent as before, and continued from time to time to be re-leased to the members of that family until 1675, when Christopher Cratford had it for a few years, but in 1687 he assigned it to William Lord Byron; in 1642 the lease to Dame Anne Byron contained a covenant that the vicar for the time being

¹ In 1550 Sir John Byron, as sub-lessee, held the rectory, and in that year Nicholas Kershaw and other inhabitants of Walsden complained that he had failed to carry out the terms of Parker's lease to them, as to their tithes.—Duchy Pleadings, iv., K. 2.

² Abstract of Tithes, at Lambeth Palace. See also Raines' MSS., xi., 206.

should take all the church dues for marriages, christenings and burials without rendering an account to the lessee; in 1753 William Lord Byron surrendered his lease to the archbishop, who then demised the rectory to Thomas Parry, Esq., and on his surrendering it in 1769 it was demised to George Walmsley, James Walmsley, Benjamin Walmsley and John Walmsley of Rochdale, merchants.¹ In 1798 the rectory was held in trust for the benefit of John, lord archbishop of Canterbury, deceased. An Act of Parliament was passed 47 George III. [1806-7] for vesting certain estates of the see of Canterbury in trustees for sale and for applying the money to enable the archbishop to grant building and repairing leases; amongst other things it was enacted that the rectory of Rochdale, together with the glebe lands, tithes, &c. (the advowson and right of presentment excepted), should be vested in the Lord High Chancellor of Great Britain, or Lord Keeper, or Commissioners for the custody of the Great Seal, the Lord Chief Justice for the Court of King's Bench, the Lord Bishop of London, and the Lord Bishop of Winchester, as trustees; and they were to sell the premises vested in them. After some little difficulties had been met as to the interest of the executors of the late archbishop of Canterbury, the estate was in 1813 sold by auction.² The announcement of the sale described the tithes of Rochdale and Saddleworth as extending over 33,000 acres enclosed and 14,000 acres of common. There were also sold nine pews in the parish church; the following is an extract from the advertisement, with the price each pew fetched and the purchaser:

An elegant Pew occupied by Mr. Walmsley,	10 sittings,	£205,	bought by Mr. Walmsley.
" " " "	8 sittings,	£160,	bought by "
A Seat occupied by Mr. Holland - - -	3 sittings	} £135,	bought by Mr. Elliott.
" " - - -	3 sittings		
" Mr. Fielding - - -	5 sittings,	£75,	bought by "
" Widow Ashworth - - *	2 sittings,	£22,	bought by "
A Pew occupied by Mr. Vavasour - - -	8 sittings,	£155,	bought by Mr. Vavasour.
" Mr. Walmsley - - -	2 sittings,	£24,	bought by Mr. Walmsley.
A Seat occupied by " - - -	3 sittings,	£35,	bought by "

* A right of way through these two seats on Communion days.

Amongst the purchasers of the tithes were Messrs. Crossley, Dear-den, Elliott, Farrand, Hill, Holt, Bamford, Lee and Maden.

Reverting to the church, when the chantries were suppressed a silver chalice is named as belonging to the chantry here, but from the

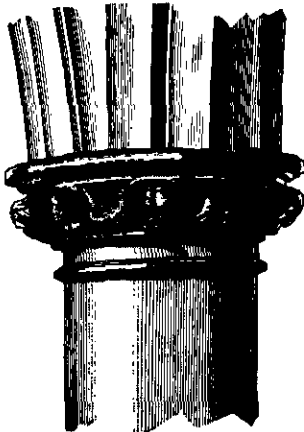
¹ All these leases were for the same rent and on the same conditions.

² Raines' MSS., xl.

inventory of church goods in 1552¹ it is clear there were then two chantries; as to the vicar and Richard Chadwick, Robert Tetlowe, Thomas Wolstenholme and Ellys Scofeld, churchwardens, were delivered "too coopes, six vestments, three alters furnysshed of all manner of auther clothes, two candylstyckes brasse, one sensure, one crosse brasse percell gyld, a payre of orgaynes, three chalisses, fyve grete bells and two belles belongyng to ye said p'she church."

The organ of the sixteenth century had two manuals, hence the term "a pair of organs," which were at this time freely used in the abbeys in England but were not common in the churches; besides Rochdale in 1552 there were only two Lancashire parishes, Ormskirk and Middleton, which possessed this instrument. In 1580 a sum of one hundred pounds was deposited in the hands of Cardinal Allen by the executors of Thomas Houghton "to bye a payre of organs" and music for the parish church of Preston "when the time should serve," but as the revival of Roman Catholicism did not take place the money went to the English college at Rheims.²

We have now evidence that a partial rebuilding of the church was contemplated, and towards this several sums of money were bequeathed; Robert Holt of Stubble, in his will dated 18th December, 1554, left four pounds "towards the mendyng of the church and byenge of ornaments for the same;" in 1558 Arthur Scofeld of Scofeld bequeathed "to the highe alter at Rachdale iij. s. iv. d." and towards the "raparacions iij. s. iv. d.," and Ralph Belfield of Clegg by his will dated 11th August, 1557, gave to the re-edifying and necessary sustentation of the parish church vi. li. xiii. s. iv. d. to be paid by his executors "yearlye as the church wardens shall reasonably require." It was about this time that the south aisle was repaired and the present clerestory added and in all probability as the span was lessened the pitch of the roof of the nave was lowered. Some of the arches in the south aisle are of much earlier date than this; one of them which has a much defaced ornamental capital³ may possibly date back to the fourteenth century.



CAPITAL OF PILLAR IN
SOUTH AISLE.

¹ Lanc. Chantries.—Chet. Soc., ix., 270, S. cvii., 49.

² Orig. holograph by W. Allen.—Haydock Papers, p. 17.

³ Probably injured by the erection of the gallery.

In October, 1582, the earliest volume of the parish register¹ begins. It was now quite a common custom for money to be paid by agreement at a set time in the porch of the church. The way in which vicar and churchwardens originally granted rights to individuals to appropriate particular parts of the church is well illustrated by a document dated 12th March, 1621, whereby they "with the free consent of the gentlemen and cheefe yeomen" of the parish, gave their "approbacion and allowance to Edward Leighe of Rachdale towne for to erect and set by a forme in a vacant place overagainst the litell doore of the south syde" of the church and on "the outside of the chancell, to the use of the said Edward Leighe, his wife and familie, theire to sit and heare divine service and sermon;" this form was there "erected and bilded at the proper costs and charges" of Edward Leigh, and the wardens found that it was done "decentlye and in no sort offensive" to any of the inhabitants; this was duly signed by the vicar and wardens.²

In the Manorial Survey the church yard in 1625 was said to contain *1a. 2r. 30p.* The chancel of the church was kept in repair by the farmer of the rectorial tithes, and we find that in 1635 its floor was paved and the seats in it were "uniformed quirewise, and the rest decently repaired and adorned."³ Some thirty years later Richard, lord Byron, gave free "libertie and leave unto Samuel Garside of Oakenroade to erect a pew or seate to his own use and at his own charge in the chancel."⁴

From the following account of an incident which occurred on 6th July, 1682, it appears that it was then the fashion to line the pews with green baize, a custom which in some places has only just died out. Mr. Butterworth of Belfield and Mr. Pigot the vicar had disagreed about a particular seat and the latter had locked the church doors, but Mr. Butterworth was equal to the occasion and ordered his man to go through the window, which he did and proceeded to "nayle green beas" in the seat in question. On the Sunday following the vicar attempted to enter this seat but was kept out by Butterworth whereupon a scene took place which was ended by the vicar taking the congregation into the churchyard and conducting the service there.⁵

¹ The Registers have been printed from 1582 to 1641.

² Raines' MSS., i., 2.

³ Cal. State Papers.—Dom. Ser., 1635.

⁴ Original grant in possession of Mr. W. Law, Littleborough.

⁵ Oliver Heywood's Diary, p. 290, Edit. 1881.

In 1693 a faculty was granted for building a west gallery, and under another faculty dated 9th November, 1699, the south gallery was erected, with a "convenient staircase from the chancel end." These two galleries remained until 1855. In the same year that the south gallery was put up (1699) the back of the communion table was "wainscotted" at a cost of thirty pounds.¹

The churchwardens accounts only go back as far as 1640, but they contain a few items illustrating the history of the church.

CHURCHWARDENS' ACCOUNT.		£	s.	d.
1642.	Paid for getting out Rishes and sweeping Church - - -	0	5	0
1643.	" " Ringing the 5th of November - - - - -	0	5	0
1643.	" " A pound of Candles - - - - -	0	0	4
1643.	" " Three hedge hodgs - - - - -	0	1	0
1644.	" " Mending ye Clocke ² - - - - -	0	5	0
1644.	" " Thomas Haslame for sweeping cobwebs and pillars of ye Church - - - - -	0	3	0
1645.	" " Knowlinge at all Sermons - - - - -	0	5	0
1645.	" " Carreing off plate in to Yorkshire in tyme of danger - - - - -	0	1	4
1649.	" " Ringinge on the Rushbering Day - - - - -	0	1	0
1660.	" " For setting up the King's Arms in ye Quire, and for repairing some point ov ^r ye pulpit y ^t was defaced by raine, &c. - -	0	1	0
1661.	" " ffive Register books and other things left in ye hands of the Clarke - - - - -		
1661.	Paid John Fenton for making the churchyard hedge and getting thornes to beard ³ withall - - -	0	3	4
1683.	Paid Mr. Holt for 2 ottar heads - - - - -		
1689.	" John Spottland for Mouldewarpes ⁴ - - - - -		

In 1696 William Fielden acted as, what in some parishes was called the "bang-beggar," and for keeping order received five shillings; for instruction of several "poor boys" in singing, one pound was paid; for "tenting the clock," ten shillings.

In the Rochdale Free Public Library is preserved the original church-lay list for 1693 for the hamlets of Wuerdle, Wardle and Blatchinworth, from which it appears that the "lay" was for the "reparation of the church and schoolhouse;" in 1664 the lay for the same districts

¹ Churchwardens' accounts.

² A new clock, with chimes, was ordered in 1789 from John Barnish of Rochdale, and cost £193.

³ To beard = to trim a hedge.

⁴ Mouldewarps = moles.

amounted to £3 15s. 3¼d. and was for "ye repaire of ye church and schoole and bread and wine."¹

As already stated there was an organ in the church in 1552. What became of this instrument is unknown, but it may have become worn out with age, and the troubled times of the Puritan rule coming on, may not have been replaced; certain it is that towards the end of the seventeenth century the sacred music in the parish church was of the most primitive kind, and the churchwarden accounts contain no mention of an organ until 1703 when we find the item "paid to Mr. Heaynes for mending organ, 2s." At this time the organ had been there long enough to require mending; in the same year is an item for "locks and bolts for the organ." Probably the west gallery, built in 1693, was made for the organ. In 1706 Josia Gartside was paid forty pounds on account of the organ. During the eighteenth century the organist was frequently elected by a poll of the parishioners although the salary was only twenty pounds a year, and for this he had also to teach six boys to sing. In 1776 a small loft or pew over the seats near the organ was made for the use of the singing boys.² In 1854 the organ was removed to the north chancel aisle which had been lengthened partly for this purpose. A new organ by Messrs. Hill was substituted for the old one in 1885 at a cost of £1000.

There were probably bells in the tower of the church at an early period, but the first notice which we have of them is in 1552 [see p. 136], when there belonged to the church five large bells. This continued to be the number until 1719 when a sixth bell was added, and in 1787 two more were cast to complete the peal. What became of the old bells is unknown, but probably they were re-cast and now form part of those in use at the present time, but it must not be forgotten that in many parishes where a new bell was wanted the old one was sold and went to some other church, and this may have been the case here. The following are the bells now in the tower:—

1st bell (note E flat).—Is inscribed "John Rudhall, fect., 1787."

2nd bell (note D).—Was also cast in 1787. It has upon it "Robt. Bell, John Crosbey, James Longdon,³ Laurence Lord, churchwardens, 1787."

¹ Memorandum in the MS. just referred to.

² Faculty granted 18th Jan., 1777.

³ This should be "Crossley" and "Longden."

- 3rd bell (note C).—This is one of the old bells re-cast. It has on it "Prosperity to the trade of the town, A.R., 1752."
- 4th bell (note B flat).—Is an old one re-cast and bears upon it the words "Peace and good [to the] neighbourhood, A.R., 1752."
- 5th bell (note A flat).—Also re-cast and inscribed "Abel Rudhall of Gloucester, founder, 1752."
- 6th bell (note C). Also an old bell re-cast. It was, as the legend on it tells, given by "Samuel Dunster, D.D., vicar, A.R., 1752."
- 7th bell (note F).—This was another of the old bells re-cast. It has upon it "Thos. Wood, John Scholfield, John Smith, Edmund Redfern, churchwardens, A.R., 1752."
- 8th bell or tenor (note E flat).—This was the bell ordered in 1719. The inscription upon it tells its history: "This bell was re-cast by John Rudhall, Gloucester, 1812. Success to the town and trade of Rochdale. T. Drake, D.D., vicar; T. Steele, A.B., curate; S. Newall, J. Heape, E. Dawson, J. Chadwick, churchwardens; D. Nield, clerk, 1812."

In 1745 the question of a new bell was mooted, and considered of so much importance that a meeting of the inhabitants was called and finally a poll taken, when there voted for a bell 185, and 397 against it.

The following extracts from the Register Book will be of interest as showing the sum collected under briefs in the church and chapels for various purposes:

	£	s.	d.
1661. For Scarborough - - - - -	0	14	8
" " Reppon Minster (fire) - - - - -	0	9	10
" " Mr. Henry Harrison, Marchant - - - - -	0	10	9 $\frac{3}{4}$
" " Loss of a shipp - - - - -	0	8	0
" Collected at Milnrow for a Milne and Kilne - - - - -	0	3	5
" " " for the inhabitants of Elminster - - - - -	0	12	10
" " Whitworth " " " - - - - -	0	7	5
" " Todmorden " " " - - - - -	0	14	3
" " Littleborough " " " - - - - -	0	5	0
" " Todmorden for Scarborough - - - - -	0	9	4
" " Milnrow " - - - - -	0	4	1
" " Whitworth " - - - - -	0	5	7
1673. Collected at the Communion, 5th May - - - - -	0	7	11
" " " " 21st June - - - - -	0	14	0

	£ s. d.
1673. Collected at the Communion, 20th July - - - - -	0 5 2½
1678. 9th Nov., Paid to Mr. Nicklson, Registrar of Chester, being the Collection in the p'ish and all Chapples (except Todmorden), towards rebuilding St. Paul's Church, London - - - - -	20 1 11½

In 1700 the then vicar (Henry Pigott) erected a new south porch to the church, upon which his initials were engraved; this porch was removed during the alterations in 1873. From the churchwardens' book it appears that in 1702 a new pulpit was placed in the church at a cost of £18 10s. od.; this has long since disappeared.¹ About this time several parishioners applied for and obtained faculties for the erection of private seats; amongst them were James Wilson and Robert Scholfield for a gallery at the west end of the church, a "pue" on the north side "behind the churchwardens' old seat" (in 1706); Thomas Leyland and Alexander Collinge two peus at the west end, one "behind the great church door" and the other near the north door (in 1707); Richard Holt a seat on the south side of the south aisle in 1730; and Thomas Holland and Jonathan Wolfenden at west end on north side of middle aisle (in 1720).²

The old church was now again not only very dilapidated but insufficient for the requirements of the parish, and in 1738 a vestry meeting was called to consider what should be done; the result was the building of a chapel of ease [see St. Mary's]. In 1717 the church floor was regularly covered with rushes, and the cost of carrying them in appears in the churchwardens' accounts, where also appears (in 1706) the following: Five pounds for casting candlestick; one shilling and fourpence for a new rope for candlestick; three shillings for planting young ashes in the churchyard; twelve shillings and sixpence for a new dial in the yard. The "candlestick" as it is here called was the chandelier which was suspended from the roof by a rope; in 1760 a new one was purchased.

About the year 1763 the open benches or forms in the church were nearly all removed and replaced by pews and a new copy of the royal arms (removed in 1864)³ was set up, on the back of which was

¹ A part of the beautifully carved oak which formed this pulpit was found by the present vicar in the vicarage barn, in a very mutilated condition, and converted into a hat-stand which is now at the vicarage, and it is intended that it shall remain there as an heir-loom.

² Bishop Reg., Chester.

³ This copy of the Royal arms has apparently been destroyed.

inscribed the names of the churchwardens, vicar, curate, parish clerk and sexton, and at the foot "John Collier, junr., *pinxit.*" This John Collier was the son of Tim Bobbin. The arms were on the north wall of the nave, over the arch near the west door.

On the night of the 13th April, 1773, the church was entered through a window and the communion plate, surplices, &c., stolen; the thief it appears lived (at all events temporarily) in a cave on the Yorkshire side of Blackstone Edge, and here he hid the stolen property; one of his accomplices shortly afterwards gave information which led to the recovery of the whole of the plate, &c., and to the capture and conviction of the thief, who was transported for the offence. In 1779 the church was again robbed of all its plate and surplices, this time by a whitesmith from Yorkshire, whose wife being seen by a neighbour making a shirt for her husband of finer material than usual led to suspicion and ultimately to the recovery of the plate. The robber was transported.¹

There is in the church chest a "terrier" taken in 1783 which contains a complete list of the plate then in the custody of the churchwardens; it consisted of three flagons, five cups or chalices, two patines and one large dish, all of silver. On two of the flagons was engraved "Ex dono Alexandri Butterworth, armigeri" and on the bottom of one, the figures 63. 7. and on the other 63. 3. On the third flagon was "the gift of Thomas Wray, D.D., vicar of this parish, 1773." One of the cups was marked on the bottom ^{M.}_{H.B.} and another ^{R.B.}_{M.H.} and on the third was engraved "church." The others had no mark. On one of the patines "Ex dono Tho. Holden, filii Ric. Holden in usum ecclesiæ Rochdaliensis, 1696," and the other "Ex dono Sara Holden, filiæ Rich^d Holden in usum ecclesiæ Rochdaliensis, 1702." On the bottom of the dish "The gift of Miss Sara Chadwick of Chadwick in the parish of Rochdale who died August 21st, 1722."

In 1829 the churchwardens exchanged two old chalices for two new ones which in Canon Raines' opinion were of "sadly inferior design." One of these was marked ^{B.}_{R.A.} and the other c.² The three flagons above-named are still in use, as are also the two patines of the Holdens, and the large dish presented by Sara Chadwick. Of the three chalices

¹ Corry's Hist. of Lanc., p. 557.

² Raines' MSS., xiv., 291.

now in the vestry two are modern and one is old, but none of them have any inscription or initials on them. The two cups sold were those marked $\begin{matrix} M. \\ H.B. \end{matrix}$ and $\begin{matrix} R.B. \\ M.B. \end{matrix}$ which were bequeathed to the church by Mary Bradford, whose will was proved in London 22nd January, 1624-5. She was the widow of Robert Bradford of Rochdale and afterwards of London, and daughter of Robert Holt of Rochdale [Holt of Mosside, see Chap. XVI.]. The clause in her will referring to this bequest reads: "To the parish church of Ratchdale, my two greate white silver bowles weighing twenty-five ounces or thereabouts for use of holy communion. Mr. Vicker of Ratchdale, Mr. Holt of Stubley and Mr. Butterworth of Belfield to take security of the churchwardens that the bowles shall be used for no other purpose." She also left to the poor of Ratchdale ten pounds. It is much to be regretted that these interesting relics should have been parted with.

In 1786 the churchwardens, as part of their duty, paid for the repair of the stocks, the remains of which still stand outside the churchyard.

The "yeomanry seats" in the church were the cause of one of those bitter contests which were not uncommon amongst the parishioners of Rochdale. The details of the dispute are preserved in the case for the opinion of Dr. Alexander Croke, which was prepared by John Elliott, solicitor, of Rochdale, and submitted in 1799. After describing the position of the church and the rectory it sets forth that "at some time or other, but the time when we cannot ascertain (though much beyond the memory of man living), certain seats and pews were erected in the church [see p. 137]. Presumption leads to the belief that these seats were erected by Lord Byron, for on the upright pieces of timber constituting part of the pews there are various coats of arms; one in particular delineating the arms of that family in the first and fourth quarters of the shield, and the second and third quarters are filled up with the arms of some other family, probably his lady's. In another shield the arms of the Portland family appear on the sinister or lady's side, and this strengthens the probability of the Byrons building the seats, for William fourth Lord Byron, baron of Rochdale, had three wives, one of whom was daughter of the Earl of Portland." It is further shown that on the Vavasour seat the supporters of the Byron family and the Byron coronet are carved. Certain of these seats had from time immemorial been used by the "gentlemen, yeomen, freeholders, leypayers" of the parish; to these seats there

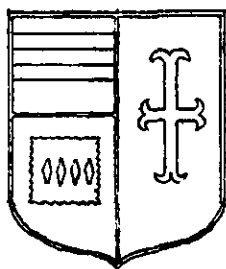
were no doors at the east end, but there was a door at the entrance opposite the clergymen's seats. These seats had always been free, and in them the "first gentlemen of the parish" were formerly in the habit of sitting; and beside them, it is added, there were a "prodigious number of yeomen, freeholders and leypayers" who had no seats belonging to them. In January, 1799, Richard Holt, attorney-at-law, of Rochdale, as agent to the archbishop or his grace's secretary, enclosed the whole of these seats and converted them to the use of private individuals, taking one of the best for himself; these alterations were carried out "sword in hand." This naturally caused great indignation in the parish, and the churchwardens called a meeting of freeholders and "leypayers," which declared that these seats were the property of the freeholders, yeomen and leypayers, and that Mr. Holt's action was illegal, and a committee (consisting of the churchwardens) was appointed to take such steps as might be necessary to get the seats re-instated. Under the direction of this committee, on the 15th February the seats were re-opened by sawing off the ends of the new extensions. Having the whole case before him, Dr. Croke gave his opinion. In the first place he assumed that Holt had acted under the orders of the archbishop, and states that doubtless the rector had the exclusive disposal of the seats in the chancel, and in the exercise of this right the Byrons had erected seats; but, he adds, seats may be acquired by prescription, which would "supersede and exclude the general right of the appropriator; besides this he adds "the right of the appropriator is not absolute and unlimited, but in the nature of a trust," and as it was clearly for the public good that these seats should be used as heretofore, he gave it as his opinion that the churchwardens were right in what they had done.¹ After this opinion was obtained Mr. Holt was asked to reinstate the seats, but as he did not do so the churchwardens did it themselves.

Of the arms carved on the "yeomanry seats" just referred to only two now remain; a third one has disappeared within the last twenty-five years.

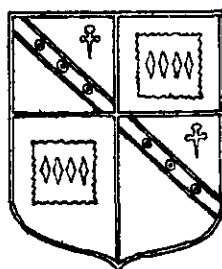
In consequence of the removal of the baptistry in 1806 there was a space in the north-west angle of the church whereon the wardens built five pews which they sold for £264.² The vicar's pew in the

¹ A verbatim copy of this case and opinion is in Raines' MSS., xiv., 401.

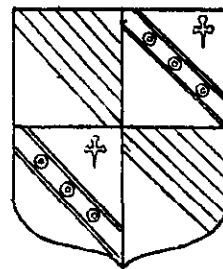
² Wardens' accounts.



ARMS ON THE END OF SEAT
IN THE CHOIR.¹



ARMS FORMERLY ON ONE OF
THE YEOMANRY SEATS.



ARMS ON THE END OF SEAT
IN THE CHANCEL.²

chancel was erected in 1804 by the permission of the archbishop of Canterbury.³

The portion of Broad Field, now known as “the new burial ground,” was consecrated 29th September, 1813, the old churchyard being quite inadequate. The Broad Field, part of which is now the public park, was in the beginning of this century used for pasturage by the vicar (it being part of the glebe), and in it were three gravel walks “kept in neat order” for the use of the vicar and his family and of “ladies and gentlemen who took the air there in fine weather,” and on Sundays it was the “public promenade of the whole town, being the only open space in the vicinity; it was also ornamented with “plantations and clumps of trees.” This was in danger of being destroyed by a Mr. Lodge of Oakenrod, who having opened a coal mine on his adjoining land, proposed to convey coals from it to the canal basin by means of a tramway. The vicar however refused consent.⁴

Shortly before the year 1814 the congregation of the church began to apprehend that the state of the building was such that it was dangerous to those who attended the services therein. In consequence several meetings were held to consider what was the best course to take, and on this there was a divided opinion. The vicar and his party contended that all that was required was to repair the church, whilst on the other side was arrayed a large number of the parishioners who declared that nothing short of a new church would be satisfactory and who proceeded so far as to introduce a Bill into Parliament for

¹ The cross moline doubtless refers to the daughter of Portland, who married the 4th Lord Byron in 1706.

² 1.—BYRON—ar. 3 bends gules. 2.—COLWYCKE—ar. on a bend edged, 3 bezants in the sinister chief, a crosslet fitchie of the second.

³ Vicar Hay's MSS.

⁴ Vicar Hay's MSS.

that purpose. This Bill got into committee but there met with so much opposition that its promoters withdrew and allowed a Bill to be introduced for the building of a chapel of ease.¹ [See St. James's church.]

The opposers of the building of a new parish church stated that the "most eminent architect in that part of the kingdom" said that for £908 the old building could be repaired, and they complained that about forty years before that time the whole body of the church was free for the use of the parishioners; but since that time several principal families began to claim exclusive seats and "so well had they, by perseverance succeeded, that there was not then one single sitting to which the public were allowed to have access." Another argument they advanced why they should not be put to the expense of a new church, was that they had just made a new cemetery [Broadfield] which "was capacious enough for the purposes of the whole parish for *many hundred years*." They concluded their petition by expressing a wish that the "venerable structure which they had so long been accustomed to contemplate with reverence should not be destroyed without some clear and urgent necessity."² This dispute called forth a pamphlet entitled "An Address to the Town and Parish of Rochdale concerning the repairing and re-building of the Parish Church," published in 1815,³ the burden of which was—let those who want a new church pay for it. Nothing now remained but to repair the building, which both parties agreed was in a ruinous condition. Accordingly a faculty was applied for, to perform divine service in the Free Grammar School during the repairs which were absolutely necessary, as the church could not be used without "real danger to the minister and congregation." This faculty was granted 16th December, 1814.⁴

The needful repairs were done in 1815-16 and on the 24th July of the latter year Sir Jeffrey Wyatt, the celebrated London architect, reported to the bishop of Chester that he had made a survey of the church and that he found the repairs had been done "in a workmanlike and superior manner," and he then gives the following details: The parts of the repairs "which did not appear to the eye" were the foundations of "the new piers⁵ and buttresses, some of which were

¹ Vicar Hay's MSS.

² Rochdale Church, Case of Petitioners against the Bill.—Rochdale, 1815.

³ Manchester, 1815.

⁴ Bishop's Reg., Ches.

⁵ In the opinion of a well-known church architect, these "piers" or pillars represent the present pillars of the chancel arch.

from seven to nine feet deep" and built "with solid stone;" a new wall had been built in Trinity chapel; the principal timbers of the roof having been found to be "sound hard oak except where they joined the stonework: the injured parts had been cut away and iron cramps inserted;" the pillars were standing on "solid stone plinths, two feet six inches square and a foot thick;" the roof had been partly re-slatted; light iron pillars had been inserted to support the south gallery; and the "lumbering obtruding gallery that separated the nave from the chancel had been removed, and, Mr. Wyatt added, "it ought not to be replaced."¹ The "lumbering gallery" was a structure placed in front of the ancient rood-loft where, in pre-reformation times was placed a large crucifix; the screen which carried the rood remained until 1854. The chancel arch was now rebuilt. Shortly after this two new windows were inserted in the north wall, and in 1829, in consequence of a recommendation from the bishop, the pulpit which had heretofore faced the south gallery was removed to the next pillar and placed so as to face the main entrance.²

Butterworth,³ writing in 1828, refers to "the splendid seats of the pews of the gentry, covered with rich cloth, carpets and cushions."

TRINITY CHAPEL.

When this ancient chantry, in 1823 [see p. 132], passed to the Dearden family, it contained much which was of the greatest interest to the historian and antiquary, almost every vestige of which has long since disappeared. In 1829 there were in it two coloured windows; the south one bore the initials and date, A.^{B.}G. 1602 (Alexander and Grace Butterworth), and the east window was also of the seventeenth century, and had upon it eight coats of arms, viz.:—1, Butterworth of Belfield; 2, Birdeshull of Birdeshull; 3, broken; 4, defaced; 5, arg. on a bend sa. three trefoils slipt, or; 6, Clegg of Clegg; 7, Butterworth repeated; 8, Berdeshull repeated. The date on it was 1633; there were also three figures representing "Moyses," "Jeremia" and "Malachii." On the roof, in Lombardic characters, were the initials H. M. (Henry Marland) and H. S. [?] On one part of the roof were the arms of Butterworth, Birdeshull, Ashton of Clegg, Belfield of Clegg, Eyre of Headon Grove (arg. on a

¹ Enrolment Reg. Book, Chester, Vol. xii., p. 545.

² Vicar Hay's MSS.

³ History of Rochdale.—Manchester, 1828.

bend sable, three trefoils slipt of the field between three others of the second), Clegg of Clegg (sable a cross potent or crosslet crossed between four acorns erect and slipt, all or); on another compartment were the arms of Townley of Belfield, and a doubtful coat—impaling sa. a chev. or between two crescents in chief and a trefoil slipt in base of the last, with a motto "Orobitas Veres Honos."¹ On an oak boss in the roof was carved the design engraved at the end of this chapter. Before the alterations made by Mr. Dearden in 1847, the chapel presented the appearance of a comfortable sitting room, with its windows corniced and curtained, the floor carpeted and the seats cushioned.² What was then done to the chapel has been described by one who saw it not very long after it was completed. He says it was

"Surrounded with a handsome screen³ profusely decorated with armorial insignia and other devices, amongst which are conspicuous the arms of the ancient family of Rachdale, which Mr. Dearden appears to have appropriated not only to himself but to his visionary ancestors. In the centre of the chapel lies the effigy of a cross-legged warrior, with the arms of Rachdale on his shield, but yclept a Derden or Dereden. Close by his side reposes a Bishop with crozier and mitre, who also has been pressed into the imaginary race of progenitors, and he, forsooth is *Walterus Durus*, or *Deus*, or *Durent*, Bishop of Lichfield and Coventry (in the time of Stephen), of whom it has been reserved for Mr. Dearden to discover that he was of his race of Dereden, and buried at Rochdale, whilst other (perhaps less learned) authorities state that he was buried at Coventry. Incised slabs and brasses, all inscribed to the memory of Derden, Duerden, and Dearden, and in close imitation of the styles of the different eras, are placed here as commemorations of the ancestors of a man whose own inquiries failed to carry back these ancestors beyond the time of James I. . . . the pedigree of the Dearden family was entered on the Books of the College of Arms in 1841, by Mr. James Dearden, of Handle Hall, in the parish of Rochdale, who proved himself to be the eighth in descent from Richard Dearden, or Dureden, of Whitefield [in Hundersfield], who died in 1630. Neither this gentleman nor his predecessors were entitled to arms, and none were to be found in the college of arms for any of the family, and it is needless to say that none of Mr. Dearden's ancestors were ever Lords of the Manor of Rochdale."⁴

The writer of the above concludes by saying that he did not suppose "that the late Mr. Dearden" (this was written in 1865) "or other persons for whose glorification they were invented had any complicity in the fraud." For this piece of vandalism three parties were to blame—the man who invented the fables, the man who paid for them, and the authori-

¹ Raines' MSS., i., 22.

² Ecclesiologist, 1847, p. 59.

³ A very small portion of this oak was what remained of the old screen, the rest was quite new.

⁴ Popular Genealogists, or the Art of Pedigree Making.—Edinburgh, 1865.

ties who allowed the placing of the monuments in the church. This account is inaccurate on one point—the arms of the Deardens are not quite identical with the reputed arms of the Rachdales [see p. 16]. As has already been shown [see p. 16], there never was a family of Rachdale which can be proved to have borne these arms, and there certainly was at no time a lord of the manor called Rachdale.

Besides the monuments above mentioned there were several others placed in the chapel, but most of them were a few years ago, under the instructions of the present lord of the manor, buried beneath the chantry floor; there still remains, however, a stone with foliated cross and sword carved upon it, and five imitation antiques, only two of which refer to the ancestors of the restorer of the chapel. One of these is thus worded:—“To the memory of Mr. Richard Dearden of Handle Hall, son and heir of Jas. Dearden of Whitefield, gent., in this parish, vpright and trew though long blind he managed his estates and added thereto, living well and dying y^e same on y^e 24 daie of May, anno dom. 1620, in y^e 63 year of hys age.” This is surely about as poor an attempt at imitation as could well be conceived. Another is to the memory of James, the son of Richard Dearden of Whitefield, in Honoresfield, gent., who died 25th December, 1609, aged 63 years; a third to the memory of Richard Dearden of Whitefield, who died 12th January, 1585; the other stones refer to Oliver and Otiwell Dearden, and they might well have been buried with the bishop and the knight. At the same time, or shortly afterwards, the old windows were taken out and new ones inserted;¹ the east window, by Willement, contained in the centre the emblems of the Trinity, the side lights representing the blessed Virgin and St. John the Baptist. The south windows are still [1889] in the chapel, and contain the armorial bearings of the Belfields, Deardens and Inghams. The benches arranged stall-wise and the oak sedilia were now introduced, the floor was laid with armorial tiles, and the roof panelled with deal (not oak), on which were painted several armorial designs.²

In December, 1851, a new stained east window was put in the chancel, which was designed by Willement, at a cost £175. It was in five compartments, under four of which were the arms of four of the donors: the vicar James Dearden (the lord of the manor), R. G. Townley

¹ The south window is dated 1852.

² Ecclesiologist, 1847, p. 60.

(M. P. for Cambridgeshire), Mr. Newall¹ of Townhouse and Mr. Chadwick.¹ This window and that in the east end of Trinity chapel were sent to London in 1885 to be adapted to suitable positions in the new chancel and were destroyed by fire at the manufacturers; Mr. Dear-den however gave a costly new window to replace the one belonging to Trinity chapel, the new east window being given by Mr. Thomas Dawson.

About this time Dr. Molesworth and the lord of the manor put a new roof (wagon shaped) on the chancel and otherwise altered its internal arrangements.

The next reparation of the church took place in 1854-5 in accordance with a resolution passed at a vestry meeting² on 10th August, 1854. The alterations now made were extensive and included the pulling down of the north aisle, the removal of the vestry at its east end and the rebuilding of the aisle to a line with the east end of the chancel. In the extreme end of this (eastward) part thus rebuilt a new organ chamber of small size was placed, and the floor between it and the nave, including the site of the old vestry and singing pew, was covered with open benches, and a new arch was opened into the chancel. The baptistry (then at the west end of the north aisle) was converted into a vestry and the font was placed near the south porch; parts of the south aisle and nave were re-seated and the floor covered with concrete.³ There was before this alteration a door in the north side of the church. The vestry formerly at the east end of the north aisle was the site, if not the actual building, which constituted St. Katherine's chantry. This vestry is clearly shown in Physick's view of the church. [See Frontispiece.]

In 1855 or 1856 the south and west galleries were removed and a new west gallery put up.⁴ A few years afterwards the remaining pews were removed and the nave was re-roofed by Mr. Clarke, architect, of London; this roof, though perpendicular in style, by the adoption of tie-beams in its construction has intersected the west arch of the tower and seriously interfered with the beauty and general proportions of the church. From marks still visible on the tower and which are plainly shown on Nicholson's view of the church, taken

¹ Rural Hist. Gleanings in South Lanc. (1852), p. 111.

² The expense was to be met by voluntary subscription.

³ At this time the floor of the centre aisle was at least twelve inches below the level of the south aisle.

⁴ Churchwardens' Books, 1855.

before 1828; it is clear that long before this latter alteration the roof itself had been lowered. [See p. 136.]

In 1873 the south wall (as far as the chancel arch) and the porch were pulled down and rebuilt with the old materials (as far as possible), and to the western end of the aisle was added what is now used as a choristers' vestry; the font was placed near the tower entrance; the battlements of the tower were removed and the tower itself raised several feet and the large louvre windows inserted.

The most recent alterations in the structure of the parish church, and also the most extensive, which have happened in its history were made from plans by Mr. J. S. Crowther of Manchester, architect to the cathedral, in 1884-5. The dignity of the fabric has now been greatly enhanced and the sombre character of the east end relieved by the continuation of the clerestory (which was added in the seventeenth century) throughout the chancel and by better provision in the matter of the sacrarium. Before the last alterations there was little, and that only on the south side of this part of the church that could lay claim to antiquity, nothing that had not been seriously tampered with by (so-called) "restoration," and the foundations had been so riddled with intramural interments that the walls were considerably out of the perpendicular and were incapable of being charged with any additional weight. Many of the arches on the north side were added in 1854 when the north chancel aisle was lengthened to form an organ chamber, and a new wagon-roof tended to greatly depress the chancel itself and to alter its character which was gloomy in the extreme and dwarfed in proportions. There being little or nothing to conserve, it was decided to pull down the whole "choir," including the chancel arch—an addition (as is supposed) in 1816—and to erect a new one, elongating at the same time the Trinity and Catherine chapels (in the south and north chancel aisles) and to build an organ chamber recessed from the latter at a point near the north end of the nave. The style adopted is that of the latter part of the fifteenth century (1485) and the choir consists of six bays, constituting the whole—there being six bays in the nave—into what is known as a "double-apostles' " church. The font¹ was now put back

¹ The font now stands on one of the stone dial plates of the old clock; another dial is in the centre of the tower floor.

into its original position in the north aisle at its extreme west corner, formerly called the "christening house." The nave was subsequently lowered to the line of the original level, as remembered by old residents in the town and shewn by the gravestones along the aisles and under the pews. To carry out this effectually it was necessary to lengthen the pillars by the insertion of about ten inches of stone. The cost was defrayed by voluntary contributions and amounted to nearly £10,000.¹ The choir and aisles were filled with stained glass, chiefly from the works of Messrs. Burlison and Grylls, those at the north and east extremities being supplied by Messrs. Lavers and Westlake. Several of the arches were subscribed for by individuals and families, amongst whom were Messrs. Healey of Surrey, A. H. Royds, C. N. (and Mrs.) Beswicke-Royds, Clement Molyneux Royds, Joshua and Herbert Radcliffe, J. P. Brierley (and family), Henry Newall, A. and W. Law, G. T. Chadwick and the lord of the manor, Mr. J. Griffith Dearden, who gave several windows to the Trinity chapel, now lengthened some twenty-three feet. The roof of this chapel is greatly enriched as also that of the choir. The whole design is adapted admirably to the character of the nave, the tie-beam roof of which however—a modern innovation—cuts off the uppermost part of the chancel-arch, as indeed it also does that of the fine span of the tower arch, and requires to be raised or substituted by a roof of "hammer-beam" construction. There remain other details to add as for example a parclose screen for the choir. The old altar-table has been erected in the Trinity chapel which is fitted up for occasional services of all kinds, including the celebration of the holy communion. The last window inserted in the church, representing the "Te Deum," was dedicated to his parents by the late Mr. Thomas Dawson, in whose memory the choir-aisle window, nearest the organ, was erected by his sisters Mrs. Proffit and Mrs. Brandon. In the same aisle are two windows epitomising our Lord's teaching and miracles, the westward in memory of bishop Fraser (by subscription) and Mr. William Hastings (by his wife). The north-east window, "The Anointing of Christ's feet," was given by the late Mr. Pagan in memory of his wife and children. The south-east window, "The Last Supper," Mr. J. Griffith Dearden contributed, together with the two neighbouring windows, "Moses strik-

¹ The subscriptions were obtained by the vicar, and expended by a committee appointed at a public meeting.



ROCHDALE PARISH CHURCH IN 1889.

FROM A PHOTOGRAPH BY MR. HENDERSON, ROCHDALE.

ing the Rock" and Moses lifting up the Serpent," in memory of his grandfather, James Dearden, Esq., lord of the manor, and William Griffith and Jane Elizabeth, his brother and sister. The windows in the clerestory of the choir represent the twelve apostles, and were dedicated as follows: On the north—1, in memory of his wife by Mr. Herbert Radcliffe; 2, "to the glory of God," anonymous; 3, to the memory of John Royds, 1754; Ann, Gilbert and Robert, obt. 1674; Jane Royds, obt. 1732; James Royds, 1787, and Mary Smith, by Mr. A. H. Royds; 4, "to the glory of God," by Mr. and Mrs. C. M. Royds; 5, Mr. G. Taylor Chadwick to the memory of Mr. George Chadwick; 6, Mr. Henry Newall to his father. On the south side—1, Mr. and Mrs. C. N. Beswicke-Royds to Mr. Halliwell of Pike House; 2, Messrs. Burlison and Grylls (the makers); 3, to the memory of Clement Royds, 1810; Jane Hudson, James Royds, churchwarden 1735, obt. 1759, by Mr. A. H. Royds; 4, Mr. J. Griffith Dearden to his father and mother, James and Jane Dearden; 5, to his first wife and daughter by Mr. J. B. Brierley; 6, Messrs. A. and W. Law to their sisters.

Besides the windows just enumerated there are the following, which are of various dates but all modern. In the north aisle is one to the memory of the Rev. J. E. N. Molesworth; a window subscribed for by the teachers and scholars of St. Chad's Sunday Schools; and one now hidden by the organ to the memory of Henry Farrand Poulden, a grandson of the last Dr. Molesworth. The east window bears the inscription:

"To the glory of God and to the Memory of Hugh Haslam and Ann Dawson, by their son Thomas Dawson. A.D. 1885. Edward Craig Maclure, M.A., Honorary Canon of Manchester, Vicar."

IN THE SOUTH AISLE.

"To the Memory of Richard Stott and his niece Elizabeth Stott. Placed by his son and daughter. A.D. 1877."

THE WEST WINDOW

Is "To the Memory of William Edward Royds and Mary Ann his wife. Erected by their son, Clement Molyneux Royds."

IN TRINITY CHAPEL.

"To Memory of William Griffith Dearden and Elizabeth Dearden. Dedicated 1886."

"To the Memory of Simon Dearden. Dedicated 1852. This window bears the Arms of Dearden, Belfelde, and Ingham."

"To the Memory of William Dearden, died 1842; Susanna Ada Dearden, died, 1848; and Francis Sydney Dearden, died 1847."

The above are all three-light windows.

MONUMENTS IN THE CHURCH.

SOUTH WALL.

"Sacred to the Memory of Thomas Hippon Vavasour, who departed this life the 24th of October, 1819, aged 69, sincerely beloved and deeply regretted. Also of Elizabeth his daughter, who died in London the 14th day of January, 1816, and was interred in a vault in Lewisham Church, Kent. Also of Penelope his wife, who died at Berwick Lodge, in the county of Gloucester, on the 29th of October, 1826, and was interred in the chancel of this church."

BAPTISTRY.

"Jacobi Holte, de Castleton, arm. et Dorotheæ Filiæ Tho. Grantham de Goltho, in Agro Lincolnensi, Arm. Uxoris carissimæ. Ipse Oxoniæ educatus et coll. Æn. Nas. Cooptatus socius, literis tum humanis tum divinis non mediocriter imbutus, pietate et amæno ingenio eruditionem ornavit, Regi subdites semper fidelissimus, Ecclesiæ Ang. Assertor strenuus, cujus quicquid sanctissime mandat sedulus observator, fanaticorum indocti Gregis quicquid delirant contemptor summus. Vir ad antiquæ probitatis, fidei ac pietatis normam factus, pietatem colluit sine fuco scientiam sine fastu prudentiam sine asperitate, justiciam sine rigore, sui tantum rigidus censor. Illa Dei timens, viri amans, familiæ propiciens summa prudentia res omnes administravit, filias quas septem peperit, pie ac prudenter aduxit, moribus optimus suisque simillimis imbruens, exemplo direxit magis quam præceptis. Uterque pietate in Deum, comitate in amicos, hospitalitate in omnes, charitate in egenos insignes; ut pauperum ille pater, illa mater haberetur, pueros ille, illa puellas proprio sumptu curaverunt educandos. Ne tantarum virtutum memoriam indigna premerit oblivio quatuor filiæ superstites, in æternam memoriam, Marmora hæc æquis sumptibus posuere.

Natus Octobri, A.D. MDCXLVII.

Obit. VII.^o Idus Jan., A.D. MDCCXII.

Illa nata XVth Call. Majas, A.D. MDCLVIII.

Obijt. III.^o Nonas Martias, A.D. MDCCXVIII.¹

NEAR THE WEST DOOR.²

"Here (within the quyre of Rochdale Church where his ancestors had been accustomed to be buried) lies the body of John Chadwick, Esq., of Healey Hall (late L^t-Colonel R.L.M.; the 12th in descent from Nicholas de Chadwick and the 17th from John de Healey). He was the youngest son of Charles Chadwick, Esq., of Mavesyn, Ridware, in Staffordshire (who was the 22nd in descent from Malvesyn, the Norman), and youngest son of Charles Chadwick Sackeverall, Esq., of Newhall, in Warwickshire, and Callow, in

¹ Formerly on south side of the altar.

² Originally in the chancel.

Derbyshire; who was the 15th from Delalaunde, of Callow, baptised at Bidware, 25th of February, 1719-20; died 23rd and buried 29th November, 1800. An active officer, an impartial magistrate, and truly an honest man. He married Susannah, youngest daughter of Robert Holt, Esq., of Shevington, who was nephew of Alexander Holt, Esq., of Gristlehurst, and descended from the Holts of Stubble, latterly of Castleton. He died at Manchester 19th and was buried here the 22nd January, 1765, aged 54. *Istud mulieris exemplar.* They left issue one daughter, Mary, and one son, Charles, now of Healey, Ridware, Newhall, and Callow."

UNDER THE TOWER.—MARBLE TABLET.

"To perpetuate a memorial erected in the Church of St. Peter, at St. Alban's (perished by time) this marble is here placed to the memory of a gallant and loyal man, Sir Bertine Entwisle, Knight, Viscount and Baron of Brybeke in Normandy, and sometime Baliffe of Constantine, in which office he succeeded his father-in-law, Sir John Ashton, whose daughter first married Sir Richard le Byron, an ancestor of the Lords Byrons, Barons of Rochdale; and secondly, Sir Bertine Entwisle, who after repeated acts of valour, in the service of his Sovereigns Henry the Fifth and Sixth, more particularly at Agincourt, was killed in the first battle of St. Alban's, and on his tomb stone was recorded in brass, the following inscription: 'Here lyeth Sir Bertin Entwisel, Knight, who was born in Lancastershyre, and was Viscount and Baron of Brybeke in Normandy, and Baliffe Constantine, who died fighting in King Sixth party, the 28th of May, 1455, on whose soul Jesus have mercy.'"

ON THE NORTH WALL.—MARBLE TABLET.

"In Memory of James Richard Elliott, who was wrecked on the Pegasus, off the Ferne Islands, July 20th, 1843, and who was interred at Holy Island, August 19th, aged 36 years; also of his nephew, William Bowen, son of Cap. Elliott, of 37th Reg., who was lost at the same time, aged 6 years."

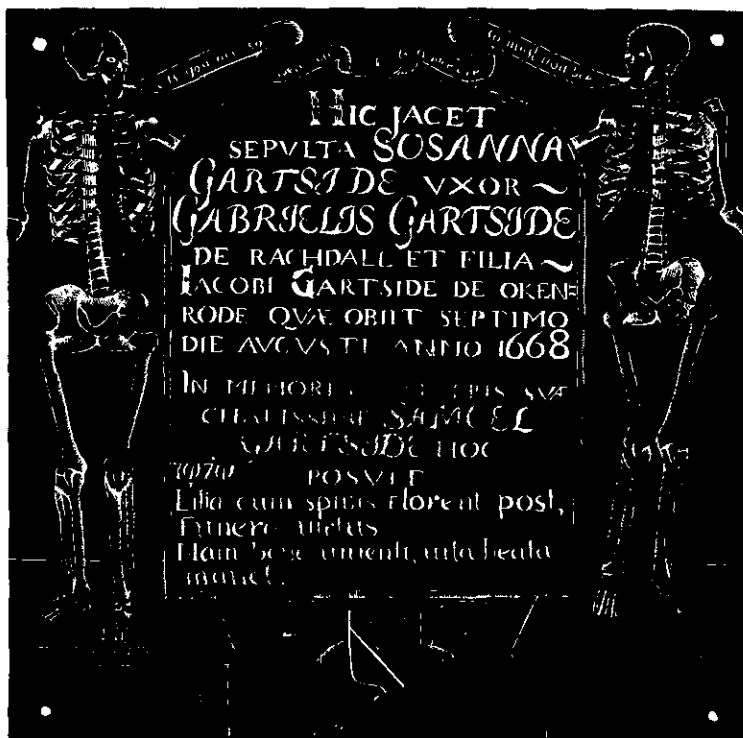
A MARBLE TABLET.

"Sacred to the Memory of John Elliott, Esq., who died August 21st, 1847, aged 81 years."

A MARBLE TABLET.

"Frances Roach, Widow, deceased Jan. 17th, 1848, in her 10th¹ year, to her memory this tablet is dedicated by her only son, J. E. N. Molesworth, D.D. Harriet, the beloved wife of J. E. N. Molesworth, and during thirty-five years his help and comfort both in prosperity and adversity, she died Dec. 7th, 1850. Harry Farrand, only child of George and Emma Frances Poulden, and grandson of J. E. N. Molesworth, departed this life Oct. 17th, 1853, aged 2 years and 4 months."

¹ Marble worn away.

GARTSIDE BRASS.¹

ON THE SOUTH WALL—MARBLE TABLET.

"In Memory of James Royds, of Mount Falinge, Esq., who died 2nd Feb., 1842, aged 83 years; and Mary, his wife, who died 24th July, 1846, aged 49 years."
1816?

MARBLE TABLET.

"In remembrance of George Walmsley, of Rochdale, Merchant, who was born at Gooselane, on the 20th day of July, 1721, and departed life on the 6th day of November, 1800, in the 80th year of his age."

In the west end of the church, where the font used to stand, are the following inscriptions on marble tablets:

"To the Memory of Thomas Smith, of Castleton Hall, died 31st Dec., 1806, aged 63. Penelope Smith, his Widow, died December 29th, 1823, aged 73."

"To the Memory of John Hopwood, Lieut. in the 93rd or Rifle Regiment, who fell at Arcangues before Bayonne, December the 10th, 1815, æt. 22. He distinguished himself at the battles of Busaco, Salamanca and Vittoria, and at the sieges of Ciudad Roderigo and Badajos, where he received severe wounds, and fell commanding a company of the regiment to which he belonged, beloved and lamented."

"To the Memory of John Entwistle, Esq., of Foxholes, M.P. for this Borough; and Ellen, his wife, one of the daughters and co-heiresses of Thomas Smith, Esq., of Castleton.

¹ Strictly speaking this is not a brass, the metal used being copper.

He died April 5th, 1837, aged 52 years, and was interred in the parish church of St. Marylebone, London; she died at Foxholes, Feb. 28th, 1838, aged 53, and was interred in this church."

In a vault under this seat¹ are deposited the remains of Benjamin Smith, of Heybrook, Merchant, born 1st July, 1730, died 11th June, 1800. Alice Forster Smith, Widow of the late Benjamin Smith, who died 7th Feb., 1814, æt. 58. James Lord, who died 6th Dec., 1788, aged 73. The Father and Mother of Alice Forster Smith are interred in this church.

IN THE TRINITY CHAPEL.

"M. S.

JACOBO. DEARDEN. ARMIGERO. HUIUSCE. MANERII. DOMINO
VIRO. PROVO. STRENUO
PRUDENTI. QUI. EXIMIA. IN. NEGOTIIS. PERAGENDIS. SOLERTIA
DOMUM. SUAM
AUXIT. COMITATE. IN. AMICOS. ORNAVIT. LARGITATE. IN
EGENOS. MUNIVIT. VIXIT
ANNOS. LIV. MENSES II. DIEM. OBIT. SUPREMUM. XI. CAL. OCT
A.S. MDCCCXXVIII.
NECNON. FRANCESCÆ. UXORI. SUÆ. THOMÆ. FERRAND. DE. MERLAND
ARMIGERI. FILLÆ. FÆMINÆ. DE. CONJUGE. LIBERIS. AMICIS
OPTIME. MERENTI. QUÆ. MORIBUS
SUAVISSIMIS. INDOLE. MITISSIMA. OMNIUM. SIBI. AMOREM
FACILE. CONCILIAVIT
OMNIBUS. FLEBILIS. OCCIDIT. ID. FEB. A. S. MDCCCXXV. ANNUM
ÆTATIS. AGENS. LIII.
PARENTIBUS. SUIS. CARISSIMIS. H. M. P. C. LIBERI. SUPERSTITES."

IN THE MIDDLE AISLE.

"Joseph Brierley, died Feb. 25th, 1833, aged 65 years; Anne, his wife, died Mar. 10th, 1847, aged 80. Their children: Hannah died Sep. 22, 1807, aged 6 years; Alice died 25 July, 1811, aged 12 years."

IN THE CHANCEL—A BRASS.

"Susanna, daughter of James Royds, of Mount Falinge, died 22nd Feb., 1801, aged 14. Jane died 31 Jan., 1807, aged 4 years. Dautesey died 13th March, 1807, aged 6 years. Mary, his wife, died 21st July, 1816, aged 49 years. James Royds died 2nd Feb., 1842. Jane, wife of Clement Royds, died at Cheltenham, 16th Feb., 1853. Clement Royds died 6th Sep., 1854."

GRAVESTONES IN THE CHURCH.

In 1834 the following were on the floor of the church; those marked with an asterisk (*) are still visible, the rest have either been destroyed or are covered over.²

¹ This has been removed from its original position.

² Copied by Canon Raines—see his MSS., i., 299, et seq. The inscriptions are not here given—merely the facts recorded.

IN THE CHANCEL.

"Marmaduke Vavasour, who died 27th July, 1752, in his 50th year. John Vavasour, his nephew, died 19th June, 1784, in his 60th year."

"Benjamin, son of John Walmsley, of Tentercroft, died 9th Sep., 1772, aged 1 year. Elizabeth, his daughter, died 27th Dec., 1775, in her 1st year. George, his son, died 12th May, 1778, in her 2nd year. James, his son, died 29th April, 1788, aged 8 years."

"Ann, wife of John Walmsley the younger, died 8th Aug., 1807, aged 30. John Walmsley, of Castlemere, her husband, died 15th March, 1822, aged 53 years."

"Mary Ingham, wife of John Ingham, Gentleman, and daughter of John Hollingworth, of Tintwistle in Mottram, Co. Chester, died 22nd Jan., 1726, aged 85 years. John Ingham, her husband, and son of Richard Ingham, of Cleggswood, Gent., died 25th Jan., 1726."

"Susanna, daughter of James Royds of Mount Falinge, died 22nd Feb., 1800, aged 14. Jane died 31st Jan., 1807, aged 5. Emily died 13th March, 1807, aged 11. Dauntsey died 13th March, 1807, aged 5. Mary, his wife, died 4th July, 1816, aged 49."¹

MIDDLE AISLE.

* "Mary, the wife of John Scholfield, Bookseller, died 8th Feb., 1739; also John Scholfield, her husband, died 17th Dec., 1771, æt. 66. Alice Scholfield, their daughter, died 29th Nov., 1804, aged 74. Ann Lancashire [born 2nd July], 1795, aged 19."²

"Ann, the wife of James Newbold, late of Newbold, died 29th April, 1781, aged 86 years."

"Ellen Wild, died 8th May, 1726, aged 59 years. Elizabeth, the daughter of Ellen Wild, died 16th July, 1739, aged 48 years."

"Joseph, the son of Edmund Taylor, of Rochdale, buried 29th May, 1698, aged 14 days. James, his son, buried 29th Oct., 1698, aged 2 years."

"Edward Howarth, Smallbridge, died 11th Feb., 1795, in his 92nd year. Martha, his wife, died 20th Dec., 1806, aged 73."

"Susan Ormerod, daughter of Peter Ormerod, interred 17th March, 1711. Joseph Ormerod, gent., died 14th March, 1768."

"This Stone placed here by Henry Ormerod, M.D., 1802, to the memory of Laurence, his son, who died Feb. 6th, 1802, aged 17 months." The above Henry Ormerod, M.D., died April 7th, 1802, aged 36.

"Mary, daughter of Benjamin Healey, of Woodhouse Lane, died 28th March, 1747, aged 14 years. Benjamin Healey, father of the above, interred in 1747, in his 47th year. John, his son, died 8th Jan., 1749, in his 1st year. Hannah, his daughter, died 26th Feb., 1809, aged 75 years."

* "Martha, wife of Abraham Chadwick, of Halifax, and daughter of Thomas Holt, of Rochdale, died 14th Aug., 1764, aged 28 years. Martha, daughter of the above Abraham Chadwick, died 20th March, 1768, aged 3 years. Thomas Holt, died 6th Aug. 1772, aged 72 years. Martha, his wife, died 2nd Jan., 1783, aged 87 years. Mary Holt, their daughter, died 9th Dec., 1792, in her 61st year. James Holt Robinson, gent., died 29th Nov., 1799, aged 42 years. Hannah, his wife, died 11th Dec., 1801, in her 32nd year.

¹ Added, James Royds, died 2nd Feb., 1842, æt. 82.

² This is now near the south door.

Martha Ann, their daughter, died 14th August, 1813, in her 13th year. Maria, their daughter, died 15th Jan., 1821, aged 22 years." [This last on a Brass].

"Edmund Chadwick, apothecary, died 31st July, 1744."

* "Alice, daughter of James Holland, died July 19th, 1770, aged 1 year. Elizabeth, his wife, died 14th June, 1770, aged 34. John, his son, A.B., died 18th Sep., 1795, aged 25. The above James Holland died 22nd May, 1817, aged 79."¹

NORTH AISLE.

"Margaret, wife of the Rev. Thomas Bellas, M.A., died Oct. 13th, 1796, aged 38 years."

"Timothy Normanton, B.A., who was Curate of this Church 7 years and 8 months, he died Aug. 17th, 1767, aged 31 years."

"James Holland, of Birchenley, Gentleman, died March 17th, 1756, aged 71. William Holland, his son, died 6th Sep., 1762, aged 52 years. Alice, wife to James Holland, gent., died 7th Dec., 1770, aged 87 years and 5 months. Frances Holland, their daughter, died 6th Nov., 1792, aged 77 years."

"John Hamer, Gent., died 18th Nov., 1778, in the 73rd year of his age. Alice, his wife, died 8th March, 1774, aged 78 years. Alice, their daughter, died 5th May, 1772, in the 38th year of her age. Sarah, wife of John Hamer, gent. (son of the above John Hamer), died 6th Aug., 1800, aged 58 years. Also the said John Hamer, died 1st Dec., 1806, aged 68 years."

"Ralph Taylor, who was Clerk of this church for 40 years, died 24th Nov., 1783, in his 75th year. Ann, his wife, died 18th Jan., 1793, aged 77 years. Charles, his son, buried 12th July, 1752, aged 7 years. Mary Taylor, his daughter, died 26th Dec., 1807, aged 63 years. Ralph, their son, died 30th Nov., 1809, aged 69."

CROSS AISLE FROM SOUTH DOOR.

"John Wolfenden, organist of this church, died 1st Feb., 1748-9, in his 60th year."

"Robert Ingham, Surgeon, died 7th April, 1773, in the 44th year of his age. Mary, wife of William Ingham, died 28th April, 1732, 'with 5 of *their* children.' Alice, his daughter, died 24th Jan., 1762, aged 36. William Ingham, of Rochdale, Merchant, died 16th March, 1767, aged 82."

SOUTH AISLE.

"Hic jacet [corpus] Margaretti Gartside . . . [quæ fuit] uxor Jacobi Gartside de Rachdale, et . . . [filia Ricardi Chadwicke [gen'de] Spotland . . . et obiit . . . Novo die anno Dni, 1668."²

"Ellen Hartley, died 2nd Sep., 1807, in her 30 year."

"Thomas, the son Thomas Hippon Vavasour, died 8th Mar., 1771, in his 4th year. John, his son, died 6th July, 1781, in his 3rd year. Marmaduke Edward, his son, died 10th June, 1796, aged 6 weeks."

¹ Now in north aisle.

² The date is probably wrong, no one of that name was buried in 1668, but Margaret wife of James Gartside was buried 31 Dec., 1681.

"John Kenion, of Church Lane, died 19th Jan., 1718, aged 28. Jane, his wife, buried 1784, aged 60 years. Nicholas, son of Nicholas Shuttleworth, gent., buried 13th Nov., 1742, aged 3 weeks. Sarah, wife of Nicholas Shuttleworth and daughter of Jn. Kenion, buried 8th Nov., 1755, aged 39. Nicholas Shuttleworth, gent., died 21st Sep., 1763."

"Thomas Leach, of Cheetham St., Yeo., died 6th Feb., 1814, aged 68 years. Sarah Leach, Widow of said Thomas Leach, died 20th March, 1825, in her 72nd year."

"Mr. Samuel Stead, of Rochdale, died Feb. 7th, 1754, aged 69. Mary, the daughter of Mr. Thomas Stead, died 4th Oct., 1759, in her 10th year. Thomas Hindley, died April 14th, 1709."

"William, the son of Samuel Stead, of Rochdale, died 19th Dec., 1718, aged 1 year. Hindley, the son of Samuel Stead, died 13th July, 1736, aged 22 years. Judith, Widow of Samuel Stead, died 14th April, 1738, aged 59 years. Mary, the wife of Mr. Thomas Stead, died 25th Aug., 1775, aged 58. Mr. Thomas Stead, of Rochdale, gent., died 2nd Feb., 1780, in her 73rd year."

"Nancy, daughter of James Dunlop, M.D., died 5th April, 1806, aged 6 years. Margaret, spouse of the above James Dunlop, died 16th May, 1820, in her 51st year."

IN THE AISLE LEADING FROM THE LITTLE DOOR TO THE CHANCEL.

"Elizabeth, daughter of Christopher Horrocks and wife of Thomas Ferrand, of Rochdale, gentleman. Christopher Horrocks, of Sparth, Castleton, died 19th Dec., 1743. Elizabeth, his wife, died . . . June, 1724. John, his son, . . ."

"Susan, the daughter of Mr. Robert Royds, of Turf House, gent., dec^d, she died 10th Dec., 1780, in her 41st year, wife of Thomas Ferrand."

["Thomas Farrand, of Marland, Attorney-at-law, son of John Farrand, of Hollinghurst, in the parish of Thornton Hill, Co. York, gent., he died Feb. 20th, 1789, aged . . . Elizabeth, his daughter, spinster, died 12th April, 1808, aged 46 years. David, his 2nd son, died 19th Aug., 1792, aged 26 years. Ann, his daughter, died 4th July, 1795, aged 24 years. Susan, his daughter, died 14th June, 1795, aged 19 years. . . . his eldest daughter, died Aug. 12th, 1784, aged 24 years.]"¹

CROSS AISLE FROM GREAT SOUTH DOOR.

"Sarah, daughter of Richard Holt, of Rochdale, gent., died 29th Sep., 1762, aged 4 years. Jane, his daughter, died 19th Jan., 1764, aged 2 years. Mary, their daughter, died 6th July, 1799, aged 34 years. Elizabeth, wife of [above] Richard Holt, died 28th June, 1797, aged 67 years. Richard Holt died 16th Aug., 1801, in his 69th year."

"Thomas, son of James Willson, died 30th January, 1708."

"Stephen Bellot, late of Rochdale, died . . . in the year of our Lord 1729. Also Ann Bellot, his daughter, died 22nd Sep., 1780, in her 98th year."

"George Chorlton, died 20th July, 1749, in his 50th year. Sarah, a child of George Chorlton, died 1st Sep., 1725. Mary and William, his children, died March 30th, 1733. Sarah Chorlton, sen., died 16th Jan., 1790, aged 60. Hannah Chorlton, died 3rd Nov., 1809, aged 69 years."

"Ellen, wife of George Chorlton, died 6th June, 1762, æt. 62."

¹ This is not in Raines' list, and as one of the children is stated on it to be "buried in this churchyard" it was probably placed in the church since 1834.

“Alice, daughter of Thomas Holme of Brown Hill, and relict of Marmaduke Vavasour, died Nov. 9th, 1770.”

In 1834 there was a small piece of copper inserted in the wall of the north side of the chancel, which bore the following:

“In Memory of Robert Ashworth, of Castleton, died 23rd June, 1812, in his 74th year. Betty, the wife of Joshua Hilton, died 9th Dec., 1830, in her 32nd year. Mary Fletcher, of Butterworth Fold in Bamford, died 22nd April, 1834, aged 85 years.”

This has disappeared. In 1834, on a large mural tablet, much defaced, near the Trinity Chapel, was this inscription:

“Hic requiescunt in pace Samuelis, Edmundus, Gulielmus, et Francisca filii et filia Edmundi Butterworth, de Windiebank, per Annam nunc uxorem ejus. Samuelus ob. 20th Sep., 1697, æt. 1 an. Edmundus ob. 2nd April 1700, æt. 5. Gulielmus ob. 7th Nov., 1709, æt. 3. Francesca ob. 11th Nov. 1709, æt. 1. Sarah, ob. 10th June, 1715, æt. 6.”

On a square brass let into the stone was engraved,

“Hic inhumatur Dominus Edmundus Butterworth de Wyndiebank, ubi natus erat et obiit apud Oakenrode 1725, æt. sua 63 hospitabilitate justus fidus et flebit Hic etiam cum conjuge semper adamato quiescat placens Vxor Anna, quæ mortem obiit 19th Junii, 1762. Mary Carr, of Oakenrode, died 29th Oct., 1787, in her 87th year. Ann Butterworth, of Oakenrod, Spinster, died 7th Sep., 1783, in her 84th year.”

On the same monument:

“William Butterworth, of Wyndiebank, born 16th Nov., 1660.
John Butterworth, of Wyndiebank, born 20th Oct., 1666.
Elizabeth, wife of John Butterworth, born 4th May, 1714, aged 84.”

On another monument:

“John Butterworth, of Ashbrookhey, died 29th Mar., 1709, aged 66.
Ann, his daughter, died 11th May, 1715, aged 19.
Isabel, „ died 10th Feb., 1721, aged 52.
Charles, his son, died 22nd Jan., 1736, aged 28.
Robert, late of Ashbrookhey, yeo., died 24th Feb., 1748, aged 52.
Edmund Butterworth died 5th Feb., 1775, aged 67.
Benjamin, son of Edmund Butterworth, Innkeeper, died 30th Mar., 1746, aged 2.
Betty, daughter „ „ died 18th Mar., 1748, aged 15.
Mary Butterworth, died 14th Sep., 1815, aged 83.
Alice Butterworth, of Bank, her daughter, died 10th Aug., 1831, aged 70.”

In the Choir Vestry there are now [1889] the following:¹

"Ann, daughter of William and Nancy Wyke, of Littleborough, died 1st May, 1769, aged 18 years. William Wyke died March 20th, 1797, aged 52 years."²

"Robert Riley, of Barrack Field, died Jan. 1st, 1847, in his 55th year."

IN THE BAPTISTRY. [1889].

"John Taylor, of New Wall, died 25th Dec., 1817, æt. 66 years. Hannah, his wife, died 28th Dec., 1811, aged 60 years. Sarah, their daughter, died 30th Nov., 1782, aged 2 years. Alice, their daughter, died 24th Dec., 1793, aged 1 year. Mary, their daughter and wife of John Schofield, died July 1st, 1818, aged 33. Sarah, their daughter, died 20th June, 1818, aged 10 days. Hannah, their daughter, died 20th June, 1818, aged 18 months. Ralph Taylor, son of the above John and Hannah Taylor, who died at . . . field, Essex County, North America, 1st July." [The oak screen covers the remainder.]

"John Scholfield, late of Manchester, Innkeeper, died 27th Jan., 1772, in his 44th year. Mary, his wife, buried 29th July . . . aged 49. John, son of John Scholfield, died 28th Dec., 1750. Richard, his son, died 10th Feb., 1758. Robert, his son, died June . . . 1760."

CROSS AISLE FROM SOUTH DOOR. [1888.]

"James Longden, late of Rochdale, heretofore of Wotton-under-Edge, Gloucestershire, died 16th Jan., 1792, in his 59th year. George, his son, died 20th Sep., 1794, aged 34 years. James, son of the above George, died 21st Aug., 1795, aged 4 years."

"Mary, daughter of Thomas Ball, of Spotland, Woolstapler, died 9th Aug., 1771, aged 25. John, their son, died 30th . . . 1776, aged 6 years.

"Joseph Scholfield, of Little Clegg, yeo., died 25th Mar., 1742, in his 67th year. Elizabeth, wife of the above, died 16th Aug., 1746, aged 64. John, their son, died Oct. 24th, 1770, aged 59. Alice, the wife of Joseph Scholfield, died 15th July 1798, aged 76 years. Elizabeth Scholfield, Spinster, died 16th March, 1816, aged 70 years."

THE CHURCH YARD.

There is nothing of special interest in the church yard, which is approached from Packer Street by one hundred and twenty-two stone steps, from the top of which on a clear day is obtained a fine view of the town and its surrounding hills. The gravestones of the seventeenth century are very few, the earliest of which is a flat stone, close to the east end of the church, the inscription is imperfect:

"Here resteth y^e . . . of Lawrence Hard[man of] Marcrofte Yate in [this parish], was baptized . . . 5, A.D. 1656, and [was buried] here June the 9th, A.D. . . ."

¹ None of the succeeding inscriptions are included in Raines' list.

² Before the addition to south aisle this stone was in the church yard.

On the south side of the church is a stone on which in old fashioned letters is carved :

"Here lyeth the bodye of Samvell Wyld of Rochdale, the senior, mercer. Bvried the nynth day of Aprill in the yere of ovr Lord God 1659."

On the same side of the yard are the following :

"Jonathan Butterworth of Rochdale, mercer, died 26th Dec., 1675. Jane, wife of Jonathan Butterworth of Healey, buried 9th April, 1685."

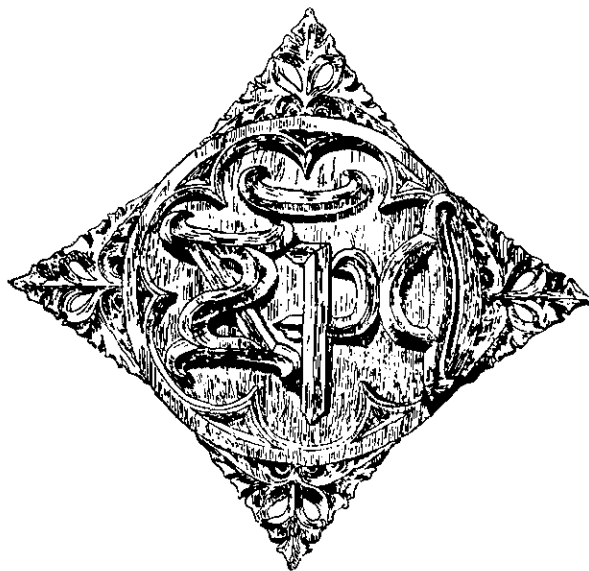
"A. B., 1680. Grace, the wife of James Brearley of Ogden, died 1690. James Brearley of Ogden, died 25th October, 1699."

In the east end of the church yard is the grave of Tim Bobbin, which bears the inscription :

"Here lies the body of John Collier of Milnrow, who died 14th July, 1786, aged 75 yrs. Tim Bobbin.

Here lies John and with him Mary,
Cheek by jowl and never vary ;
No wonder that they so agree,
John wants no punch and Moll no tea."

Other monumental inscriptions in the church yard will be referred to under the head of family history.



OAK BOSS FORMERLY IN ROOF OF THE TRINITY CHAPEL.