

CHAPTER VI.

Present Debt of the Borough—Salaries—Constables and Churchwardens—Churchwardens' Accounts—Early Life and Trials of Bishop Pearson: His Appointment to Wigan and Death at Chester—Legh Chapel given for Vestry—Act of Indulgence: Its Reception in Wigan—Churchwardens' Accounts from 1674 to 1678—Foxes and Hedgehogs—Elections of 1678-9—Bribery in Wigan—Petition of Alexander Rigby, Esq.—Geffrey Shackerley—New Monument in the Parish Church—Macaulay on the Wigan Address—Charter from James II.—Mayor, Aldermen, and Recorder—New Powers of the Corporation—First Common Council—Foreigners—Copy of Resolution constituting first Common Council—Oaths of Common Council—Petition to be made a Freeman—Gatewaters—Petition of a Coverlet Weaver—Dogs—Case of Lowe and his Petition—Petition about a Hedge and Ditch—Councillors—Cleaning of the Streets—Stalls—New Bye-law as to size of Stalls—Protective Principles of the Borough in the Seventeenth Century—Petition to be made a Freeman—Petition Praying for Remission of Fine—Petition of a Pewterer—Petition of a Linen Webster—Trade Petition—An Army Petition.

THE greater the amount of debt the more extensively is one honoured with credit, and the town of Wigan has now the honour to be half a million in debt. There are now several thousands of pounds paid for the salaries of corporate officials alone, whereas two hundred years ago, before municipal credit had come into fashion, it might be said the town had neither debts nor salaries. According to the published accounts of the borough treasurer from March 26th, 1880, to March 25th, 1881, the sum paid for officers' salaries alone was £2,129 2s. 1d., whereas, according to the churchwardens' accounts, a few odd shillings per annum seemed to be the entire public expenditure in the seventeenth century. In the seventeenth century those who did not carefully attend to their own drainage and refuse were brought before the Court Leet and fined, but in 1880-81 the nightsoil department cost the borough £4077 12s.; street scavenging, £1,012 4s. 5d., besides sundry other hundred pounds for sewerage—

(Page 101, Accounts of the Treasurer, 1880-81). The magnitude of a national debt answers the question, "in what estimation is the nation held?" and individuals, boroughs, or nations credited with much easily receive credit for more, although inevitably but indubitably swamped in bankruptcy. Modern corporate bodies must have their municipal honours, and perhaps oftener pay for honours than for services rendered; yet two hundred years ago the honour of doing a public service was often all the honorarium received by officials, although the services were none the worse done. The borough rates were collected by the constables of the out-townships of the parish, and by the churchwardens and bailiffs in the borough. The receipts and disbursements passed through the hands of the churchwardens, who were the representatives of the people. Their office was a responsible though only an honorary one. They were borough treasurers, overseers, poor law guardians, &c., and had to account for every penny, and yet had no emoluments of their own. Their accounts, by no means graphically or too legibly written, are happily preserved, and a summary of a few years is here preserved as the best witnesses of local history of the period.

Their accounts for 1670 show that the receipts were £44 8s. 8d., and the disbursements £44 11s. 1d. The accounts were seen, examined, allowed, and signed by Myles Turner, the "maior," John Rawler, curate; John Gerarde, Raphe Browne, Ra. Markland, &c. The principal disbursements were for fox heads (1s. a head) and hedge hogs (2d. each). These are the chief items also in 1671, when Thomas Leyland and Ra. Rothwell were churchwardens. In 1672 there is a very lengthy ledger, almost entirely filled up by disbursements for fox heads and hedge hogs, the receipts then being £46 6s. 9d., and the disbursements £42 2s. 10d. The churchwardens were Geo. Browne and R. Culcheth.

John Pearson was the eldest son of Robert Pearson, Rector of Snoring and Creake, in Norfolk, and afterwards Archdeacon of Suffolk. His mother was the daughter of Dr. Richard Vaughan, successively Bishop of Bangor, Chester, and London. He received the most orthodox and the best classical education. Even in boyhood he was studious, retired, and meditative, although by no means of a melancholy temperament. At the age of ten he went to Eton, where he remained for seven years (1631). From thence he proceeded to Queen's College, Cambridge, and was almost immediately elected a scholar of King's College. His life at college shows that the thirst for knowledge had almost become a mania with him. His constant companions were classic authors and theological writers. He knew the history and habits of the ancients better than the customs of his own time, and admired their intelligence and intellectual labour more. At this early age, when the hopeful ambition of youth is high, and the ways of the world not yet learned by experience, he determined to become a useful member of society, and was gravely

and greedily storing up information that might be of use to him in fighting his intellectual, moral, and religious battles. He believed a solid fundamental education to be the only road to success, and he loved his probationary career. He was an enthusiast for book-knowledge, and, moreover, he understood and appreciated what he read. While men of his own age, equally ambitious, but without application, were wasting their evenings in ribald gossip or Bacchanalian pleasures, he was courting the classic Nine and enjoying intellectual feasts from books that are the representatives of names that never die. He burned the midnight oil to his advantage when others were dreaming the happy hours away. Cole, in his MSS., vol. I., p. 165, says of him :—"Certain it is that such was the bishop's propensity to books and knowledge while a school boy that all the money he could get went for his improvement. He hardly, it is said, even in those early days, allowed himself time for natural rest, for when the compositor, at ten o'clock at night, saw that all the candles, according to rule, were put out in the long chamber or dormitory, he would contrive to light up his within an hour or two after, when all the boys were asleep : and by this means it is affirmed that before he left Eton he had read most of the Greek and Latin Fathers of the Church." Allen, in his MS., Eton College, says :—"Our famous Pearson was a very hard student at college, and, finding that the fireside diverted the intention of his thoughts and dulled his spirits, he avoided coming as near it as possible, contented to sit close to his books, with a blanket thrown over his shoulders." Like that of many others in his day, his was a life of strange vicissitude and religious fortitude. The time of the Great Rebellion was a time of great tribulation to the clergy ; ability, purity, and godliness went for nothing when politics were adverse. That Church and State would cling together was not only a Conservative but a national idea, yet to be a staunch Churchman was often sufficient to ensure ejection. The learned theologian, Pearson, endured persecution and comparative penury with his clerical brethren. Impoverished clergy were the most common of all beggars, for others who were able-bodied unhesitatingly took to the sword. Thrown out of lucrative livings for conscience sake, many of them became straggling chaplains in the Royalist army, and were even glad to have such opportunities of gaining the necessaries of life. In the prime of life the orthodox and learned Pearson became chaplain to Lord Goring, and with him experienced the hardships of life on the field of death. When Bishop Wilkins died in 1672 he was, at the age of sixty, presented to the Bishopric of Chester and the Rectory of Wigan by the trustees of Sir Orlando Bridgeman, which honourable and lucrative livings he held until his death, which took place fourteen years afterwards. The following letter is from an original document in the Tanner MSS. in the Bodleian Library, Oxford (vol. 144, f. 34), and published in "Local Gleanings," vol. I. :—

Charles R.

Our Will and Pleasure is, That you forthwith grant your Lycense and Dispensacon to the Right Reverend Father in God, John, Lord Bishop of Chester, to hold the Rectory of Wiggin, in the County of Lancaster and Diocesse of Chester, and the Arch Deaconry of Surry, with the said Bishopprick of Chester. For which this shall be your Warrant. Given at Our Court at Whitehall, the 15th day of January, in the 24th yeare of Our Reigne, 1672-3.

By his Masta. command,

ARLINGTON.

To the Most Reverend Father in
God, Gilbert, Lord Arch Bishop
of Canterbury.

To him, as to many others, the Restoration was as the dawn of a new day after a long dark night full of trouble. It was the period when his lucky star rose from behind the threatening horizon, and steadily ascended to its zenith, increasing in brilliancy as it rose, and retaining that brightness until suddenly, a few years before his death, it set with his brilliant intellect enveloped in the blackness of darkness, all memory being lost, and the great theologian and mighty man of mental valour as helpless as a little child. But his work was done, and well done, too. He was not only an ornament and honour to Wigan, but to his country, as well as a faithful and useful servant of the Church. He was an arduous and successful writer, an excellent preacher, whose sermons were so clear, fascinating, and full of truth that he was frequently requested to publish them, the king himself once making such a request. Burnet says he was in "all respects the greatest divine of his day," and Dr. Bentley declared that "his very dross was gold." In 1657 a very interesting and instructive conference was carried on in writing by him and Gunning, afterwards Bishop of Ely, with two Papists on the subject of schism. Part of the correspondence was published in 1658 in Paris by one of the Roman Catholics, although an agreement had originally been mutually entered into that nothing should be made public. The publication was called "Schism Unmasked: A Late Conference." One of Pearson's writings, "An Exposition of the Creed," published in 4to., 1659, is a work still recognised by divines as of great value. It was published at the request of his parishioners in London, has run through more than a dozen editions, and is considered "one of the most finished pieces of theology in our language." A beautiful specimen of elegant and forcible English is given in his "Golden Remains of the ever-memorable Mr. John Hales, of Eton." Pearson was presented by Juxon, Bishop of London, to the Rectory of St. Christopher's, created a D.D. of Cambridge, made Prebendary of Ely, Archdeacon of Surrey, Master of Jesus College, successor

to Dr. Love in the Margaret Professorship, Cambridge; nominated a Commissioner for the review of the Liturgy in the Conference of Savoy, where he was acknowledged to be the ablest and most candid opponent of the Nonconformists; admitted a Master of Trinity College, Cambridge, and Fellow of the Royal Society—all before being presented to the Rectorship of Wigan and Bishopric of Chester. He died at Chester, July 16th, 1686, aged 74 years.

Whilst he was Bishop and Rector the north aisle of the Parish Church, which had hitherto been the Legh Chapel, was handed over to him and the churchwardens to be used as a vestry. Robert Legh, living three generations before the donor, Sir Peter Legh, of Lime, and who had been wounded at Agincourt in 1415, had married the heiress of Norley, in Pemberton, and with her obtained the "Lordship and Manor of Norley or North Legh, within the Parish of Wigan," and thus commenced the long connection with Wigan of the influential family of Legh. When this chapel of theirs was given over to be used as a vestry, the churchwardens were "John Keeling, of Wigan, gentleman, and William Blackburn, of Blackleyhurst, in the parish of Wigan, gentleman." It was given because "the Parish Church of Wigan is destitute and at want of a vestry," and on condition that the donor, Richard Legh, should be allowed to "erect, set up, and repair one decent and convenient gallery or loft for him, his heirs, and assigns, to sit, stand, and kneel in to hear Divine service and sermon." The signature of the Bishop has been cut away by some vandal from this document now in the Parish Church vestry.

When tyrants are brought to bay they are even more humble and fawning than ordinary cowards. The forbearing and farseeing man, although having dignity, stands not upon it with haughty indignation like a strutting peacock, but the man of little authority and less intellectual ability, whom the force of fortunate circumstances has forced above his superiors, is generally the most unbearable of all despots, despicable to his equals, the sycophant of his superiors, and the would-be slave-driver of his circumstantial inferiors who unfortunately are directly dependent on him for the necessaries of subsistence. The Stuarts held the most tyrannical and suicidal beliefs, yet had often to drink the very dregs of humiliation, and sometimes their royal contrition was so great that the nation became buoyed up by the hopes of better things, though the royal acts of restitution that it often fondly anticipated came to nothing. Alas for the hopes of people anxious to hope and willing to forgive. No sooner had disloyal clouds passed away and the sun shone than the Stuarts were Stuarts again, and the people made aware they were the dupes of their own wishes. In 1672 such good and bright prospects opened before the gaze of sanguine Englishmen, and all Wigan rejoiced, and paid special fees for the ringing of good tidings. The Act of Indulgence was passed, and men and women were virtually

acknowledged to have consciences that could decide between right and wrong independent of the royal will. Freedom of speech, and, greater still, liberty to worship according to one's own conviction, was granted by a royal edict. The proclamation, as usual, was made in the Market Place of Wigan, and Presbyterian and Episcopalian alike rejoiced, for all, except bigots, were sick at heart of the wrangling of ages. Special licence was granted by the king, Charles II., for Presbyterians to hold their religious meetings in the town, and soldiers were called upon to do all in their power to keep them from being molested. What a change from the times of Fleetwood, and what a poor concession compared with the state of matters now.

Almost every prison in England had some Puritan within its gloomy walls, and yet their cause seemed to prosper like a political agitation that no unreasonable force can destroy. Legal force carried out the behests of bigoted zeal; leniency had only meant want of Christian faith. But persistent agitation of able men brought enthusiasm to reason, and a strong feeling was growing amongst politicians that severity towards the Puritans was undeserved and far too unchristianlike. The Cabinet meeting was summoned in 1672 to consider the grave social crisis. Measures of moderation might have been favourably received, only Ministers could not at first agree to any definite line of procedure, as their own convictions were not at once publicly supported by national sympathy. When the Cabinet met during the recess, and it was proposed that a Bill of Indulgence should be passed, giving certain liberties to Dissenters, Sir Orlando Bridgeman, of Wigan, being Lordkeeper, resolutely opposed and refused to attach the royal seal to the Bill. His reasons for so strongly objecting proceeded from his fixed belief that the Papists would claim the same prerogatives as Episcopalianism, and so would attain their old powers. A compromise was arrived at that Romanists should be allowed to worship in their own houses, and other dissenters in licensed houses. The Bill was as welcome as it was unexpected, especially in Lancashire. Puritans who had spent many years in prison were set free to preach the gospel they had studied in seclusion. Special licences were granted for conducting services in private houses, barns, or other convenient places in Wigan, as in the other neighbouring towns. There were 3,500 licences taken out for England, 185 of those being for Lancashire. Great was the joy of the people at the signs of the new dawn of liberty. Well disposed men liked the practical part of the gospel of "Peace and good will to all men," but there were growlers and doubters who murmured their fears that affairs were too good to last. Still the licences were issued, and hopes brightened, and even grumblers began to hide their diminished heads until Parliament met the next year. On the conduct of the Cabinet being taken into consideration it was there and then declared by 168

to 116 votes "That penal statutes in matters Ecclesiastical could not be suspended but by Act of Parliament." Thus the Act of the Cabinet was declared illegal, and the one year old Bill was cancelled to the utter dismay of quondam jubilant Dissenters.

In 1674 £25 3s. 11d. was received from the bailiffs of the "burrow" and constables of the parish. The disbursements were for fox-heads, hedgehogs, bread, wine, and doles, to the amount of £25 9s. The accounts were seen, allowed, and signed by R. Baron, maior, A. Langton, William Daniell, Robert Walthew, Nic. Pennington, James fforde, Robert Litherbarrow, George Browne, Chas. Legh, and Robert Markland. In 1675 bread, wine, fox-heads, hedgehogs, oil (oyle), and ropes for the bells are the chief items of a long account, amounting to the sum "total" of £21 14s. 9d., and allowed and signed by Nic. Pennington, maior, Roger Bradshaigh, A. Langton, Sam. Shaw, curate, Robert Baron, Ra. Markland, James fforde, Ja. Gerrant, and Robert Litherbarrow—(C. W. Accounts).

Mr. Peter Bradshaw, the Popish priest at Brynne Hall, was this day (8th March, 1675) interred at Wigan. He was uncle to Sir Roger Bradshaigh, of Haigh—(Parish Registers).

Master Reynard of the present day has quite an aristocratic life, and is a source of great national sport, but in the seventeenth century he seems to have had hard times of it in Wigan. The whole parish must have been overrun by foxes, for year after year the churchwardens' accounts are full of the "price set upon his head," proving that they must have been a great nuisance, and that there was a firm determination to stamp them out. Haigh, Winstanley, and Billinge were specially infested. The hedgehog, which is considered a harmless, if not useful, animal, was little less troublesome. No less than 264 heads of foxes were paid for by the churchwardens in 1676; indeed the long list of disbursements is of the following nature:—

Pd. Raph W. de Haigh, for 1 hedgehog, 2d.
Pd. Peter Winstanley, for 1 hedgehog, 2d.
Pd. Sam. Naylor, for 1 fox-head, 1s.

In 1677 hedgehog disbursements almost fill the churchwarden accounts. The receipts for that year were good, and were as follow:—

Received of the Bailiffs of Wigan	...	...	...	...	£12	0	0
"	Constables of Ince	...	...	...	2	0	0
"	" Hindley	...	...	...	3	14	8
"	" Haigh	...	...	...	3	0	0
"	" Dalton	...	...	...	2	0	0
"	" Holland	...	...	...	4	0	0
"	" Billinge	...	...	...	2	13	4
"	" Winstanley	...	...	...	1	6	8
"	" Orrell	...	...	...	2	0	0
"	" Aspull	...	...	...	3	0	0
"	" Pemberton	...	...	...	2	5	8
Received for an old Bell Wheel, from Gilbert Holm and Nicholas Atherton, chapellwardens of Upholland					0	5	0

The first entries for 1677 in the churchwardens' accounts (C. W., Robert fford and Adam Hindley), are "Paid unto William Scott, for casting (kosting) the first Bell, £10 10s."

To John Mahaloy, for going to Holland with a letter to Mr. Leigh about the Poor Bread, 4d.

To James Banks, clerk, for Washing the Church Linens and Sweeping the Church, £1 10s.

For Oyle (oil) for ye Bells, 1s. 6d.

The bells and ropes gave great trouble, seemingly, as they were frequently repaired and renewed.

First baptism regist., 21st Nov., 1580 :—

November 21—Rauffe Snarte, f. James S. de Wigan.

22—Thomas highen, f. Thomas highen de.

24—Richard harte, f. Tho. h. de houghto'.

December 4—Margaret fforde, f. James ff. de Scowles.

First twins, 11th Dec., Wilm. John Croichloe, f. Gefferie C. de Wigan.

In 1660 Roger Bradshaigh, of Haigh, Royalist, was member for the county, and in 1678 he sat with Lord Antrim, as member for Wigan, and was knighted the same year and created a baronet in 1679.

An accot. of ye disbursements of Robt. Browne and Thomas Winstanley, churchwardens, beginning 1678, Aprill ye 3rd, and ending Aprill ye 22nd, 1679 :—

Pd. John Roper, for 5 yds. of Rope...	£0	5	0
„ for takeing up of the 3rd Bell	0	3	0
„ John Smith, for work in the Steeple	0	4	8
„ for Nails	0	0	2
„ Wm. Grimshawe, of Haigh, for six Fox Heads	0	6	0
„ John Carter, a Rope for 3rd Bell	0	3	6
„ Adam Walthew, for 1 Fox Head	0	1	0
„ for the Commission and Court Fees	0	15	0
„ Adam Gregory, for 2 Fox Heads	0	2	0
„ Edw. Chismall, for 1 Fox Head	0	1	0
„ Wine and Bread at Whitsuntide	0	13	2
„ ye Sexton, for Guttering Churchyarde	0	3	0
„ for 3 Fox Heads, to Wm. Grimshawe	0	3	0
„ ye Clerke, his Wages	1	10	0
„ for takeing upp the great Bell	0	2	6
„ Jno. Carter, for the 4th Bell Rope...	0	3	9
„ Mending the 3rd Bell Rope	0	1	4
„ for a Fox Head which came out of Billinge	0	3	0
„ John Carter, for 5 new Bell Ropes	1	12	0
„ for Ringing the 5th of Nov., and Candles	0	10	5

Was ever man known to be satisfied, and was ever a nation at perfect peace? One would almost think that the revolutionary troubles which England had managed to survive would have left it in such a state of exhaustion as to compel a state of rest, and give it an appearance of peace. The nation had been fighting long and earnestly for gains—real or imaginary—but had they been obtained? One side had certainly been defeated, and the other doubtfully victorious. The revolutionary party had succeeded in swaying the national will in what they considered the right direction, but ambition grew with their success, against which opposition as naturally reared its head, and very soon discontent again over-ran the whole exhausted state. Forbearance was unknown to the religious parties, who attempted to force their opinions through their political demands, and there was a steady growth of court arrogance. Nobody in power seemed to have the power of pleasing anybody, and already it seemed that a new revolution was on the eve of springing up. As usual a Parliament was summoned.

The Parliament of 1661 was not dissolved till January 24th, 1679, after which writs were issued for a general election. In Wigan there was great excitement. The burgesses discovered that their freeholds were mines of wealth. Bribery they had persuaded themselves was neither a secret nor a sin. Political corruption had hitherto no place in any English dictionary. The old burgesses chinked in their trousers pockets the gold which they had accepted from the highest bidders, and, for the first time, divided their freeholds and sold the votes that went with each portion. Pamphlets were scattered broadcast, but never touched the consciences of those who had fingered the gold. There was virtually a political auction in the town, and the highest bidder won the day. Two Tories were returned—Charles, Earl of Ancrum, and Roger Bradshaigh, of Haigh. Three candidates had gone to the poll, and the defeated one, Alexander Rigby, Esq., petitioned against the return, but with what result is unknown. The Parliament was dissolved July 1st of the same year, and writs again issued for a Parliament. There was another contest in Wigan, and the burgesses were in the highest spirits at the prospect of two political harvests in one year. Was there to be any change in political opinion? Money would decide all. There could be little conscientious change in eight short months. Their freeholds were their birthrights, and surely they could make political capital out of them. This was their determination, and the auction began. Whig and Tory overbid each other, and prices ran high, and finally one of each party was sent up. Roger Bradshaigh was ousted by William Bankes, a Whig. Such was the result of the general election in Wigan for the fourth Parliament of Charles II. The excitement and sales at the election of the fifth and last Parliament of that king were similar in their progress and results.

Mr. Shackerley, who had been returned in the election of 1661, is said to have

been "a red-hot Cheshire Royalist," who suffered heavily in purse and person under Cromwell for his adherence to Royalty. At the Restoration he was made governor of Chester, and died, at the age of 78, October 17th, 1696. The new member, Roger Bradshaigh, was the eldest son of the first baron of Haigh Hall. He was born March, 1678, and succeeded his father, as baronet, 1st March, 1648; sat for the county, 1685-87; and died 17th June, 1687.

At different periods in the annals of Wigan history gifts have been made to the Corporation, and two of the oldest known still preserved are a copper mace surmounted by a crown, and a silver ewer or jug, bearing the inscription, "The gift of Robert Mawdesley, 1631; renewed 1680, by Sir Roger Bradshaigh, and again by James Hodson, Esquire, for the use of the Mayor of Wigan and his successors." Robert Mawdesley held no office in the Corporation. Sir Roger was Mayor when he presented the gift to the town, and James Hodson was twice Mayor—1786 and 1789. The next gift in the list of municipal insignia is a gold mace, surmounted by a crown emblazoned with the borough arms and the arms of Great Britain, France, and Ireland, and is thus inscribed: "Rex. Carolus, F.D., Mag., Brit., Fra., et Hib. The gift of Alexander Holt, Esquire, late of London, Gouldsmith, an Alderman of the same Cytty, and likewise of this ancient Corporation of Wigan, who departed this life Anno Domini 1657. Huic, dono decem muias adiccit, Alexander Holt, nepos Ejusdem et Executor. Testamentarius."

Papists were at one time the drivers, then with the suddenness of the changing wind became the driven. Every dog has its day, and now the king, some bishops and righteous rectors and the holy of the laity, as if they were the licensed hounds of Heaven, literally believing in the infallibility of the king and his law, hunt all Dissenters to the verge of death. National fanaticism is again let loose, and the greatest religion of peace is roused to arms with the full intention of exterminating nonconformity, which in its turn bribes conformity with gloves of gold and casks of ale. Wild beasts are exterminated by the progress of civilisation, but no physical force will convince a man against his will. However much they were persecuted, Nonconformists were Nonconformists still. They met in secret in the fields, the gardens, cellars, and attics by midnight and at early morn. Persecution fostered their zeal. It was so in Wigan as in other places. During these despotic times six of the Rectors of Wigan were also Bishops of Chester, some of whom suffered and some of whom were persecutors. The Act of Sequestration had been passed, and Bishop Bridgeman was not the only Wiganer who suffered. Nor was sequestration confined to his gentle class. In such national robberies the poor are not worth robbing, and the rich are at least always worth suspecting, and to be once suspected was the certain forerunner of suffering. High and low, rich and poor,

suffered more for their sanctity than their sin. A religious war is, if possible, always worse than an ordinary civil war. People were persecuted until their human nature proved stronger than their religious zeal, and then there was open rebellion and mutual death, for the principle of self-preservation refuses to yield without a struggle.

When looked at from a worldly point of view, the religion of many of the Puritans was nothing less than a mere farce. From diaries and histories of the period their conduct is well known. A truthful history of Wigan and the neighbourhood might be written for the period of 1663-78 from the contents of the diary of Roger Lowe alone. He was a devout Puritan, who never lost an opportunity of listening to the words of the wise and the sermons of the righteous, always taking careful notes of the same. He could write and talk well, and, consequently, was very popular with all parties. On an average of two or three times a week his history was briefly, that he never lost an opportunity of treating his lady friends to ale at taverns, or of being treated there by the buxom mothers of marriageable daughters, or of getting drunk at the expense of his comrades, and getting almost insensibly home to spend a toper's *sleepless* night, and wake with dreadful headache and remorseful conscience which kept him on his knees, praying for mercy and deliverance from pain, for many hours of the next day. If this was not sufficient medicine, he generally felt happy after praying in a ditch or singing hymns at the pitch of his voice. He was always grieved at being foolish enough to spend 6d. at the public-house on sports of vanity. He makes frequent mention of two people riding together on one horse, the owner of the horse, whether man or woman, always sitting in front. On the Lord's Day, 29th January, 1662, he came to Wigan, but when he returned home he was scarcely well, for he had stopped drinking at Beony Bourdekin's house. Sunday seemed to be the great day for drinking, which, however, had very much increased since Sunday sports had been prohibited by Mr. Fleetwood. Appointments between lads and lasses of respectable families were generally made at the taverns. After a great Bacchanalian night Mr. Lowe had to chew the cud of remorseful reflection, for next morning he confessed, "I was sadly sick, and had a very sick night, but the Lord restored me in the morning." That was Tuesday morning, and one would think he would have taken the pledge forthwith, but he was such a jolly good fellow that on Friday morning next, when "John Naylor's wife (whose daughter Mr. Lowe was courting) came to town and wished me to go with her into an alehouse—I went." There was the usual consequence—reflection, remorse, and re-conversion. He was a good specimen of a humanly-frail Puritan.—(See Lowe's Diary).

Can it be imagined that men would quietly submit to unjust torture and robbery

under the guise of justice? Could civilised human nature yield to have her lawful liberties trodden under foot and her sacred creeds treated with worse than disdainful contempt, and yet remain callous? Is it possible for a conscientious and educated nation to be physically compelled to believe, or is it possible to stamp out vindicators of truth as if it were a murrain among helpless cattle? Is it credible that men would yield liberty and truth to bigotry and moral slavery and ignominy? There were risings in every town in England: not risings that simply meant what nineteenth century agitations mean, but such as meant rebellion and death. It is hard for human nature to confine itself to inactive agitation against armed and wilful injustice that knows no mercy even to the submissive, who are punished as awful examples. The agitating voice of Wigan was prominent among others, but the force used by the inhabitants went no further than to the disfiguring of faces and breaking of limbs of the representatives of injustice. The properties and livings of the Rector of Wigan, who was Bishop of Chester (Dr. Bridgeman), had been sequestered 36 years before (1645), but this was near the beginning of the struggle, which had been going on with increased ferocity, until now the people could bear no longer, but determined that they would oppose the very next execution of the law, whether for rich or poor. Many of the burgesses and the best people of the town had joined the league, and now the day of trial came. On the 22nd of July, 1681, the furniture and goods of Mrs. Bennington, a worthy dame of the town, were brought to the Market Place, to be sold to the highest bidder by the public auctioneer, because of her nonconformity, exactly 110 years after the great persecutor of her creed, Edward Fleetwood, had been presented to the living of Wigan. He had been dead for 77 years, but the persecution had gone on with growing animosity. The bailiffs seized and carried away Mrs. Bennington's goods without opposition, but before they had reached the place of public sale they were met by a band of rough and determined men, dressed in women's clothes by way of disguise. They were organised and brought together by old Dr. Worthington and his son Thomas, two of the first-mentioned physicians of Wigan. The bailiffs looked on in amazement, and attempted to pass on, but there was no passage. The men in female attire set upon the bailiffs, beat them unmercifully, and restored the goods to the worthy widow. Of course Mrs. Kenyon, who had employed the bailiffs, in wild passion let loose the dogs of war, and took out several indictments against the doctors, but they had both run for it. They were accused of encouraging the riot, of taking part therein, of seducing persons to Popery, and, lastly, they were to be suppressed from practising physic. All the indictments were preferred against them at the Wigan Sessions, and warrants were issued to apprehend the doctors, but unfortunately history does not record whether they were ever apprehended.

The Call Book for 1681 contains only the following names, but no records of the cases which came before the Court are preserved:—

Rogerus Bradshaigh, ald., barr., maior.	Willus Langshaw, jur.
Rogerus Bradshaigh, alid, ald.	Willus Linney, jur.
Willus Daniel, dr., ald.	Jacobus Stott, jur.
Robert Baron, gen., ald.	Robtus Murray, gen., jur.
Willus Glover, gen., ald.	Thomas forde, jun.
Radus Markland, gen., ald.	Gerardus forde.
Robtus Langshaw, gen., ald.	Willus Dean.
Willus Laithwaite, gen., ald.	Thomas forde, sen.
Robtus Letherbarrow, gen., ald.	Jacobus Marsden.
Thomas Bancks, gen., ald.	Thomas Cooper, jur.
Lawrus Anderton, sen., gen., ald.	Willus forde, butcher, jur.
Robtus fford, gen., ald.	Jacobus fford.
Thomas Stortt, dr., record.	Georgius Browne.
Ambrosus Jolly, gen.	Carolus Leigh, jur.
Willus Pilkington, gen.	Gilbertus Langshaw.
Johes Harvey, gen.	Thomas Leyland, jur.
Petrus Adlington, dr.	Willus Higham, jur.
Lawrus Anderton, jun., cas. clir.	Radus Wakfeild.
Lawrus Anderton, baf.	Robtus Bancks, jur.
Thomas Marsden, baf.	Ricus Brocks.
Johes Markland, jur.	Johes Baldwine, jur.
Edrus fairethough, sero.	Robtus Mason, jur.
Willus Brown, jur.	H. Bancks, jun., jur.
Jacobus Molineux, attor., jur.	Robtus Browne.
Edmundus Harvey, jur.	Ritus Leterbarrow.
Mort Willus fordde, Swinley.	Gilbertus fford.
Robertus Pennington, brazier, jur.	Alexandrus Pennington, jur.
Craferus Sumner, jur.	Thomas Bullock.
Honrius Rowe, gen.	Rogere Bibby, jur.
Willus Briggs, jur.	Jacobus Bancks, jur.

Another conspicuous monument was added to the Parish Church in 1684. The inscription is:—"Rogerus Downes de Wardley, armiger, filius Johannis Downes, hujus Comitatus, Armigeri, Obijt 27 Junij, 1676. Ætatis Suxæ 28."

A Bill to exclude the Duke of York, brother of Charles II., from the succession was twice passed in the House of Commons, once hotly contested in the House of Lords, and lost on a division. The popular political leaders were determined he should never reign, for he was a declared Papist and civil despot. Notwithstanding the fury of the feeling against him in his brother's lifetime, he quietly succeeded him in 1685. Scarcely had he ascended the throne when he began to experience the plots and counterplots that seemed to be the inevitable inheritance of the Stuarts. The soured Calvinistic tempers of the Whigs threatened to lay Whiggism in an early grave. Plot after plot was laid to their charge when they could not be traced to them or

to others. Many of the more lukewarm of them rushed for safety into the arms of loyal Toryism. At the general election of 1685 cajolery and intimidation were tried in the boroughs. Wigan, with her nine royal charters, was anxious not to lose the opportunity of boasting of her loyalty. Within her borough "Toryism and the King" was virtually her election cry. She determined to speak with the king in person, and then prove her loyal speech by her deeds. An address was drawn up, and signed by the burgesses of the town, headed by her Tory Mayor, Sir Roger Bradshaigh, and presented to the king. The language was of the most flattering kind, and might have been borrowed from the king's pedantic father. The rehearsal of her loyalty and malignancy were not forgotten in it. But Wigan had two bolts to her bow in this address. Not only did she wish, as she thought of the low estimation and humiliation which many other boroughs had brought on themselves, to express her sympathy for and devotion to his king's majesty, and assure him that she "would defend him against all plotting Achitophels and rebellious Absoloms"—(Macaulay, vol. I., chap. 4, p. 374)—but also besought a ratification of her charters. As a proof of her loyalty, she enthusiastically returned two Tory members at the general election in May. They were Charles, Earl of Ancrum, and Lord Charles Murray, son of the Marquis of Lothian, and son-in-law of Lord Derby, the seat being gained chiefly by the influence of the latter. With a tincture of characteristic pedantry, the new charter grants "that for ever in times to come that borough may be and remain a borough of peace and quiet, to the fear and terror of the bad and for the protection and preservation of the good." A new and unlimited extension of the franchise was granted in this charter, but never claimed until the general election of 1830, when the right of the inhabitants to vote was disputed, although never settled, because of the passing of the Reform Bill in the interim. At that election (1830) party spirit ran high, and all were eager to make their election claims. The candidates were James Hardcastle, of Bolton, and Richard Potter, of Manchester, Colonel James Lindsay, and John Hodson Kearsley. There were less than a hundred burgesses in all, and they claimed the full and only right of returning members of Parliament. The inhabitants, on the other hand, declared they had an equal right to vote, and based their claims on the articles of this charter. Opinions differed, and it was agreed that several inhabitants who were not burgesses should vote, and that the question of their right to do so should be raised and settled in the House of Commons. Over a hundred inhabitants voted; Colonel Lindsay and Mr. Hodson were declared duly elected by his Worship the Mayor, Henry Bullock; but Mr. Potter protested against the return as unjust and illegal, and an appeal was lodged. This charter of 1685 says:—"We . . . do will, ordain, appoint, and grant and declare that our

Borough of Wigan, in our County of Lancaster, be and remain for ever hereafter a Borough of itself. And that by force of these presents the Inhabitants (Inhabitantes) of the Borough of Wigan aforesaid for the time to come for ever be and remain, in reality, fact, and name, one Body Corporate and Politic, by the name of Mayor, Bailiffs, and Burgesses of the Borough of Wigan."

The following is a complete copy of the original Charter of Imo. Jacobi II. :—

"Jacobus Secundus Dei gratia Angliæ Scotiæ Franciæ et Hiberniæ Rex, fidei defensor et cætera Omnibus ad quos præsentis literæ nostræ pervenerint Salutem:—Cum Burgus noster de Wigan in Comitatu nostro Lancastræ est Burgus antiquus ac Major et Burgenses ejusdem Burgi per diversa separata nomina diversis liberatibus franchesiis immunitatibus consuetudinibus præheminenciis et aliis hæreditamentis habuerunt usi et gavisii fuerunt ac habent utuntur et gaudent, tam per diversas Chartas et Literas patentes diversorum Progenitorum et Antecessorum nostrorum nuper Regum et Reginarum Angliæ et aliorum, quam ratione diversarum præscriptionum et consuetudinum tempore cujus contrarii memoria Homini non existit in eodem Burgo usitatarum habitatum et approbatarum. Cumque Delicti Subditi nostri nuperi Major Balivi et Burgenses Burgi illius humillime supplicaverint, quatenus nos, pro meliori regimine et melioratione ejusdem Burgi gratiam et munificentiam nostram eisdem Majori Balivis et Burgensibus Burgi prædicti in hac parte graciosè exhibere et extendere volumus Quodque nos dictos Majorem Balivos et Burgenses dicti Burgi per quodcunque nomen seu quæcunque nomina antehac incorporati fuerunt, sive utrum antehac incorporati fuerint necne, in unum Corpus Corporatum et Politicum per nomen Majoris Balivorum et Burgensium Burgi de Wigan in Comitatu nostro Lancastræ per literas nostras patentes facere erigere constituere ratificare confirmare seu de novo creare dignaremur cum talibus additionibus et alterationibus libertatum privilegiorum immunitatum et franchesiarum ejusdem Burgi et in talibus modo et forma qualibus pro meliori regimine et melioratione Burgi prædicti nobis videbitur expedire. Nos Igitur præmissa perpendentes ac volentes quod de cætero unus certus et indubitatus modus in eodem Burgo nostro de et pro custodia pacis nostræ ac Regimine et Gubernacione populi nostri ibidem continuo habeatur Et ut Burgus ille perpetuis futuris temporibus sit et permaneat Burgus Pacis et Quietis ad formidinem et terrorem Malorum et in protectionem Bonorum Ac etiam ut pax nostra cæteraque facta Judicialia absque ulteriori dilatione ibidem custodiri et fieri valeant, de gratia nostra speciali ac ex certa Scientia et mero motu nostris, Voluimus ordinavimus constituimus concessimus et declaravimus ac per præsentis pro nobis Hæredibus et Successoribus nostris volumus ordinamus constituimus et concedimus et declaramus quod Burgus noster de Wigan in Comitatu nostro Lancastræ sit et permaneat impostorum imperpetuum Burgus de se. Et quod Inhabitantes Burgi de Wigan prædicti de cætero imperpetuum sint et permaneant vigore præsentium unum Corpus Corporatum et Politicum in re facto et nomine per nomen Majoris Balivorum et Burgensium Burgi de Wigan in Comitatu nostro Lancastræ, Ac eos et Successores suos per nomen Majoris Balivorum et Burgensium Burgi de Wigan in Comitatu nostro Lancastræ Corpus Corporatum et Politicum in re facto et nomine realiter et ad plenam, pro nobis Hæredibus et Successoribus nostris erigimus facimus ordinamus confirmamus constituimus et declaramus per præsentis, et quod per idem nomen habeant successionem perpetuam. Et Volumus ac per præsentis pro nobis Hæredibus et Successoribus nostris concedimus præfatis Majori Balivis et Burgensibus Burgi illius et Successoribus suis prædictis quod ipsi et Successores sui per nomen Majoris Balivorum et Burgensium Burgi de Wigan in Comitatu Lancastræ plitare et implitari sectare et prosequi ac defendere et defendi respondere et responderi valeant et possint in omnibus curiis et locis nostris Hæredum et Successorum nostrorum ac in aliis Curis et locis quibuscunque tam infra hoc Regnum nostrum Angliæ quam alibi infra alia Dominiæ nostra quæcunque existentibus, tam in omnibus et singulis accionibus scutionibus querelis causis et demandis realibus personalibus

seu mixtis, quam in omnibus et singulis aliis causis negotiis et materiis quibuscunque. Quodque idem Major Balivi et Burgenses Burgi prædicti et Successores sui habeant et habebunt Commune Sigillum pro rebus causis et negotiis suis agendis et tractandis Et Quod bene liceat et licebit eis et Successoribus suis sigillum illud ad libitum suum de tempore in tempus frangere mutare et de novo facere, prout eis melius fieri et fore videbitur, Ac Ulterius quod iidem Major Balivi et Burgenses et Successores sui per nomen Majoris Balivorum et Burgensium Burgi de Wigan in Comitatu Lancastriæ sint et erunt Personæ habiles et in lege capaces ad perquirendum recipiendum habendum et capiendum eis et Successoribus suis in Feodo et perpetuitate vel pro termino vitæ vel vitarum vel annorum seu aliter Dominia Maneria Terras Tenementa Redditus reverciones hæreditamenta libertates franchises iura jurisdictiones et privilegia quæcumque Ac etiam Bona et Catalla ac omnes alias res cujuscunque fuerint generis naturæ speciei seu qualitatis Necnon ad dandum concedendum dimittendum et assignandum eadem Dominia Maneria Terras Tenementa Hæreditamenta Bona et Catalla ac omnia alia facta et res faciendum et exequendum per nomen prædictum. Ac Etiam volumus ac pro nobis Hæredibus et Successoribus per Præsentes concedimus præfatis Majori Balivis et Burgensibus Burgi prædicti et Successoribus suis quod de cætero imperpetuum sit et erit in Burgo prædicto unus de magis probioribus et discretioribus viris Burgi illius, in forma inferius in his præsentibus mencionata de tempore in tempus eligendus, qui erit et vocabitur Major Burgi illius. Quodque Similiter sit et erit unus alius de magis probioribus et discretioribus viris Burgi illius in Legibus Angliæ eruditus qui erit et vocabitur Recordator Burgi prædicti. Quodque Similiter sint et erunt infra Burgum prædictum duodecim alii de magis probioribus et discretioribus viris ejusdem Burgi, in forma etiam inferius mencionata de tempore in tempus eligendi, qui erunt et nominabuntur Aldermani Burgi illius. Quodque Similiter sint et erunt infra Burgum prædictum octodecim homines, de discretioribus et probioribus viris, dicti Burgi qui erunt et vocabuntur Assistentes et auxiliantes dictis Majori Recordatori et Aldermanis ejusdem Burgi pro tempore existentibus in causis et materiis eundem Burgum tangentibus. Et qui erunt et vocabuntur Capitales Burgenses ejusdem Burgi et erunt Commune Concilium dicti Burgi. Et duo honesti viri Burgi prædicti qui erunt et vocabuntur Balivi Burgi prædicti. Et volumus ac pro nobis Hæredibus et Successoribus nostris per præsentibus concessimus præfatis Majori Balivis et Burgensibus Burgi prædicti et Successoribus suis quod ipsi et Successores sui per eorum Commune Concilium, vel per majorem partem eorundem pro tempore existentium, habeant et habuerint plenam Authoritatem Potestatem et Facultatem condendi constituendi ordinandi faciendi et stabilendi de tempore in tempus tales et hujusmodi leges constituta jura ordinationes et constitutiones, quas et quæ eis sive eorum parti majori pro tempore existentium bona salubria utilia honesta et necessaria, juxta eorum sanas discretionem, fore videbitur pro bonis regimine et gubernacione Majoris Recordatoris Aldermanorum et aliorum Capitalium Burgensium Balivorum ac omnium ac Burgensium et Inhabitantium Burgi prædicti pro tempore existentium Ac per declarationes quo modo et ordine prædicti Major Recordator Aldermani Capitales Burgenses Balivi ac cæteri omnes et singuli Ministri Officiarii Burgenses Artifices Inhabitantes et Residentes Burgi illius in Officiis Functionibus Misteris et Negotiis suis infra Burgum prædictum ac libertates ejusdem pro tempore existentes sese habebunt gerent et utentur, ac aliter, pro ulteriori bono et publica utilitate et pro bono regimine Burgi illius ac victualacione ejusdem; Ac Etiam pro meliori preservacione gubernacione dispositione locacione et demissionem Terrarum Tenementorum Possessionum reversionum et hæreditamentorum Burgi illius sue præfatis Majori Balivis et Burgensibus ejusdem Burgi et Successoribus suis datarum concessarum seu assignatarum aut imposterum concedendarum dandarum aut assignandarum Ac etiam ad rerum et causarum quarumcumque Burgi prædicti aut statuta jura et interesse ejusdem Burgi tangentium seu aliquo modo concernentium determinationem Quodque Major Balivi et Burgenses Burgi prædicti et Successores sui per eorum Commune Concilium Burgi prædicti pro tempore existens vel eorum majorem partem quotiescunque hujusmodi leges instituta jura ordinationes et constitutiones condiderint

fecerint ordinaverint vel stabilaverint in forma prædicta hujusmodi et tales pœnas puniciones et penalitates per fines et amerciamenta erga et super omnes delinquentes contra hujusmodi leges instuta jura ordinationes constitutiones sive eorum aliquod vel aliqua quales et quæ eisdem Majori Recordatori Aldermanis et Communi Concilio pro tempore existentibus sive eorum majori parti necessaria et requisita pro observatione prædictorum legum ordinationum et constitutionum melius fore videbitur facere ordinare limitare et providere ac eadem fines et amerciamenta levare et habere possint et valeant absque impedimento nostro Hæredum vel Successorum nostrorum. Quæ Omnia et singula leges ordinationes constitutiones jura et instituta sic, ut præfertur, facienda observari volumus sub pœnis in eisdem continendis. Ita tamen quod leges ordinationes instituta constitutiones pœnæ et penalitates hujusmodi non sunt repugnantia nec contraria sed consentanea Legibus et Statutis regni nostri Angliæ. Et pro meliori executione earundem voluntatum et concessionum nostrarum in hac parte assignavimus nomniavimus constituimus et fecimus ac per præsentibus pro nobis Hæredibus et Successoribus nostris assignamus nominamus constituimus et facimus delictum nobis Rogerum Bradshaigh Militem Barronetum Burgensem Burgi prædicti fore et esse primum et modernum Majorum Burgi prædicti volentes quod idem Rogerus Bradshaigh in Officio Majoris Burgi prædicti erit et continuabit a dato præsentium usque ad diem Sabbati proximi post Festum Sancti Michaëlis Archangeli proximum futurum et de eodem die quousque alius Burgensis Burgi prædicti ad et in officium illud perfectus et juratus fuerit juxta ordinationes et provisiones in præsentibus inferius expressas et specificatas si idem Rogerus Bradshaigh tamdiu vixerit: Assignavimus etiam nominavimus constituimus et fecimus ac per præsentibus pro nobis Hæredibus et Successoribus nostris assignamus nominamus constituimus et facimus delictum nobis Bertye Entwisle Armigerum Burgensem Burgi prædicti fore et esse primum et modernum Recordatorem Burgi prædicti. Et Assignavimus nominavimus constituimus et fecimus ac per præsentibus pro nobis Hæredibus et Successoribus nostris assignamus nominamus constituimus et facimus delictum nobis Johannem Keeling et Willhelmu Langton fore et esse primos et modernos Balivos Burgi prædicti Et quod ipsi in Officio Ballivorum ejusdem erunt et permanebunt a dato presentium usque ad prædictum diem Sabbati proximi post Festum Sancti Michaëlis Archangeli prædictum et abinde quousque alii Burgenses Burgi prædicti ad et in officium illud perfecti et jurati fuerint juxta ordinationes et provisiones in præsentibus inferius expressas et specificatas si iidem Johannes Keeling et Willhelmus Langton tamdiu vixerint. Necnon assignavimus nominavimus constituimus et fecimus ac per præsentibus pro nobis Hæredibus et Successoribus nostris assignamus nominamus constituimus et facimus delictos Subditos nostros Johannem Markland et Edwardum Fairclough fore et esse primos et modernos Servientes Burgi prædicti a dato præsentium usque ad prædictum diem Sabbati proximum post Festum Sancti Michaëlis Archangeli prædictum et abinde quousque alii Burgenses Burgi prædicti ad et in Officium illud perfecti et jurati fuerint secundum ordinationes et provisiones in præsentibus inferius expressas et specificatas, si iidem Johannes Markland et Edwardus Fairclough tamdiu vixerint. Et Volumus et pro nobis Hæredibus et Successoribus nostris concedimus præfatis Majori Balivis et Burgensibus Burgi prædicti et Successoribus

suis Quod bene liceat et licebit Majori Recordatori et Aldermanis Burgi prædicti pro tempore existentibus et majori parti eorum, quorum Majorem ejusdem Burgi pro tempore existentem unum esse volumus, vigore præsentium nominare et eligere octodecim de probioribus et discretioribus viris Inhabitantibus Burgi illius fore et esse prædictos Assistentes Burgi prædicti, Qui Assistentes pro tempore existentes una cum prædictis Majore Recordatore et Aldermanis ejusdem Burgi pro tempore existentibus sint et erunt vigore præsentium et facti et constituti sunt triginta duo Capitales Burgenses et Commune Concilium Burgi nostri de Wigan prædicti. Et Volumus quod prædicti Recordator Aldermani et Capitales Burgenses superius nominati et electi nominandi et eligendi per Sacramenta sua in hac parte debita et secundum tenorem præsentium, respective possint sint erunt et continuabunt Recordator Aldermani Capitales Burgenses Assistentes et Commune Concilium Burgi illius pro et durante vitis suis naturalibus et vita naturali eorum cujus respective, nisi interim per mala factura sua in officio illo seu pro aliqua alia rationabili causa abinde amoveantur seu eorum aliquis amoveatur. Et Ulterius volumus et statuimus per præsentem quod Recordator Aldermani Balivi et Capitales Burgenses et Assistentes, Clericus et Servientes ad Stavos et omnes et Officiarii et Ministri Burgi prædicti nuper nominati, seu imposterum vigore præsentium nominandi et eligendi, antequam ipsi ad executionem Officiorum suorum respective admittantur seu eorum aliquis admittatur, separalia sua corporalia Super sacro sancto Dei Evangelio coram Majore ejusdem Burgi pro tempore existente ad Officium illud respective in omnibus Officia sua respective tangentibus bene et fideliter exequendum præstabit et eorum quilibet præstabit Cuique dicto Majori pro tempore existenti ad hujusmodi Sacramenta dandum et administrandum tam Recordatori Aldermanis Capitalibus Burgensibus Balivis Clerico et Servientibus per præsentem nominatis quam omnibus et cuilibet ac personæ et personis ejusdem Burgi vigore præsentium imposterum nominandis aut eligendis plenam potestatem aut Autoritatem damus et concedimus per præsentem. Concessimus insuper ac per præsentem pro nobis Hæredibus et Successoribus nostris concedimus præfatis Majori Balivis et Burgensibus Burgi prædicti et Successoribus suis Quod Major ejusdem Burgi pro tempore existens et ultimus prædecessor Majoris per præsentem nominati et quilibet ultimus prædecessor Majoris ejusdem Burgi imposterum per Spacium unius Anni ab et post exitum et decessum suum ab officio Majoris ejusdem Burgi respective necnon Recordator ejusdem Burgi pro tempore existens sint et erunt et quilibet eorum sit et erit Justiciarrii nostri Hæredum et Successorum nostrorum ad pacem nostram Hæredum et Successorum nostrorum infra Burgum prædictum libertates et præcinctus ejusdem custodiendum et conservandum ac plenam habeant et habebunt et quilibet eorum habeat et habebit potestatem et autoritatem ad pacem nostram Hæredum et Successorum ibidem conservandum et ad omnia alia ibidem faciendum et exequendum quæ ad Justiciarios pacis nostræ aut Hæredum seu Successorum nostrorum in aliquo Comitatu nostro Angliæ pertinent facienda et exequenda pro bono pacis nostræ Hæredum et Successorum nostrorum et quieto regimine et sana gubernacione populi nostri Hæredum et Successorum nostrorum in omnibus et singulis suis Articulis infra Burgum prædictum libertates et præcinctus ejusdem juxta vim formam et effectum statutorum et ordinacionum in ea parte editorum custodiendorum et custodiri faciendorum, et ad omnes illos quos contra vim formam et effectum Statutorum et ordinacionum ibidem invenerint facientes sive deliquentes secundum Statuta et ordinaciones illas ac leges terræ nostræ puniri faciendum ac ea omnia et singula audiendum et terminandum secundum Leges et Consuetudines Regni nostri Angliæ adeo plenè liberè et integrè ac in tam amplis modo et forma prout Justiciarii Pacis in dicto Comitatu nostro Lancastriæ seu alibi infra regnum nostrum Angliæ ante hæc tempora habuerunt et exercuerunt seu legitime habere seu exercere poterint in futuro extra Burgum prædictum libertates præcinctus ejusdem. Et Ulterius volumus ac per præsentem pro nobis Hæredibus et Successoribus nostris damus et concedimus præfatis Majori Balivis et Burgensibus Burgi de Wigan prædicti et Successoribus suis Quod modernus Major Burgi illius per præsentem nominatus et quilibet alius Major ejusdem Burgi pro tempore existens imposterum nominandus et eligendus respective sit et erit sint et erint Justiciarii¹

nostri Hæredum et Successorum nostrorum ad pacem nostram Hæredum et Successorum nostrorum in Comitatu nostro Lancastræ custodiendum et conservandum et ad omnia alia faciendum exequendum et confirmandum quæ per Justiciarios pacis nostræ Hæredum seu Successorum nostrorum infra eundem Comitatum per Leges et Statuta hujus Regni nostri Angliæ modo edita vel imposterum edenda fieri exequi aut performari possint aut debent Ac modernum Majorem Burgi prædicti per præsentem nominatum ac constitutum ac omnes et quemlibet Majorem et Majores Burgi illius pro tempore existentes imposterum nominandos et eligendos Justiciarium et Justiciarios nostros Hæredum et Successorum nostrorum ad pacem nostram Hæredum et Successorum nostrorum infra Comitatum nostrum Lancastræ prædictum, ut præfertur, fieri et exequi possint aut debent, faciendum et exequendum facimus ordinamus et constituimus per præsentem. Et Uterius volumus et per præsentem ordinamus et constituimus quod modernus Major Burgi prædicti superius nominatus antequam ipse in prædictis separalibus Officiis Majoris Justiciarii pacis nostræ Burgi illius et Justiciarii pacis pro Comitatu Lancastræ prædicto seu eorum aliquo aequaliter agit seu se intromittit, separalia Sacramenta sua Corporalia super Sacerrimo sancto Dei Evangelio Coram Ricardo Standish Barroneto, Petro Brook Milite, Ricardo Atherton Milite, seu aliquibus duobus eorum, ad separalia Officia et Fiducia illas bene et fideliter in omnibus juxta Debitum Officiorum illorum respective exequendum præstabit. Quibusque dictis Ricardo Standish Petro Brook et Ricardo Atherton, ac aliquibus duobus eorum ad separalia Sacramenta prædicta præfato moderno Majori dandum et administrandum plenam potestatem et auctoritatem damus et concedimus per præsentem. Et Uterius volumus et per præsentem ordinamus et constituimus quod ultimus prædecessor moderni Majoris modo et pro tempore existentes et Recordator prædictus, antequam in officium Justiciarii pacis nostræ Burgi prædicti libertatum et præcinctuum ejusdem aequaliter agant seu se respective intromittant, Sacramenta sua Corporalia super Sacro sancto Dei Evangelio coram Majore dicti Burgi de Wigan pro tempore existente ad officium illud bene et fideliter in omnibus juxta Debitum Officii illius exequendum præstabit et eorum quilibet præstabit Cuique dicto Majori dicti Burgi de Wigan pro tempore existenti præfatis ultimo Prædecessori moderni Majoris et Recordatori prædictis pro tempore existentibus Sacramenta prædicta dandi et administrandi plenam potestatem et auctoritatem damus et concedimus per præsentem. Ac Etiam de ampliori gratia nostra ac ex certa Scientia et mero motu nostris pro nobis Hæredibus et Successoribus nostris per præsentem concedimus præfatis Majori Balivis et Burgensibus dicti Burgi de Wigan et Successoribus suis Quod Major et Commune Concilium Burgi prædicti pro tempore existentes vel major pars eorum de tempore in tempus in quolibet Anno de cætero imperpetuum in die Sabbati proximo post Festum Sancti Michaëlis Archangeli annuatim conveniant et convenire valeant et possunt in Comuni Aula ejusdem Burgi aut aliquo alio loco infra Burgum prædictum, et ibidem unam Personam de Aldermanis dicti Burgi pro tempore existentibus eligent et nominabunt fore et esse Majorem dicti Burgi ac unam aliam idoneam Personam existentem Burgensem ejusdem Burgi, quam eis magis convenientem videbitur, fore et esse Balivum dicti Burgi vocatum Le Town's Bayliffe ac talem aliam discretam et idoneam Personam existentem Burgensem dicti Burgi et Inhabitantem infra limites ejusdem, qualem eis necessarium et convenientem videbitur, fore et esse Servientem vocatum Le Town's Serjeant in Burgo prædicto et omnes alios Officiarios et Ministros, prout antehac in Burgo prædicto per spatium septem annorum jam ultimo elapsorum assuetum et consuetum fuit. Et Superius volumus ac pro nobis Hæredibus et Successoribus nostris concedimus per præsentem præfatis Majori Balivis et Burgensibus Burgi prædicti et Successoribus suis quod, si contingat Majorem Burgi prædicti aliquo tempore infra unum Annum postquam ad Officium Majoris Burgi prædicti (ut præfertur) perfectus et juratus fuerit, abire vel ab officio suo amovere durante tempore quo sit Major ejusdem Burgi Quemque dictum Majorem Burgi illius pro tempore existentem per mala gestura sua in Officio illo seu pro aliqua rationabili Causa per Commune Concilium Burgi illius vel majorem Partem eorum pro tempore existentium amobilem esse volumus quod tunc et toties bene liceat et licebit prædicto Communi Concilio Burgi

illius sive majori parti eorum convenire in dicta Aula aut alio loco conveniente infra Burgum prædictum ad certum diem præfixum sive præfigendum per Commune Concilium Burgi prædicti pro tempore existens vel per majorem partem eorum infra octo dies proximos sequentes mortem aut anoveacionem hujusmodi Majoris et ibidem eligere nominare et assignare valeant et possunt unum de supradictis Aldermanis existentibus in Majorem ejusdem Burgi prædicti Et quod ille, sic electus et perfectus, Officium illud habeat et exerceat durante residuo ejusdem Anni, Sacramentis Corporalibus in forma inferius specificata prius præstandis, et toties quoties casus sic acciderit. Et Volumus ac per præsentem pro nobis et Successoribus nostris concedimus præfatis Majori Balivis et Burgensibus Burgi prædicti et Successoribus suis Quod quælibet persona Burgi prædicti ad Officium Majoris Burgi prædicti imposterum electa separalia Sacramenta et Juramenta pro debito Executione Officiorum Majoris Justiciarii Burgi prædicti et pro Comitatu Lancastriæ capiet et præstabit Corporalia Sacramenta super Sacro sancto Dei Evangelio coram ultimo Prædecessore suo in eodem Officio, si idem Prædecessor superstes sit et tunc præsens fuerit, et si idem Prædecessor suus ad tunc mortuus vel absens fuerit tunc coram Commune Concilio Burgi prædicti pro tempore existente, vel majori parte eorum tunc ibidem præsentium pro fidei Executione Officii vel Officiorum Majoris et Justiciarii pacis nostræ Hæredum et Successorum nostrorum infra Burgum illum et Comitatum Lancastriæ prædictum conservandæ Cuique dicto Prædecessori in Officio Majoris Burgi illius vel Communi Concilio ejusdem Burgi pro tempore existentibus et majori parti eorum ad hujusmodi Sacramenta et Juramenta cullibet personæ in Officio Majoris Burgi illius imposterum in forma prædicta electæ sive eligendæ de tempore in tempus dandum et administrandum plenam potestatem et auctoritatem damus et concedimus per præsentem. Ac Ulterius volumus ac per præsentem pro nobis Hæredibus et Successoribus nostris concedimus præfatis Majori Balivis et Burgensibus dicti Burgi de Wigan et Successoribus suis quòd quotiescunque et quandocunque contigerit Balivum vocatum Le Town Bailiffe et Servientem dicti Burgi vocatum Le Town Serjeant vel eorum alterum obire infra unum Annum postquam ad officia illa Balivi et Servientis, ut præfertur, perfecti et jurati fuerint vel fuerit vel intra tempus illud ab Officiis suis seu eorum altero respective amoveri, quod tunc et toties bene liceat et licebit Majori et Communi Concilio ejusdem Burgi, sive majori parti eorundem, pro tempore existentibus alium vel alios Inhabitantium Burgi prædicti in loco vel locis ipsius vel ipsorum sic mortui vel amoti mortuorum vel amotorum existentium infra octo dies respective tunc proximos sequentes eligere et perficere modo et forma suprascriptis Et quod ipse vel ipsi sic electi et perfecti Officium sive Officia illa ad quod vel quæ sic electi nominati et perfecti respective fuerint vel fuerit habeant et exercent habeat et exerceat durante residuo ejusdem Anni Et hoc toties quoties casus sic acciderit. Et Volumus quòd omnes et quælibet Persona et Personæ in hujusmodi Officii sive Officiorum ultimè prædictorum imposterum electæ nominatæ aut perfectæ, antequam in Officio sive Officiis illis aliquo modo se intromittant seu intromittat Sacramentum suum Corporale super Sacro sancto Dei Evangelio coram Majore Burgi prædicti pro tempore existente pro debita Executione Officii sive Officiorum illorum respective præstabit et eorum quælibet præstabit Cuique dicto Majori Burgi prædicti pro tempore existenti ad hujusmodi Sacramenta in forma prædicta de tempore in tempus dandum et administrandum plenam potestatem et auctoritatem damus et concedimus per præsentem. Et Ulterius volumus ac pro nobis Hæredibus et Successoribus nostris per præsentem concedimus præfatis Majori Balivis et Burgensibus dicti Burgi et Successoribus suis quod Major ejusdem Burgi pro tempore existens, de tempore in tempus quandocunque ei placuerit nominabit eliget et constituet unam honestam et idoneam Personam existentem Burgensem et Inhabitantem infra Burgum prædictum fore et supportare Officium Balivi vocatum Le Major's Bayliffe quamdiu idem Major in Officio suo fuerit et permanebit ad ea omnia faciendum quæ ad hujusmodi Officium Balivi pertinent. Necnon quod prædictus Major pro tempore existens de tempore in tempus, quandocunque ei placuerit, nominabit eliget et constituet unam aliam idoneam Personam Burgensem Inhabitantem infra Burgum prædictum fore et supportare Officium Subbalivi vocatum Le Serjeant ac Mace

vel Le Major's Serjeant quamdiu idem Major in Officio suo fuerit, vel quamdiu ei placuerit, pro Proclamacionibus Arrestacionibus Processibus Executionibus et aliquibus rebus Officio suo pertinentibus infra dictum Burgum ac Limites Bendas et Præinctus ejusdem faciendis peragendis et exequendis in Consiliis modo et forma prout Servientes ad Claviam in eodem Burgo antehac assueti et consueti fuerint. Quodque idem Serviens ad Claviam sic nominatus constitutus et electus possit et valeat portare Claviam Armis nostris sculptam infra limites et bundas dicti Burgi durante tempore quo ipse in officio illo fuerit. Et quod qualibet Persona tam ad Officium Balivi vocatum Le Major's Bayliffe quam ad Officium Servientis ad Claviam infra Burgum prædictum nominata et electa nominanda et eligenda Sacramentum capiet et præstabit Corporale coram Majore ejusdem Burgi pro tempore existente ad Officium suum bene et fideliter exequendum et exercendum Cuique dicto Majori Burgi illius pro tempore existenti ad hujusmodi Sacramenta in forma prædicta de tempore in tempus dandum et administrandum potestatem et Authoritatem damus et concedimus per præsentis. Et Ulterius volumus ac per præsentis pro nobis Hæredibus et Successoribus nostris præfatis Majori Balivi et Burgensibus dicti Burgi et Successoribus suis ordinamus et concedimus Quod quancumque contigerit aliquem vel aliquos de prædictis Aldermanis Capitalibus Burgensibus et Assistantibus seu eorum alterum pro tempore existentibus obire vel a loco suo Aldermanorum Capitalium Burgensium vel Assistantium seu eorum alterius amoveri, quos et quem vel aliquem eorum pro rationabili Causa amobilem esse et amovere volumus per Majorem et Commune Concilium Burgi prædicti pro tempore existentes vel majorem partem eorum quod tunc et toties bene liceat et licebit Majori et Communi Concillio Burgi illius pro tempore existentibus vel majori Parti eorum aliquos vel plures alios de Burgensibus Burgi prædicti in locum vel loca hujusmodi Aldermani vel Aldermanorum Capitalis Burgensis seu Capitalium Burgensium Assistantis vel Assistantium sic obire vel amoveri contingentium eligere nominare et perficere. Quodque ille vel illi electus et perfectus electi et perfecti, præstitis prius coram Majore Burgi prædicti sacramentis corporalibus ad Officium illud debite et bene exequendum, erit et erunt de numero prædictorum Aldermanorum vel Capitalium Burgensium vel Assistantium prædictorum Burgi prædicti Et hoc toties quoties Casus sic acciderit Et ulterius volumus ac per præsentis pro nobis Hæredibus et Successoribus nostris firmiter injungendo præcipimus Quod Major Balivi Aldermani et Capitales Burgenses Recordator Communis Clericus et Coronator Burgi prædicti et omnes alii Officarii et Ministri Burgi illius et eorum Deputati Necnon quilibet Justiciarii ad pacem nostram Hæredum et Successorum nostrorum infra Burgum illum et Comitatum Lancastriæ prædictum conservandum et superius mencionati aut per has literas Patentes modo nominati et appunctuati sive constituti seu virtute aut secundum tenorem earundem literarum nostrarum patentium in posterum nominandi eligendi seu constituendi, antequam ipsi ad Execucionem sive Exercitium Officii seu Officiorum loci vel locorum cui vel quibus sic, ut præfertur, respective nominati appunctuati sive constituti modo existant aut in posterum in forma prædicta nominati electi sive constituti fuerint, admittantur aut aliquo modo in ea parte se intromittant tam Sacramentum Corporale Anglicè communiter vocatum. *The Oath of Obedience* quàm Sacramentum Corporale Anglicè communiter vocatum. *The Oath of Supremacy* super Sacro sancto Dei Evangelio præstabit et eorum quilibet præstabit coram tali persona sive talibus personis quales et quæ ad hujusmodi Sacramenta dandum et præstandum per Legem et Statuta hujus regni nostri Angliæ ad præsens appunctuantur et designantur aut in posterum appunctuata vel designata fuerint. Provisio semper ac plenam potestatem et authoritatem nobis Hæredibus Successoribus nostris per præsentis reservamus de tempore in tempus et ad omnia tempora in posterum ad Majorem Recordatorem Communem Clericum aut aliquem vel aliquos de Aldermanis Balivi vel de Commune Concillio vel alios Officarios Burgi prædicti per præsentis nominatos et constitutos vel in posterum eligendos et nominandos ad libitum et bene placitum nostrum Hæredum aut Successorum nostrorum per aliquam ordinem in privato Concillio factam et sub Sigillo privati Concillii prædicti eisdem respective significatam ad amovendum et amotum et amotos esse declarandum et quoties nos Hæredes vel Successores nostri per aliquam

talem ordinem in privato concilio factam declarabimus vel declarabunt hujusmodi Majorem Recorditorem Communem Clericum aut aliquem vel aliquos de Aldermanis vel de Communi Concilio vel Balivis Burgi prædicti pro tempore existentibus sic amotum vel amotos esse, ut præfertur, quod tunc et toties Major Recordator Communis Clericus aut atiquis vel aliqui de Aldermanis Balivis vel de Communi Concilio Burgi prædicti pro tempore existentes, sic amotum vel amotos esse declarati sive declarandi, a separabilibus et respectivis Officiis ipso facto et sine aliquo ulteriori processu realiter et ad omnes intenciones et proposita quæcunque amotus sit et erit amoti sint et erunt Et hoc toties quoties Casus sit acciderit aliquo in Contrarium inde non obstante. Et ulterius de uberiori gratia nostra ac ex certa Scientia et mero motu nostris damus et concedimus præfatis Majori Balivis et Burgensibus Burgi nostri de Wigan prædicti et Successoribus suis quod ipsi et Successores sui de cætero imperpetuum habeant teneant et custodiant ac habere tenere et custodire valeant et possint annuatim in Villa sive Burgo de Wigan prædicto pro et in loco Feriæ ibidem antehac tentæ in et super decimum sextum diem Julii et pro duobus diebus proximis sequentibus unam Feriam incipiendam in et super decimum sextum diem Julii, si non sit Dies Dominicus; et si ita sit, tunc in die proximo sequente ac per totum hujusmodi diem inceptiois inde prædictæ et per duos dies proximos sequentes annuatim custodiendam et duraturam una cum Curia Pedis pulverizati tempore ejusdem Feriæ ac simul cum Stallagio Piccagio Finibus amerciamensis et omnibus aliis profituis commoditatibus et emollumentis quibuscunque Feriæ et Curie Pedis pulverizati tempore ejusdem Feriæ ac simul cum Stallagio Piccagio Finibus amerciamensis et omnibus aliis profituis commoditatibus et emollumentis quibuscunque ad hujusmodi Feriam et Curiam Pedis pulverizati spectantibus pertinentibus accidentibus emergentibus sive contingentibus cum omnibus libertatibus et liberis consuetudinibus ad hujusmodi Feriam spectantibus sive pertinentibus ad proprium opus et usum commodum et commoditatem dictorum Majoris Ballivorum et Burgensium Burgi prædicti et Successorum suorum pro tempore existentium imperpetuum capiendis accipiendis et custodiendis et hoc absque compositione vel aliquo alio nobis Hæredibus vel successoribus nostris proinde reddendo solvendo vel faciendo Ac absque molestacione perturbaciones gravamine seu contradiccione nostri Hæredum vel Successorum aut aliquorum Vicecomitum Escætorum Ballivorum Officiariorum sive Ministrorum nostrorum Hæredum vel Successorum nostrorum quoruncunque Ac absque aliquo alio Warranto Brevi aut Præcepto a nobis Hæredibus vel Successoribus nostris imposterum in hac parte procurando vel obtinendo Dum tamen FERIA illa non sit ad nocumentum viciniarum Feriarum. Ac ulterius de uberiori gratia nostra speciali ac ex certa Scientia et mero motu nostris concessimus ac per præsentem nobis Hæredibus et Successoribus nostris concedimus et licentiam specialem liberam et licitam facultatem potestatem et authoritatem damus præfatis Majori Balivis et Burgensibus Burgi nostri de Wigan prædicti et Successoribus suis habendi recipiendi et perquirendi sibi et Successoribus suis imperpetuum Maneria Messuagia Terras Tenementa Prata Pascuas Pasturas Boscus Subboscus Rectorias Decimas redditus revenciones et alia Hæreditamenta quæcunque infra Regnum nostrum Angliæ seu alibi infra Dominia nostra tam de nobis Hæredibus vel Successoribus nostris quam de aliquâ alia Persona sive aliquibus aliis Personis quibuscunque, Dummodo eadem Maneria Messuagia Terræ Tenementa Prata Pascuæ Pasturæ Boscus Subboscus Rectoriæ Decimæ redditus revenciones servicia et alia Hæreditamenta sic, ut præfertur, per ipsos habenda recipienda et perquirenda non excedant in toto clarum annualem Valorem ducentarum Librarum per Annum ultra omnia onera et reprisas Statutis de terras et tenementa ad manum mortuam non ponendo aut aliquo alio Statuto actu ordinatione vel provisione antehac habitis factis editis ordinatis sive provisus aut aliqua alia re causa vel materia in contrarium inde in aliquo non obstante. Damus etiam ac per præsentem pro nobis Hæredibus et Successoribus nostris concedimus omnibus et singulis Subditis nostris quibuscunque et cuicunque Subdito nostro Hæredum vel Successorum nostrorum licentiam specialem ac liberam et licitam potestatem facultatem et authoritatem Quod ipsi Maneria Messuagia Terras Tenementa Prata Pascuas Pasturas Boscus Subboscus Rectorias Decimas redditus revenciones Servicia et alia Hæreditamenta quæcunque præfatis Majori Balivis Burgensibus Burgi prædicti et Successoribus

suis dare concedere vendere legare vel alienare licitè et impunè possint et valeant Ita quod omnia prædicta Maneria Messuagia Prata Pascuæ Pasturæ Bosci Subbosci Rectoriæ Decimæ redditus reversiones servicia terræ tenementa et alia hæreditamenta sic eisdem Majori Ballivis et Burgensibus Burgi prædicti et Successoribus suis, ut præfertur, danda concedenda alienanda vel leganda in toto non excedent clarum annualem valorem Ducentarum Librarum ultra omnia onera et reprisas per Annum Statutis de terris et tenementis ad manum mortuam non ponendis aut aliquo alio Statuto actu ordinatione vel provisione antehac habitis factis editis ordinatis sive provisus aut aliqua alia re causa vel materia quacunque in contrarium inde in aliquo non obstante—Et ex uberiori gratia nostra speciali ac ex certa scientia et mero motu nostris volumus ac per præsentis pro nobis Hæredibus et Successoribus nostris concedimus damus restituimus confirmamus ratificamus et approbamus præfatis Majori Ballivis et Burgensibus Burgi prædicti et successoribus suis necnon Burgensibus ac liberis hominibus Burgi prædicti pro tempore existentibus omnia et omnimoda Maneria Messuagia Molendinas Terras Prata Pascuas Pasturas Boscos Subboscos Redditus Rivos Aquas Piscarias et tot tanta talia eadem hujusmodi et Consilia Officia Officiaria et alia Officia et Officiaria Consuetudines Libertates Francheias Immunitates Exempciones solvendo tolmeta apud Cestriam et alias exempciones privilegia potestates quietancias jura jurisdictionis Vastata Vasta Funda vias cadas mercatus ferias nundinas tolmeta theolonia deodanda bona et cattalla Felonum fugitivorum et Utlegatorum vectigalia grain in specie diebus mercatis commoditates Profituas emolumenta tenementa et hæreditamenta quæcunque quoties quanta qualia et quæ nuperi Major Ballivi et Burgenses Burgi prædicti vel prædecesores sui per quæcunque nomina vel per quodcunque nomen vel per quæcunque Incorporacionem vel prætextum cujuscunque nominis aut incorporacionis seu Burgenses vel liberi homines Burgi prædicti antehac habuerunt tenuerunt usi vel gavisii fuerunt aut habere tenere uti vel gaudere debuerunt ratione vel prætextu aliquarum Chartarum aut Literarum Patentium per aliquem progenitorum vel antecessorum nostrorum nuperorum Regum vel Reginarum Angliæ quoquo modo antehac factarum concessarum sive confirmatarum aut quocunque alio Legali modo jure titulo consuetudine usu seu præscriptione antehac limitata concessa usitata habita seu consueta Tamen sub Limitacionibus et provisionibus prædictis habendum tenendum et gaudendum omnia et singula præmissa prædicta superius per Præsentes data concessa sive confirmata præfatis Majori Ballivis et Burgensibus Burgi nostri de Wigan et Successoribus suis ac Burgensibus et liberis hominibus Burgi prædicti respective, ut præfertur imperpetuum sub limitationibus et provisionibus prædictis ac reddendum et solvendum proinde nobis Hæredibus et Successoribus nostris annuatim tot tanta talia eadem et hujusmodi redditus servicia denariorum summas et demanda quæcunque quot quanta qualia et quæ pro eisdem seu eorum aliqua vel aliquibus antehac reddi seu solvi consueverunt aut de jure debuerunt. Quare volumus ac per præsentis firmiter ingungendo præcipimus pro nobis Hæredibus et Successoribus nostris quod prædicti Major Ballivi et Burgenses Burgi prædicti et Successores sui teneant utantur gaudeant ac habere tenere uti exercere et gaudere valeant et possunt imperpetuum omnibus libertatibus autoritatibus jurisdictionibus consuetudinibus concessionibus franchises quietanciis terris tenementis et hæreditamentis prædictis ac omnibus Bonis et Cattallis suis quibuscunque secundum tenorem formam et effectum harum literarum nostrarum patentium sine occasione molestacione vel impedimento nostro Hæredum vel Successorum nostrorum Justiciariorum Vicecomitum Escaetorum Balivorum Ministrorum nostrorum Hæredum aut Successorum nostrorum quacunque. Nolentes quod iidem Major Ballivi et Burgenses aut Successores sui vel eorum aliquis vel aliqui racione præmissorum sive eorum alicujus per nos Hæredes vel Successores nostros Justiciarios Vicecomites Escheatores Balivos sive alios Ministros Hæredum vel Successorum nostrorum quoruncunque turbentur molestentur vexentur seu graventur vel in aliquo perturbentur. Volentes etiam ac per præsentis pro nobis Hæredibus et Successoribus nostris mandantes et præcipientes tam Thesaurario Cancellario Baronibus Scaccarii nostri Westmonasteriensis ac aliis Justiciariis nostris Hæredum et Successorum nostrorum quam Attornato et Sollicitatori nostro Generali pro tempore existentibus et eorum cuilibet et omnibus aliis Ministris et Officiariis nostris

Hæredum et Successorum nostrorum quorumcunque pro tempore existentibus Quod nec ipsi nec eorum aliqui vel aliquis aliquod Breve sive summonitionem de quo Warranto sive aliquod Breve Brevia vel Processus nostri quascunque versus præfatum Majorem Balivos et Burgenses Burgi prædicti aut eorum aliquem vel aliquos pro aliquibus causis rebus materiis offenciis clameis et usurpationibus aut eorum aliquo per ipsos aut eorum aliquos attemptatis clameatis usitatis habitis factis sive usurpatis ante confeccionem harum literarum nostrarum Patentium impetiantur prosequuntur aut continuabunt vel impetiri prosequi aut continuari faciant aut causant sen eorum aliquis facit aut causat. Volentes etiam quod iidem Major Balivi et Burgenses Burgi prædicti vel eorum aliqui per aliquem vel aliquos Justiciarios Vicecomites Officiarios vel Ministros prædictos in aut pro debito seu clameo vel abusu aliquorum aliorum libertatum privilegiorum franchisesiarum aut jurisdictionum infra Burgum prædictum Libertates Limites et Præcinctus ejusdem ante diem confeccionis harum literarum nostrarum patentium minime molestentur aut impediuntur aut ad ea seu eorum aliquid vel aliquas respondere compellantur. Eo Quod expressa mentio de vero valore annuo vel de certitudine præmissorum sive eorum alicujus aut de aliis donis sive concessibus per nos seu per aliquam Progenitorum sive Prædecessorum nostrorum præfatis Majori Balivis et Burgensibus Burgi prædicti ante hæc tempora factis in præsentibus minime facta existit aut aliquo statuto actu ordinaceone Provisione Proclamacione sive Restrictione in contrarium inde antehæc habitis factis editis ordinatis sive provisus aut aliqua alia re causa vel materia quacunque in aliquo non obstante. In cujus rei testimonium has Literas nostras fieri fecimus Patentes. Teste meipso apud Westmonasterium vicesimo quinto die Februarii anno Regni nostri primo.

FIGOTT."

(Per Breve de Communi Sigillo.)

The following is a translation of the above Charter, 1st James II. :—

"James the Second by the Grace of God of England Scotland France and Ireland King, Defender of the Faith, and so forth; to all, to whom our present letters shall come, greeting :— Whereas our borough of Wigan, in our county of Lancaster, is an ancient borough and the mayor and burgesses of the same borough (as well by reason of sundry charters and letters patent of diverse of our progenitors and ancestors, late Kings and Queens of England, and others, as by reason of diverse prescriptions and customs, from time whereof the memory of man is not to the contrary, in the same borough used held and approved) have, by diverse separate names, held used and enjoyed and do now hold use and enjoy diverse liberties, franchises, immunities, customs, pre-eminences, and other hereditaments: And whereas our beloved subjects the late mayor, bailiffs, and burgesses of that borough have most humbly besought us, and we, for the better government and amelioration of the same borough, are in this behalf willing, graciously to exhibit and extend, as far as in us lies, our favour and munificence to the same mayor, bailiffs, and Burgesses of the borough aforesaid, and that we would vouchsafe by our letters patent to make, erect, constitute, ratify, confirm or create anew the said mayor, bailiffs, and burgesses of the said borough (by whatsoever name or whatsoever names they have heretofore been incorporated, or whether they have heretofore been incorporated or not) into one body corporate and politic, by the name of the mayor, bailiffs, and burgesses of the borough of Wigan, in our county of Lancaster, with such additions and alterations of liberties, privileges, immunities, and franchises of the same borough, and in such manner and form as, for the better government and amelioration of the borough aforesaid, to us shall seem meet: We therefore, in consideration of the premises, and being willing that for the future one certain and undoubted rule of and for the keeping of our peace in our same borough and the ruling and government of our people there, be continually kept up; and that for ever in times to come that borough may be and remain a borough of peace and quiet, to the fear and terror of the bad and for the protection and preservation of the good; and also that our peace and judicial acts may, without further delay, be there kept and done; we, of our special grace and from our certain knowledge and mere motion, have willed, ordained, appointed,

granted, and declared, and by these presents for us, our heirs and successors, do will, ordain, appoint, and grant, and declare, that our borough of Wigan, in our county of Lancaster, be and remain for ever hereafter a borough of itself; and that by force of these presents the inhabitants of the borough of Wigan aforesaid, for the time to come for ever be and remain, in reality, fact, and name, one body corporate and politic by the name of mayor, bailiffs, and burgesses of the borough of Wigan, in our county of Lancaster; and by the name of mayor, bailiffs, and burgesses of the borough of Wigan, in our county of Lancaster, them and their successors, one body corporate and politic in deed, fact, and name, we, in reality and to the full, for us our heirs and successors, do erect, make, ordain, confirm, constitute, and declare by these presents, and that by the same name they retain perpetual succession: And we are willing and by these presents for us, our heirs and successors, do grant to the aforesaid mayor, bailiffs, and burgesses of that borough and their successors aforesaid, that they and their successors, by the name of mayor, bailiffs, and burgesses of the borough of Wigan, in the county of Lancaster, may have power and be able to plead and to be impleaded, to sue and to be sued, and to defend and to be defended, to answer and to be answered in all courts and places of us, our heirs and successors, and in other courts and places whatsoever (as well within this our kingdom as elsewhere within our other dominions whatsoever being), as well in all and singular actions, suits, complaints, causes and demands (real, personal, and mixed), as in all and singular other causes, businesses, and matters whatsoever: And further that the same mayor, bailiffs, and burgesses of the borough aforesaid, and their successors may and shall have a Common Seal for doing and managing their deeds, causes, and businesses; and that it well may and shall be lawful for them and their successors, from time to time at their own pleasure, to break, change, and make that Seal anew, as to them shall seem more expedient to be and to be done: And further that the same mayor, bailiffs, and burgesses and their successors, by the name of mayor, bailiffs, and burgesses of the borough of Wigan, in the county of Lancaster, be and shall be proper persons and capable in the law to purchase, receive, have, and take to them and their successors (in fee and perpetuity, or for a term of life or lives or years, or otherwise), lordships, manors, lands, tenements, rents, reversions, hereditaments, liberties, franchises, rights, jurisdictions, and privileges whatsoever, and also goods and chattles and all other things of what kind, nature, species or quality soever they may be, and also to give, grant, demise, and assign the same lordships, manors, lands, tenements, hereditaments, goods and chattles, and to do and execute all other deeds and things by the name aforesaid: And also we are willing and for us our heirs and successors, do by these presents grant to mayor, bailiffs, and burgesses of the borough aforesaid, and their successors that for the time to come and for ever, in the borough aforesaid, there may and shall be one of the more substantial and discreet men of that borough, in form hereafter in those presents mentioned from time to time to be chosen, who shall be and shall be mayor of that borough; and in like manner there may and shall be one other of the more substantial and discreet men of that borough (learned in the laws of England), who shall be and shall be called recorder of the borough aforesaid; and that in like manner there may and shall be within the borough aforesaid, twelve others of the more substantial and discreet men of the same borough, in form also hereinafter mentioned from time to time to be chosen, who shall be and shall be named aldermen of that borough; and that in like manner there may and shall be within the borough aforesaid, eighteen men of the more discreet and substantial men of the said borough, who in causes and matters touching the same borough shall be and shall be called assistants and aidants to the said mayor, recorder, and aldermen of the same borough for the time being, and who shall be and shall be called Capital Burgesses of the same borough, and shall be the Common Council of the said borough; and two men of integrity of the borough aforesaid, who shall be and shall be called bailiffs of the borough aforesaid: And we are willing and for us our heirs and successors, do by these presents grant unto the aforesaid mayor, bailiffs, and burgesses of the borough aforesaid, and their successors, that (for the good regimen and governance of the mayor, recorder, aldermen, and other capital burgesses,

bailiffs, and all other burgesses and inhabitants of the borough aforesaid for the time being, and by declarations in what manner and order the aforesaid mayor, recorder, aldermen, capital burgesses, bailiffs, and all and singular other ministers, officers, burgesses, artificers, inhabitants and residents of that borough for the time being, in their own offices, functions, trades and businesses within the borough aforesaid, and the liberties thereof shall conduct, carry, and use themselves, and otherwise for the further good and public utility, and for the good government of that borough and victualling of the same, and also for the better preservation, governance, disposal, leasing, and demising of lands, tenements, possessions, reversions and hereditaments of that borough, whether given, granted, or assigned or hereafter to be granted, given, or assigned unto the aforesaid mayor, bailiffs, and burgesses of the same borough and their successors, and also for the determination of all matters and causes of the borough aforesaid, whatsoever, or touching the statutes, rights, and interests of the same borough or the same in any wise concerning), they and their successors, by their Common Council or the major part of the same for the time being, may and shall have full authority, power, and faculty of erecting, constituting, ordaining, making, and establishing from time to time such and such like laws, decrees, statutes, ordinances, and institutions, as and which, to them (or the major part of them) for the time being, shall appear to be good, wholesome, useful, honest, and necessary, according to their sound discretions: And that (as often as, by their Common Council of the borough aforesaid for the time being or the major part of them, they shall have erected, made, ordained, or established in form aforesaid, such laws, decrees, statutes, ordinances, and institutions and such like, and such pains, punishments, and penalties by fines and amerciaments upon and towards all offenders against such kind of laws, decrees, statutes, ordinances, and institutions, or any one or any of them, as and which unto the same mayor, recorder, aldermen, and common council for the time being, or the major part of them, for the observation of the aforesaid laws, ordinances, and statutes, it shall appear more adviseably necessary and requisite to make, ordain, limit, and provide), the mayor, bailiffs, and burgesses of the borough aforesaid and their successors, may be able and have power to levy and retain both the same fines and amerciaments without the hindrance of us, our heirs, and successors: All and singular which laws, ordinances, decrees, statutes, and institutions so to be made, as aforesaid, we will to be observed under the penalties therein contained, in such manner, nevertheless, that the laws, institutions, statutes, pains, and penalties of this kind be repugnant nor contrary, but agreeable to the laws and statutes of our kingdom of England; and, for the better execution of the same our purposes and grants in this behalf, we have assigned, nominated, appointed, and made, and by these presents for us our heirs and successors, do assign, nominate, appoint, and make our beloved Roger Bradshaigh, Knight and Baronet (a burgess of the borough aforesaid), to be and purposely to be the first and present mayor of the borough aforesaid, being willing that, from the date of these presents until the Sabbath Day next after the Feast of St. Michael the Archangel next about to happen, the said Roger Bradshaigh in the office of mayor of the borough aforesaid shall be and continue, and from the said day (so be and continue), until another burgess of the borough aforesaid, to and into that office shall have been made and sworn according to the appointments and provisions in these presents hereafter expressed and specified, if the same Roger Bradshaigh shall so long live: We have also assigned, nominated, appointed, and made, and by these presents for us, our heirs, and successors, do assign, nominate, appoint, and make our beloved Berty Entwistle, Esquire (a burgess of the borough aforesaid), to be and purposely to be the first and present recorder of the borough aforesaid: And we have assigned, nominated, appointed, and made, and by these presents for us, our heirs, and successors, do assign, nominate, appoint, and make the said Roger Bradshaigh, and our beloved William Daniell, Esquire, Robert Baron, William Glover, Ralph Markland, Robert Letherbarrow, Thomas Bancks, Thomas Turner, Laurance Anderton (Gentlemen), Robert Ford, Christopher Sumpner, James Scott, and William Deane, to be and purposely to be the first and present aldermen of that borough: We have also assigned, nominated, appointed, and made, and by these presents for us, our

heirs, and successors, do assign, nominate, appoint, and make our beloved John Keeling and William Langton, to be and purposely to be the first and present bailiffs of the borough aforesaid; and that, from the date of these presents until the aforesaid Sabbath Day next after the Feast of St. Michael the Archangel aforesaid, they in the office of Bailiffs of the same borough shall be and continue, and thenceforward (so be and continue), until other burgesses of the borough aforesaid to and into that office shall have been made and sworn according to the appointments and provisions in these presents hereafter expressed and specified, if the same John Keeling and William Langton so long shall live: We have also assigned, nominated, appointed, and made, and by these presents for us, our heirs, and successors, do assign, nominate, appoint, and make our beloved subject Laurence Anderton, the younger, to be the first and present clerk of the borough aforesaid, clerk of the Statutes-Merchants, coroner, clerk of the Markets, and ulnager of that borough, and to do and execute all and singular those things which to the several offices aforesaid pertain or ought to pertain; And we have assigned, ordained, constituted, and made, and by these presents for us, our heirs, and successors, do assign, nominate, appoint, and make our beloved subjects John Markland and Edward Fairclough, to be and purposely to be the first and present sergeants of the borough aforesaid, from the date of these presents until the aforesaid Sabbath Day next after the Feast of Saint Michael the Archangel aforesaid, and thence forward until other Burgesses of the borough aforesaid to and into that office shall have been made and sworn according to the appointments and provisions in these presents hereafter expressed and specified, if the same John Markland and Edward Fairclough so long shall live: And we are willing and for us, our heirs, and successors, do grant unto the aforesaid mayor, bailiffs, and burgesses of the borough aforesaid and their successors, that by force of these presents, it well may and shall be lawful for the mayor, recorder, and aldermen of the borough aforesaid for the time being, and the major part of them (of whom it is our pleasure that the mayor for the time being shall be one), to nominate and elect eighteen of the more substantial and discreet men (inhabitants of that borough), to be and purposely to be the aforesaid assistants of the borough aforesaid, which assistants for the time being, together with the aforesaid mayor, recorder, and aldermen of the same borough for the time being, may and shall be and are made and constituted thirty-two Capital Burgesses and Common Council of our borough of Wigan aforesaid, by force of these presents: We are also willing that, by their oaths in this behalf due and according to the tenor of these presents, the aforesaid recorder, aldermen, and capital burgesses above nominated and elected, to be nominated and elected respectively, may be, shall be and shall continue recorder, aldermen, capital burgesses, assistants, and common council of that borough for and during their natural lives and the natural life of every of them respectively, unless in the mean time by reason of their own future malpractices in that office, or for any other reasonable cause they be amoved, or any one of them be amoved from the same: And further we are willing and by these presents, do appoint that (before they be respectively admitted or any one of them be admitted to the execution of their own offices), the recorder, aldermen, bailiffs, and capital burgesses and assistants, the clerk and sergeant at staves, and all (both officers and ministers) of the borough aforesaid lately nominated, or hereafter, by force of these presents, to be nominated and elected, shall, and every of them shall, in the presence of the mayor of the same borough for the time being, upon the Sacred Holy Gospel of God, take their own several corporal oaths well and faithfully to execute that office respectively in all things their own offices respectively touching or concerning, and to which the said mayor (for the time being), to give and administer such oaths as well to the recorder, aldermen, capital burgesses, bailiffs, clerk, and sergeants by these presents nominated, as unto all and every one (both person and persons of the same borough, by force of these presents hereafter to be nominated and elected, we give and grant full power and authority by these presents: Moreover we have granted, and by these presents for us, our heirs, and successors, do grant unto the aforesaid mayor, bailiffs, and burgesses of the borough aforesaid and their successors, that (for the good of the peace of us, our heirs, and successors, and the

quiet rule and sound government of the people, of us, our heirs, and successors, in all and singular their own matters within the borough aforesaid, the liberties and precincts thereof according to the force, form, and effect of the statutes and ordinances in that behalf published, to be kept, and to be caused to be kept; and to cause to be punished all those, whom against the force, form, and effect of the statutes and ordinances they shall there find acting or offending, according to those statutes and ordinances and the laws of our land; and according to the laws and customs of our kingdom of England, to hear and determine all and singular those things as fully, freely, and entirely, and in as ample manner and form as the justices of the peace in our said county of Lancaster, or elsewhere within our kingdom of England heretofore have used and exercised, or lawfully may use or exercise, in time to come out of the borough aforesaid the liberties and precincts of the same), the mayor of the same borough for the time being, and the last predecessor of the mayor by these presents nominated, and every the last predecessor of the mayor of the same borough for the time to come during the space of one year from and after his going out and departure of and from the office of mayor of the same borough respectively, and also the recorder of the same borough for the time being, may and shall be, and every of them may and shall be justices of us, our heirs, and successors, to keep and preserve the peace of us, our heirs, and successors, within the borough aforesaid the liberties and precincts thereof, and may and shall have, and every of them may and shall have full power and authority there to preserve the peace of us, our heirs, and successors, and there to do and execute all other things, which unto the justices of the peace of us, our heirs, or successors, in any our county of England belong to be done and executed: And further it is our pleasure, and we do by these presents for us, our heirs, and successors, give and grant unto the aforesaid mayor, bailiffs, and burgesses of the borough of Wigan aforesaid, and their successors, that the present mayor of that borough by these presents nominated, and every other mayor of the same borough for the time being hereafter, to be respectively nominated and elected, may and shall be justices of us, our heirs, and successors, to keep and preserve the peace of us, our heirs, and successors, in our county of Lancaster, and to do and execute and confirm all other things which by the justices of the peace of us, our heirs, and successors, within the same county, by the laws and statutes of this our kingdom of England, now published or hereafter to be published, may or ought to be done, executed, or performed: And we do make, ordain, and constitute the present mayor of the borough aforesaid (by these presents named and constituted), and all and every mayor and mayors of that borough for the time being in time to come to be nominated and elected, a justice and justices of us, our heirs, and successors, touching the peace of us, our heirs, and successors, as is aforesaid, within the county of Lancaster aforesaid, to do and execute what may and ought to be done and executed, by these presents. And further it is our pleasure, and we do, by these presents, ordain and appoint that the present mayor of the borough aforesaid above named (before he in anywise act or introduce himself in the aforesaid several offices of mayor, justice of our peace of that borough and justice of peace for the county of Lancaster aforesaid, or any of them) shall, in the presence of Richard Standish, Baronet, Peter Brook, Knight, Richard Atherton, Knight, or any two of them, upon the Sacred Holy Gospel of God, take his several corporal oaths, well and faithfully in all things, to execute those several offices and trusts according to the duty of those offices respectively; and to which said Richard Standish, Peter Brook, and Richard Atherton, or any two of them, to give and administer unto the aforesaid present mayor the several oaths aforesaid, we give and grant full power and authority by these presents: and further it is our pleasure and, by these presents, we do ordain and appoint that the last predecessor of the present mayor now and for the time being, and the recorder aforesaid, before they in anywise act or respectively introduce themselves into the office of a justice of our peace of our borough aforesaid, the liberties and precincts thereof, shall, in the presence of the mayor of the said borough of Wigan for the time being, upon the Sacred Holy Gospel of God, take, and each of them shall take, their corporal oaths, well and faithfully in all things, to execute that office according to the duty of that office, and

to which said mayor of the said borough of Wigan for the time being, to give and administer unto the aforesaid last predecessor of the present mayor and unto the recorder aforesaid for the time respectively being, the oaths aforesaid we give and grant full power and authority by these presents: And also of our more abundant grace, and from our certain knowledge and mere motion, we, for us, our heirs, and successors, by these presents, do grant unto the aforesaid mayor, bailiffs, and burgesses of the said borough of Wigan and their successors That, from time to time in every year, for the time to come, for ever, on the Sabbath Day next after the Feast of Saint Michael the Archangel, the mayor and Common Council of the borough aforesaid for the time being, or the major part of them, within the Common Hall of the same borough, or some other place within the borough aforesaid, annually do meet (and may and can meet), and there shall nominate and elect one person of the aldermen of the said borough for the time being to be and remain mayor of the said borough, and one other proper person, being a Burgess of the same Borough (who to them shall seem more expedient), to be and remain bailiff of the said borough, called the town's bailiff, and such another discreet and proper person, being a Burgess of the said borough and an inhabitant within the limits of the same (as to them shall seem necessary and meet) to be and remain serjeant, called the town's serjeant, in the borough aforesaid, and all other officers and ministers, as heretofore, within the borough aforesaid, for the space of seven years now last past has been used and accustomed. And, moreover, it is our pleasure, and for us, our heirs, and successors, we do by these presents grant unto the aforesaid mayor, bailiffs, and burgesses of the borough aforesaid, and their successors, that, if it happen that the mayor of the borough aforesaid, at any time within one year after he shall have been made and sworn (as aforesaid) into the office of mayor of the borough aforesaid, go or amove from his office during the time in which he is mayor of the same borough (every which said mayor of that borough for the time being, on account of his future malpractices in that office, or for any reasonable cause, by the Common Council of that borough, or the major part of them for the time being, it is our pleasure shall be amovable), that, then and so often, at a certain day by the Common Council of the borough aforesaid for the time being, or by a major part of them, prefixed or to be prefixed, within eight days next following the death or amoval of such mayor, it well may and shall be lawful for the aforesaid Common Council of that borough, or a major part of them, in the said Hall, or some other convenient place within the borough aforesaid, to assemble, and there may and can elect, nominate, and assign one of the abovesaid aldermen (then being) for mayor of the same borough aforesaid, and that he, so elected and made, may have and exercise that office during the remainder of the same year, having first taken the corporal oaths in form hereafter specified, and so often as the case shall so happen. And it is our pleasure and, by these presents, for us, our heirs, and successors, we do grant unto the aforesaid mayor, bailiffs, and burgesses of the borough aforesaid, and their successors, that every person of the borough aforesaid to the office of mayor of the borough aforesaid, hereafter chosen, shall take the several sacraments and oaths for the due execution of the offices of mayor, justice of the borough aforesaid and for the county of Lancaster, and also perform the corporal oaths upon the Sacred Holy Gospel of God in the presence of his predecessor in the same office, if the same predecessor be alive and then present; and if the same, his predecessor, shall be at that time dead or absent, then in the presence of the Common Council of the borough aforesaid for the time being, or the major part of them at that time there present, for the faithful execution of the office or offices of mayor and justice of the peace of us, our heirs, and successors, to be kept within that borough and the county of Lancaster aforesaid, and to which said predecessor in the office of mayor of that borough, or the Common Council of the same borough for the time being, and the major part of them, to give and administer such kind of sacraments and oaths unto every person into the office of mayor of that borough for ever in the form aforesaid elected and to be elected, from time to time, we give and grant full power and authority by these presents. And further it is our pleasure, and by these presents, for us, our heirs, and successors, we do grant unto the aforesaid mayor, bailiffs, and burgesses of the

said borough of Wigan, and their successors, that, as often as, and whensoever it shall happen, that the bailiff, called the town bailiff, and the serjeant of the said borough, called the town serjeant, or either of them, die or dies within one year after they or he shall have been made and sworn into those offices of bailiff and serjeant, as aforesaid, or from their or either of their offices respectively within that time be amoved, that then and so often it well may and shall be lawful for the mayor and Common Council of the same borough, or the major part of the same, for the time being, one other or others of the inhabitants of the borough aforesaid, in the place or places of him or them so being dead or amoved, to elect and make within eight days respectively then next following in manner and form above-written, and that he or they so chosen and made may have and exercise that office or those offices to which he or they respectively shall have been elected, nominated, and made, during the residue of the same year, and this so often as the case shall so happen: and it is our pleasure that all and every person and persons into this last aforesaid kind of office or offices hereafter elected, nominated, or made, before he or they in that office or offices in anywise introduce himself or themselves, shall, in the presence of the mayor of the borough aforesaid for the time being, upon the Sacred Holy Gospel of God, take, and every of them shall take, his own corporal oath for the due execution of that office or offices respectively, and to which the said mayor of the borough aforesaid for the time being, from time to time, to give and administer such kind of oaths in form aforesaid, we give and grant full power and authority by these presents. And further it is our pleasure, and for us, our heirs, and successors, we do by these presents grant unto the aforesaid mayor, bailiffs, and burgesses of the said borough, and their successors, that the mayor of the same borough for the time being, from time to time, whensoever to him it shall seem good, shall nominate, elect, and appoint one honest and proper person, being a burgess and inhabitant within the borough aforesaid, to be and support the office of bailiff, called the mayor's bailiff, as long as the same mayor in his office shall be and remain, to do all those things which unto such office of bailiff appertain; and also that the aforesaid mayor for the time being, from time to time, whensoever to him it shall seem good, shall nominate, elect, and appoint one other proper person, a burgess, inhabiting within the borough aforesaid, to be and support the office of subbailiff, called the serjeant at mace, or the mayor's serjeant, so long as the same mayor in his office shall be, or so long as to him shall seem good, for proclamations, arrestments, processes, execution, and any things unto his office appertaining within the said borough, and the limits, bounds, and precincts of the same in councils, to be done, transacted, and executed in manner and form as the serjeants at mace, in the same borough, have heretofore been used and accustomed. And that the same serjeant at mace so nominated, appointed, and elected, may and can, within the limits and bounds of the said borough during the time in which he shall be in that office, carry a mace with our arms engraven; and that every person, as well to the office of bailiff, called the mayor's bailiff, as to the office of serjeant at mace, within the borough aforesaid, nominated and elected (or) to be nominated and elected, in the presence of the mayor of the said borough for the time being, shall take and perform his corporal oath well and faithfully to execute and exercise his office, and to which said mayor of that borough for the time being in form aforesaid, from time to time, to give and administer such oaths, we give and grant power and authority by these presents. And further it is our pleasure, and by these presents for us, our heirs, and successors, we do appoint and grant unto the aforesaid mayor, bailiffs, and burgesses of the said borough, and their successors, that, whensoever it shall happen that any one or any of the aforesaid aldermen, capital burgesses, and assistants, or any of them, for the time being, die or from his place of aldermen, capital burgesses, or assistants, or any other of them, be amoved (whom, and each or any of them, for reasonable cause it is our pleasure to be amovable and to amove by the mayor and Common Council of the borough aforesaid for the time being, or the major part of them), then and so often it well may and shall be lawful for the mayor and Common Council of that borough for the time being, or the major part of them, to elect, nominate, and make some or more others of the burgesses of the borough aforesaid into the place or places of such alderman or aldermen,

capital burgesse or capital burgesse, assistant or assistants, so happening to die or to be removed, and that he or they, when elected and made, having first before the mayor of the borough aforesaid taken the corporal oaths well and duly to execute that office, shall severally be of the number of the aforesaid aldermen, or capital burgesse, or assistants aforesaid, of the borough aforesaid, and this so often as the case shall so happen. And further it is our pleasure, and by these presents for us, our heirs, and successors, by firmly enjoining, we command that (before they be admitted, or in anywise in that behalf, introduce themselves to the execution or exercise of the office or offices, place or places, to one or more of which they are thus, as aforesaid, now respectively nominated, appointed, or constituted, or hereafter in form aforesaid shall be nominated, elected, or constituted), the mayor, bailiffs, aldermen, and capital burgesse, the recorder, common clerk, and coroner of the borough aforesaid, and all other officers and ministers of that borough, and their deputies, and also every of the justices also above mentioned, either by these letters patent now nominated and appointed, or constituted, or by virtue or according to the tenor of the same, our letters patent, hereafter to be nominated, elected, or constituted, to keep the peace of us, our heirs, and successors within that borough and the county of Lancaster aforesaid, shall, and every of them shall take as well, the corporal oath in English, commonly called *The Oath of Obedience*, as the corporal oath in English, commonly called *The Oath of Supremacy*, upon the Sacred Holy Gospel of God, before such person or persons as and who, to give and administer such oaths by the law and statutes of this our kingdom of England, are at present appointed and ordained, or hereafter shall be appointed or ordained. Provided always, and by these presents, we do reserve unto us, our heirs, and successors, full power and authority from time to time, and at all times hereafter, at the will and good pleasure of us, our heirs, or successors (by any order in Privy Council made and under the seal of the Privy Council aforesaid unto the same respectively signified) to remove and to declare singly and collectively, to be removed the mayor, recorder, common clerk, or any one or any of the aldermen, bailiffs, or any of the Common Council, or other officers of the borough aforesaid, by these presents nominated and appointed, or hereafter to be elected and nominated; and as often as by any such order in Privy Council made, we shall declare, or our heirs, or successors shall declare such mayor, recorder, common clerk, or any one, or any of the aldermen, or of the common council, or bailiffs of the borough aforesaid for the time being, to be singly or collectively so removed as aforesaid, that then and so often the mayor, recorder, common clerk, or any one, or any of the aldermen, bailiffs, or of the common council of the borough aforesaid for the time being, declared or to be declared to be singly and collectively so removed, be and shall be singly and collectively removed from their several and respective offices in very deed and without further process in reality and to all intents and purposes whatsoever; and this as often as the case shall so happen any thing to the contrary thereof notwithstanding. And further of our more abundant grace and from our certain knowledge and mere motion we do give and grant unto the aforesaid mayor, bailiffs, and burgesse of our borough of Wigan aforesaid, and their successors, that for and instead of a fair heretofore holden in and upon the sixteenth day of July and for two days next following, they and their successors for the time to come for ever may have, hold, and keep, and may be able to have, hold, and keep annually in the village or borough of Wigan aforesaid, one fair, to be begun in and upon the sixteenth day of July, if it be not the Lord's Day; and if it be so, then upon the day next following, and through the whole of such day of the beginning thereof aforesaid, and for two days next following, yearly to be kept and continue together with a Court of Piedpowder at the time of the same fair, together also with stallage, piccage, fines, amerciaments, and all other profits, advantages, and emoluments whatsoever to the fair and Court of Piedpowder at the time of the same fair, and also with stallage, piccage, fines, amerciaments, and all other profits, advantages, and emoluments whatsoever to such fair and Court of Piedpowder belonging, pertaining, happening, emerging, or contingent with all liberties and free customs to such fair relating, or appertaining to the proper occasion and use, profit, and advantage of the said mayor, bailiffs,

and burgesses of the borough aforesaid, and their successors for the time being, for ever to be taken received, and kept, and this without composition or any other thing to us, our heirs, or successors, therefore to be rendered, paid, or done, and without the molestation, hindrance, grievance, or contradiction of us, our heirs, or successors, or of any of the sheriffs, eschaetors, bailiffs, officers, or ministers of us, our heirs, or successors whomsoever, and without any other warrant, writ, or precept from us, our heirs, or successors hereafter in that behalf to be procured or obtained, provided nevertheless that fair be not to the harm of neighbouring fairs; and further of our more abundant especial grace, and from our certain knowledge and mere motion, we have granted and by these presents for us, our heirs, and successors, do grant and give unto the aforesaid mayor, bailiffs, and burgesses of our borough of Wigan aforesaid and their successors, special licence and free and lawful faculty, power, and authority to have, receive, and purchase to themselves and their successors for ever, manors, messuages, lands, tenements, meadows, feedings, pastures, woods, underwoods, rectories, tythes, rents, revenues, and other hereditaments whatsoever within our kingdom of England or elsewhere within our dominions, as well of us, our heirs, or successors, as of any other person or any other persons whomsoever, provided the same manors, messuages, lands, tenements, meadows, feedings, pastures, woods, underwoods, rectories, tythes, rents, revenues, services, and other hereditaments so, as aforesaid, by them to be had, received, and purchased, do not exceed, in the whole, the clear annual value of two hundred pounds by the year, besides all burdens and reprises, the statutes concerning lands and tenements not to be put into mortmain or any other statute, act, ordinance, or provision heretofore had, done, published, ordained, or provided, or any other thing, cause, or matter to the contrary thereof in anywise notwithstanding; we also give and by these presents for us, our heirs, and successors, do grant unto all and singular our subjects whomsoever, and to every subject whomsoever of us, our heirs, or successors, special licence and free and lawful power, faculty, and authority, that they may and may have power to give, grant, sell, bequeath or alien unto the aforesaid mayor, bailiffs, burgesses of the borough aforesaid, and their successors, manors, messuages, lands, tenements, meadows, feedings, pastures, woods, underwood, rectories, tythes, rents, revenues, services, and other hereditaments whatsoever; so that all the aforesaid manors, messuages, meadows, feedings, pastures, woods, underwoods, rectories, tythes, rents, reversions, services, lands, tenements, and other hereditaments so unto the same mayor, bailiffs, and burgesses of the borough aforesaid and their successors, as aforesaid, given, granted, aliened or bequeathed, in the whole, do not exceed the clear annual value of two hundred pounds by the year, besides all burthens and reprises, the statutes concerning lands and tenements not to be put into mortmain, or any other statute, act, ordinance, or provision heretofore had done, published, ordained or provided, or any other thing, cause, or matter whatsoever to the contrary thereof in anywise notwithstanding. And of our further special grace, and from our certain knowledge and mere motion, it is our pleasure and by these presents for us, our heirs, and successors we do grant, give, restore, confirm, ratify, and approve to the aforesaid mayor, bailiffs, and burgesses of the borough aforesaid and their successors; and also to the burgesses and free men of the borough aforesaid, for the time being, all and all manner of manors, messuages, mills, lands, meadows, feedings, pastures, woods, underwoods, rents, rivers, waters, fisheries, and so many, so great, such, the same, the like, both councils, offices, officaries, and other offices and officaries, customs, liberties, franchises, immunities, exemptions from paying tolls at Chester, and other exemptions, privileges, powers, quittances, rights, jurisdictions, wastes made, original wastes, foundations, ways, falls,* markets, fairs, marts, tolls, tollages, deodands, goods and chattles of felons, fugitives and outlaws, tributes, grain in specie upon market days, commodities, profits, emoluments, tenements, and hereditaments whatsoever; as, how great, the like and which (by whatsoever names, or by whatsoever

* *Falls, Falla, or Cade* seems to relate to small pieces of waste adjoining to roads, &c., less (in content) than an acre; the word *Fallum* being an ancient term of measurement, something like our present *Perch*.

name, or by whatsoever incorporation, or pretext of any name or incorporation) the late mayor, bailiffs, and burgesses of the borough aforesaid or their predecessors, or the burgesses or free men of the borough aforesaid have heretofore had held, used or enjoyed, or ought to have hold, use or enjoy, by reason or pretext of any charters or letters patent by any of our progenitors or predecessors (late Kings and Queens of England), in anywise heretofore made, granted or confirmed, or by any other legal manner, right, title, custom, use of prescription heretofore limited, granted, used, had, or accustomed, under, nevertheless, the limitations and provisions aforesaid; to have hold and enjoy all and singular the premises aforesaid above, by these presents given, granted, or confirmed to the aforesaid mayor, bailiffs, and burgesses of our borough of Wigan and their successors, and the burgesses and free men of the borough aforesaid respectively, as aforesaid, for ever under the limitations and provisions aforesaid; and to yield and pay therefore yearly unto us, our heirs and successors, so many, so great, such, the same and the like rents, services, sums of money and demands whatsoever; as, how great, the like and which for the same or any one, or any of them heretofore have been accustomed, or of right ought to be yielded and paid. Wherefore it is our pleasure and by these presents for us, our heirs and successors, by firmly enjoining, we command that the aforesaid Mayor, bailiffs, and burgesses of the borough aforesaid and their successors may hold, use, enjoy, and can and may be able for ever to have hold, use, exercise, and enjoy all the liberties, authorities, jurisdictions, customs, grants, franchises, quittances, lands, tenements, and hereditaments aforesaid, and all their goods and chattles whatsoever, according to the tenor form and effect of these our letters patents, without the lett, trouble, or hindrance of us, our heirs or successors, justices, sheriffs, eschaetors, bailiffs, or ministers of us, our heirs, or successors whatsoever. We being unwilling that the same mayor, bailiffs, and burgesses, or their successors, or any one, or any of them, by reason of the premises or any of them, be troubled, molested, disquieted, or bewithened, or in any thing disturbed by us, our heirs, or successors, justices, sheriffs, eschaetors, bailiffs, or other ministers of us, our heirs, or successors whomsoever; we being also willing and by these presents for us, our heirs and successors, charging and commanding, as well the treasurer, chancellor, barons of our Exchequer at Westminster, and other justices of us, our heirs and successors, as our Attorney and Solicitor-General for the time being, and every of them and all other ministers and officers of us, our heirs and successors for the time being whomsoever. That neither they nor any, or any one of them, issue out, prosecute or continue, or make or cause, or any one of them make or cause, to be issued out, prosecuted or continued, any writ or summons of Quo Warranto, or any other writ, writs, or processes of us whatsoever, against the aforesaid mayor, bailiffs, and burgesses of the borough aforesaid, or any one, or any of them, for any causes, things, matters, offences, claims and usurpations, or any of them, by them or any of them, attempted, claimed, accustomed, had made or usurped, before the making of these our letters patent. Being also willing that, in or for a debt or claim, or abuse of any other liberties, privileges, franchises, or jurisdictions within the borough aforesaid, the liberties, limits, and precincts thereof before the day of the making of these our letters patent, the same mayor, bailiffs, and burgesses of the borough aforesaid, or any of them by any one or any the justices, sheriffs, officers, or ministers aforesaid, be in nowise molested or hindered, or compelled to answer to the same, or any one or any of them, because that express mention concerning the true annual value, or concerning the certainty of the premises, or any of them, or concerning other gifts or grants by us, or by any of our progenitors or predecessors unto the aforesaid mayor, bailiffs, and burgesses of the borough aforesaid, before these times made, in these presents is in nowise made, or any statute, act, ordinance, provision, proclamation, or restriction to the contrary thereof, heretofore had, made, published, ordained, or provided, or any other thing, cause, or matter whatsoever in anywise notwithstanding; in testimony of which thing we have caused these our letters to be made patent. Witness ourself, at Westminster, the Twenty-fifth day of February, in first year of our reign.

(By a writ from the Common Seal.)

FIGOTT."

The Corporation, according to the charter, consisted of 32 persons, the Mayor, Recorder, twelve Aldermen, and eighteen Capital Burgesses, the last being chosen from "the more discreet and substantial" inhabitants of the borough to form the Common Council. The Recorder, Aldermen, and Capital Burgesses retained their offices "during their natural lives" respectively, except in the cases of official misconduct, for which they could be removed by a majority. The Mayor was Sir Roger Bradshaigh, of Haigh; the Recorder, Bertie Entwistle, and the twelve Aldermen, besides the Mayor, who was, of course, an alderman, William Daniell, Esquire, Robert Baron, William Glover, Ralph Markland, Robert Letherbarrow, Thomas Bancks, Thomas Turner, Lawrence Anderton (gentleman), Robert Ford, Christopher Sompner, James Scott, and William Deane. The Town Clerk was Lawrence Anderton, who had succeeded his father, John Anderton, in that office. He was the Clerk of the Borough, Clerk of the Statutes, Merchant Coroner, Clerk of the Markets, and Ulnager. Ulnager or Alnager is a word which, like the business to which it referred, is now obsolete. The Ulnager was an officer appointed to inspect and seal cloth and other goods, and to collect the dues or revenues thence arising. The important office of the Bailiwick was filled by John Keeling and William Langton. The Sergeants at Staves for the Borough were John Markland and Edward Fairclough.

The Corporation had the power of forming and enforcing bye-laws, which, according to their belief, were for the benefit of the borough. It was lawful to break, change, and make anew the common seal of the borough as it seemed expedient or needful.

The transactions of the Common Council of Wigan are fairly recorded from 1685, and, although the historian has not the questionable privilege of long columns of garrulous verbatim debates, according to the system of modern municipal reports, yet the minutes preserved are sufficient proof that the Council was both an active and useful one. These minutes chiefly refer to complaints from injured burgesses, applications for the renewal of burghal rights and new admissions, fines levied on delinquents for trespass on burghal rights, and the remission of those fines to persons who show just cause for it. The Council had powers of punishing similar to those of magistrates of the present day. Frequent were the petitions of what would now be considered petty grievances, although in those days they were of concerns of vital interest, according to the beliefs of the prevailing Conservative and protective spirit of the age. Nothing seems to have been too insignificant for the consideration of the Council when the interests of the town or the rights of the citizens were concerned, and yet the local government was as inexpensive as possibly could be. Extravagance on the one hand and meanness on the other were alike rigidly guarded against.

So much authenticated information concerning this period exists that almost every particular of local government can be told. It was in 1685 that the first Common Council of Wigan was constituted by Royal charter. The duties of this Council were entirely of a local nature, pertaining solely to the "good government of the Corporation," and were neither less extensive nor less important than those of the modern Town Council. They had duties, long obsolete, to perform, which were quite equal in importance to affairs about which the verbosity of modern Councillors is constantly circumambulating, and which did not so much as exist in the times of our corporate forefathers. They seem to have been as anxious to prevent poverty as the moderns are to cure it, and that prevention was founded on the most conservative principles of Protection. Social and commercial reciprocity of a doubtful or risky nature was condemned, and free trade that did not yield an immediate return of cash was considered the worst and most hopeless species of commercial lunacy. The laws for protecting the borough from an influx of poverty are worthy the reader's consideration. There is always a tendency for country people to migrate into the towns, and especially on the part of the labouring classes, because wages and advantages are greater in large towns; but these are the very classes which, if thrown out of work, become burdensome to the parishioners. All their capital is their physical ability, and the moment they are disabled their capital ceases to bear a money value, and they are immediately burdensome. Now, although Wigan was responsible for the poor born within its walls, it seemed to consider most seriously the frailties of the human frame, and rejected able-bodied men who were anxious to work for a living within its walls simply because there was a likelihood of their becoming burdensome. All who were not naturalised townsmen, or who were the offspring of aliens, were called foreigners, and laws concerning these foreigners were of the strictest nature. The town seemed to consider a great favour was conferred on a foreigner, whose services were most valuable to the town, when he was permitted, on payment of a heavy fine, to live and work within the walls. The town was divided into six districts, Wallgate, Hallgate, Millgate, Market Stead, Standishgate, and Woodhouses, and each district was presided over by two overseers. Besides this there were gatewaiters for each district, and every gatewaiter had to report to the Council every foreigner who came into his district upon pain of a fine. Foreigners and the harbourers of foreigners were heavily fined. Employers of labour were forbidden to give them employment without special permission. Every such stranger anxious to be employed had to present his credentials of ability, good character, and monetary condition to the Council, after which a special licence was granted. By such strict means it was almost impossible for a fresh importation of poverty into the town. The minutes of the meeting of the Corporation at which the

first members of the Common Council were appointed, with the autographs of those elected, is here subjoined :—

“Whereas, his gracious Majesty James the Second, by the grace of God King of England, Scotland, France, and Ireland, Defender of ye Fayth, &c., by his Royal Charter, granted in ye first year of his Majesty's reign to ye Corporacion of Wigan, in the County Pallatine of Lancaster, hath given power and authority to Sir Roger Bradshaigh, Knight & Baronett, the Mayor, Aldermen, and ye Recorder for the tyme being, to nominate, elect, and constitute a Comon Councill for the good governmt. of the sd Corporacion, as by the said Charter may fully appear. Therefore the sayd Mayor, with ye right impowered as aforesaid, whose names are subscribed, being mett and assembled to consider and what Burgesses resident wthin ye sayd Corporacion are most able and fitly qualified to be members of ye sayd Comon Councell, They doe unanimously elect, appoynt, ordaine, and constitute Law. Anderton Towne Clerk, Henry Row, William Briggs, William Langshaw, Thomas fford, junr., Gerrard fford, Thomas fford, senior, Thomas Cooper, James fford, George Brown, Charles Leigh, Gilbert Longshaw, Robert Bankes, John Baldwin, Robert Mason, Thomas Bankes, Robert Brown, Richard Leatherbarrow, to be members of the sayd Comon Councell, and to have power from tyme to tyme to act freely and effectually therein according to ye tenour, purport, effect, and . . . of the said Charter.

“In witness whereof we hereunto have put our hands the 21st day of Aprill, in the sayd first yeare of ye Reign of or. Sovereign Lord . . . 1685.”

Lawrence Anderton, Town Clerk.
Henry Row.
William Briggs.
William Langshaw.
Thomas fford, junior.
Gerrard fford.
Thomas fford, senior.
Thomas Cooper.
James fford.

George Brown.
Charles Leigh.
Gilbert Lonshaw.
Robert Bankes.
John Baldwin.
Robert Mason.
Thomas Bankes.
Robert Brown.
Richard Leatherbarrow.

The above are all in the same handwriting.

Elected April 20th, 1685, by R. Bradshaigh, Mayor.

Bertie Entwisle.
William Daniell.
Robt. Baron.
Ra. Markland.
Ro. Letherbarow.
Thomas Banks.

Tho. Turner.
Lawr. Anderton.
Robt. forde.
— Sumner.
James Scott.
William Deane.

The above are autographs.

Every member of the Common Council had solemnly to vow, in the presence of the others, that he would do his very utmost to preserve the liberties and privileges

and good government of the town. Instead of having every idle word of the Council reported to the public, as in modern times, each member had to swear on oath that he would keep secret his own opinions and counsels as well as those of his colleagues, and thus the Council very much resembled an Irish secret society for the public good. The following is a copy of the oath of one of the Common Council :—

The Oath of one of the Comon Council.

You shall doo your endeavour to advance the comon good of this town, you shall to your power maintain the liberties and franchises thereof. You shall be ready, at the comandmt. of the Maior, either by himself or any other of his officers, to attend and be present at the Comon Council. You shall there assist the Maior or his deputy with yr. best advise and council for the good and welfare of this town and the franchises thereof. (*See long as you shall continue one of the members thereof.*) Your own council and your fellows touching such matters as shall be moved therein you shall not disclose. You shall do your endeavour that everything therein agreed upon shall be put in execuoon according to the contents thereof, and all and everything to be done by you as one of the Comon Council you shall faithfully and justly to yr. power and knowledge, so long as you shall continue to be one of the members thereof, maintain and keep, so help you God.

When apprentices became journeymen they at once ascended the social scale, and even the meanest trade was considered something far above ordinary manual labour, for the calling of a slater was considered an "art, trade, and mystery." It is not uninteresting to observe what high testimonials men gave themselves when applying to the Corporation to be made freemen. The following is a petition of Thomas Houghton, slater, to be made a burgess of the town, and the reasons he gives for claiming the privileges, as well as the verdict of the jury on his case :—

To y^e Wor^d y^e Maior, Aldermen, Comon Concellmen assembled.

The humble peticon of Thomas Houghton, Sclater,

Sheweth,—That yo^r pet^r hath duely served for the space of seaven years in the art, trade, and mystery of a Slater, and hath honestly and justly demeaned himselfe therein, and thereby satisfied most of the inhabitants of this Towne, and other the gentlemen and neighbouring inhabitants, of his skill (?) and not (?) demeaned in his said Trade, and now yo^r pet^r being informed of that Towne being att want of a workman to serve them, and yo^r pet^r being a single man (?),

Humbly desires your Wo^{r^d} would bee pleased to admit him a freeman of this Burrough. And yo^r pet^r, as in duty bound, will ever pray, &c.

Wee order that the pet^r shall be sworne a freeman, paying ffive pounds before he be sworne.

The gatewaiters, as previously shown, were frequently fined for neglect of duty, for, although they were very strict guardians of their district, the public eye was continually upon them, and seemed to be much more on the alert than their own official eye, for everybody considers himself the master of a public servant, even when that public servant has no honorarium attached to his office. In the following petition the gatewaiter prays for the rescinding of the fine imposed for neglect of duty. The jury acknowledge they are unable to come to a unanimous determination in the case, and simply subscribe their verdict of *Ignoramus* :—

To y^e Wor^d y^e Maior, Aldermen, Comon Concellmen assembled.

The humble peticon of James Wood, cov^{er}let weaver,

Sheweth,—That yo^r pet^r was finide in ten shillings for neglect of his yo^r pet^{rs} office of a gatewriter or — looker, and for that the said fine estreated to six shillings eightpence. And distress made and taken for y^e said fine to yo^r peticon^{rs} great damage and losse. And also sheweth that yo^r pet^r was fined in two guineas (?) at Michs leet last past for neglecting his oath and office afforesd, w^{ch} said fine is not as yett estreated, w^{ch} if estreated will tend to yo^r pet^{rs} great loss and utter ruine.

Therefore yo^r pet^r humbly prayes the said distress may be restored and y^e said fines remitted. And yo^r pet^r will ever pray, &c. Ignoramus.

Some of the preserved Court Leet records contain not only very interesting information, but occasionally there crops up a deed or relic which shows a somewhat ludicrous phase of borough life. The man of little authority was continually lifting his little consequential head and declaring himself the recognised limb of the law. The bailiffs must have been a terror to every transgressor. Their eagle eyes often indeed saw what was unseen by others, but to be prosecuted by them for any offence, however improbable its commission, seemed to ensure a fine. It seems to have been ordered by law—to give an instance—that during the dog days all dogs should be muzzled, upon pains and penalties. A licence was required, too, for keeping a dog. In 1685 an inhabitant, John Lowe, was brought up before his Worship the Mayor, a Common Council, and jury of his fellow-townsmen, for keeping a bitch unmuzzled. Lowe was somewhat annoyed, but, thinking he had a good case, appeared, in all confidence and humility, before the honourable Council to answer the charge. He seems first to have proved that the bitch was a licensed one, and then he showed to his own satisfaction, although seemingly not to that of the jury, that the bitch was not unmuzzled. Thinking, however, to strengthen his arguments, and so avoiding a heavy fine, which doubtless he was ill able to bear, and which, however small it might be, he was assured would be unjust, he further proceeded to prove that he had no bitch, and therefore could not muzzle her. However, the jury and Common Council were not to be shaken in the unanimous opinion which they had formed from the evidence of the bailiffs, and the dumb-founded Lowe was fined thirteen shillings and fourpence. Against this decision he appealed to the next Court in the following petition:—

To y^e Wor^d y^e Maior, Aldermen, Comon Concallmen assembled.

The humble peticon of Jone Lowe,

Humbly sheweth,—That your peticoner was prosecuted and fined at a Leet for keeping a Bitch unmussilled, and y^e said fine estreated the sune of thirteen shillings and fourpence. And also sheweth that the said Bitch is dead above halfe a yeare since, and that she never did any to any p^{er}son or p^{er}sons whatsoever to y^r pet^{rs} knowledge. But the Balbos have since distrained, contrary to law, as y^r pet^r is informed.

Therefore yo^r pet^r humbly prayes that the s^d Distresse may be restored and the said fine remitted, and your peticon^r will ever pray, &c.

Referred to y^e Bad Accounts—(Corporation Original Documents).

Like Dandie Dinmont, in Sir Walter Scott's "Antiquary," there were people in Wigan who would go to law, and some exceedingly paltry cases were brought before the Court Leet. There were burgesses and inhabitants who seemed to think that the entire duty of the Mayor, Council, and Jury was to find out and rectify petty grievances, nuisances, and insignificant individual disputes. Although the Council generally attended to all cases, the jury cut many of the petitioners short by simply signing, as in the following instance, *Ignoramus*, signifying "We are unable to agree":—

To y^e Wor^d y^e Maior, Aldermen, Comon Concellmen assembled.

The humble peticon of John Thorneton, Maulster,

Sheweth,—That whereas there has always been a sufficient hedge and ditch made betwixt the said John Thorneton's mauld (hey or ley) and Hugh Platt's feild leading from the leane that passes betwixt the foot of the Millgate and henhurst bridge up to the middle of the said feilds, and always known to be mended and repaired by the said Hugh platt or his order by makeing the Copp out of the said Maltshay, and now the said Hugh platt hath removed the most part of the said Copp and layed it abroad in his feild for the bettering thereof, which is to the ruin of the said fence and contrary to custome, and very likely to prove in a short time to be an Incroac'mt against the said John Thorneton.

Therefore your pet^r prays your Wor^{ps} be pleased to lett it be vewed by the Jury and put into the same like order as it usually hath been, or as they think fit. And yo^r pet^r will ever pray for yo^r Wor^{ps} good health.

Ignoramus.

A new broom sweeps clean, and the newly-inaugurated great Common Council of 1685 was to be no exception to the proverbial expression. Every Councillor seemed to consider himself specially as the head master and guardian of the ancient borough, so that these officers very soon became officious and sometimes offensive, like policemen, whose promotion often follows on the number of charges they make. As members of the Common Council, they undoubtedly believed they had placed their feet on the rung of the ladder that led to popularity, if not fame. It was, therefore, their duty and pleasure, they considered, to please those in a dignified way, who had the power to make them popular or famous. But their chief difficulty then, as in modern times, was to please without offence, for they soon discovered that the moment a man declares himself a candidate for public honours enemies arise, and attack, where bosom friends are supposed to be. Further, as Town Councillors, they found that to do the greatest good to the greatest number with the greatest credit to themselves was to reduce rates, curtail expenses, and yet increase comforts, or by some subtle strategy succeed in obtaining payment for public benefits from private funds. There were plenty of nuisances, real and assumed, to grumble at in the town; but perhaps nothing grieved the general public so much as private individuals having to pay for the cleansing of the streets, which were undoubtedly so filthy because of the trade from the country into the town on market days. It was a shame, said the inhabitants, that they should have to pay for scavenging away

what merchants, traders, and stall holders had carelessly or for their own immediate convenience thrown down. The new Town Council took up the question, favoured the grumbling of the inhabitants, as became the candidates for popular favour, revoked the custom of old payments, and made a law that the payment for cleansing the streets should be deducted from the toll dues. Thus the inhabitants were pleased, and the Councillors became local heroes; but the decision was appealed against by the sergeants-at-mace in the following petition, about which, however, Mayor, Common Council, and Jury could not agree:—

To the Wor^d the Maior, Aldermen, and Common Concell at this time assembled.
The humble pet of John Markland and William ffinch, gen., Serj^{ts} at Mace for y^e Burrough of Wigan, Sheweth,—That yo^r pet^{rs} are informed that this Board has ord^d the Markett street to be made cleane out of the Toll rents on Markett days, w^{ch} yo^r pet^{rs} are willing to comply with, although it hath never bene done time out of minde by any serj^{ts}. And yo^r pet^{rs} also show that p^{sons}, as well freemen as not freemen within this Burrough, to the numb^r of nyneteene . . . their freedome and otherwise, sett out stalls on y^e Markett days, and take two or more stalls for themselves and family, w^{ch} is the reason y^t y^e street is soe often dirtyed, though they nev^r pay any Tolls wthin the Towne.

Therefore y^r pet^{rs} humbly pray y^t y^e sd ord^r may be repealed, and that the street may be made cleane as formerly it hath been by the Baliffes at the Towne's charge, or that the p^{sons} being freemen and not freemen and others may make y^e plaies they soe stand on cleane, or that yo^r Wor^{ps} will make an order y^t every p^{son} and p^{sons} haveing and setting standings and stalls in the Markett street as afores on Markett dayes pay unto yo^r pet^{rs} for every such stall and standing such sume of money as yo^r Wor^{ps} shall think fitt, and yo^r Wor^{ps} will ever pray, &c.

Ignoramus.

More and more did Wigan grow important as a market town. It not only continued to be a great military centre, but the whole neighbourhood grew in agricultural importance, and so considerable were the profits made on market days from public sales in the streets that there was a large increase of foreigners anxious to erect stalls on the Market Place, whilst many burgesses and foreigners, alike anxious to attract the public and secure customers, made stalls on the street that, because of their obstructive proportions, became a perfect nuisance to passengers as well as a means of swindling the Corporation of just rates, for each stall, regardless of its size, cost a fixed rate. Demand creates supply, but an over-supply may ruin the producer, and a glut in the market often causes a reaction in commercial prosperity. Where one makes a fortune, thousands rush in the belief that each can do the same, forgetful that in the same market each can only receive the one thousandth part of that fortune. Thus the stalls in Wigan Market grew obnoxiously in size and number, and the following new bye-law was, therefore, made by the Common Council in 1685:—

Wee ord^r that every stall shall containe not above seven feete in length and five feete in breadth; and wee move and that noe person shall have more than one stall, and that every freeman shall be acquitted of Toll for one stall if he have more, but to pay as forreino^r doe, and that every fforreino^r shall pay 4d. a piece for a covered stall, threepence for an open one, on Markett days, provided by

the Towne, and threepence for one stall they provided for themselves on Markett days, and the Baliffes colect the sum till further ord^r. and that the Serjeants make cleane the Markett street out of the other Toll on Markett days.

It is ord^d that the Serj^{ts} shall collect all the Toll accordinge to the within written ord^r. and distraine for the same (if it be refused), and thereout to take to themselves one halfpenny, which they now and we and the sd ord^r is confirmed in every other particular.

Order^d that after y^e 1st Jan. next noe p[']son will bring or give any almes to any poor, unless they have licens to begg, on paine of on every p[']son so offending. And that the Bellman ringe on the next Markett day at high Markett, and twice on the Markett day following that at high Markett doe p[']claime the ord^r. that there may bee noe ofens committed contrary to this ord^r.

There are people who will commence to build without first counting the cost, and there has been more than one instance in Wigan of building hotels or public houses for which the hoped-for licence has been refused after the edifice has been completed. No town in the country was a greater practical advocate for protection than Wigan. The introduction of every possible kind of free trade was provided against by local law. No man of means, without special permission, could settle in the parish, and spend his money for the benefit of the town, lest advantage might be taken of such settlement for trade purposes. A man who bought a property, rented a farm, paid taxes and rents, and was a good neighbour and honourable man, was liable to be fined for selling as a foreigner. If a burgess through ill-health was unable to attend to his own business, and had only the alternative of bringing men from another town to do his work for him or himself become a burden on the parish, he could not do the former lest the incomers or foreigners should start in business for themselves. These imported men were liable to be fined for inhabiting in the town without leave, and for practising their trades to the detriment of burgesses of the same calling, and the burgess who imported them was liable to be fined for harbouring them. Young men, tradesmen, who were anxious to do business for themselves, had to prove before the Mayor, burgesses, and jury that they were good workmen, had served their apprenticeship in Wigan, and were by no means likely to become burdensome to the town on account of weak health or bad habits, and that they wished to practise trades which were likely to be profitable. The following petitions, published for the first time, from the documents in the possession of the Wigan Corporation, illustrate the protective tendency of the borough in the seventeenth century. They are all from the Court Leet transactions of 1685:—

To the Wor^{sh} the Maior, Aldermen, and Com^{on} Councell at this time assembled.
The humble peticoⁿ of John Clare, Malstr.

Sheweth,—That yo^r petr hath farmed a house of £10 cleere yearly, besides paying taxes, from Robert Orrell, and hath also farmed a close called the Pyes from Mr. Sam. Anderton, Junr., at £7. But now being informed he is fined for liveing in this Towne, for inhabiting in this Towne, being a forreiner. And yo^r petr being noe wise likely to bee chargeable to this Towne.

Humbly prays you will admitte him a freeman on a reasonable fine, or that you will remitte the fine charged on him, he giving surety to save the Towne harmless, as the lawe in that case descrid. And yo^r pet^r will ever pray, &c.

Wee ord^r him to pay £4, and bee sworne a freeman, and his fine remitted.

To the Wor^d the Maior, Aldermen, and Comon Councell at this time assembled.

The humble peticon of William Baldwin, shoemaker,

Sheweth,—That your petitioner, being sick and out of health, did take Joseph Sutton and John Lambath to be his journeymen, to helpe and assist him in his trade, in order to maintaine your petitioner and his family, that they might bee noe wayes burthensome to the Towne. But it happened that your petitioner was presented att a Court Leet here holden and fined, and the same is estreated to [illegible], and the Bailifes have taken a distresse for the same for harbouring them as forreiners.

Therefore your petitioner prays, the said Journeymen being removed out of this Towne, that the said distresse may be restored and the fine remitted, and your petitioner, as in duty bound, will ever pray, &c.

The fine remitted to iiip. in all.

To the Wor^d Mr. Mayor, Aldermen, Comon Cancell att this time assembled.

The humble peticon of Gerard Bancks, of Wigan, Pewterer,

Sheweth,—That whereas yo^r peticon^r's late father was an Alderman and Burgess of this Corporation, and that yo^r peticon^r beinge desirous to bee some wayes serviceable to this Corporation.

Hee therefore desires yo^r Wor^d to elect and sware him a Burgess of this Corporation, the better to capacitate him to serve in any office hee shall bee elected or called unto. And yo^r peticon^r will ever pray, &c.

Wee ord^r the pet^r to bee sworne a Burgess.

To the Worpp^d the Maior, Recorder, Aldermen, and Comon Cancell at this time assembled.

The humble peticon of Richard Knight, Linenwebster,

Sheweth,—That whereas yo^r pet^r for the space of seven years last past hath served as an apprentice to the said trade of a Linenwebster, and hath demeaned himself well therein; sheweth that your pet^r for the space of two years last past hath served as a Journeyman to the said trade of a Linenwebster in Pemberton, but hath maryed a wife in this towne, and hath lived in it ever since for the space of two years, and hath behaved himself honestly within the said Towne, and hath a Legall settlement within this Corporation, and as he, yo^r peticoner, is informed, cannot be removed out of this Corporation lawfully, and further sheweth that your petitioner was fined at the last Leet by the Jury then sworne.

Therefore he humbly prays that the said fine may be remitted and yo^r peticoner sworne a freeman of this Corporation, paying some small sume of money as your Wor^d in your discretion shall think fitt. And yo^r pet^r as in duty bound will ever pray, &c.

Ord^d to remove to Pemberton, the last place of his settlement by his own confession, and a War^t to bee reg^d for that purpose.

To the Worship^d the Maior, Aldermen, and Comon Cancell at this time assembled.

The humble peticon of Peter Greene and Peter Aspinall, Gunsmiths, and Roger Almond, Spurrier, wthin this Corporation, on the behalfe of themselves and other smiths wthin the same Corporation,

Sheweth,—That whereas yo^r peticon^r and others, the freemen of the s^d trades and occupations, have for severall years last past furnished this Corporation wth all mann^r of Gunsmith and Cutler's work wthout yo^r help of any foraign^r, and that they are still ready, desirous, and willing to serve the

inhabitants thereof in their said trades, callings, and occupations at reasonable rates and prices. And yo^r peticon^r also show that one Charles Robinson, a Cutler and Gunsmith, having lately peticoned yo^r worships to be a freeman of the same Corporation, which (as yo^r peticoners are informed) is ordered by yo^r worships to be sworne a freeman of this Corporation for a very small and inconsiderable sume of money, he having neither served his apprenticeship herein nor bound thereunto as an apprentice. And yo^r peticoners further show that if the said Charles Robinson be sworne a free man of this towne, will not only tend to the damage of the whole Corporation, but also to yo^r peticoners' great damage and utter Ruine (If not timely relieved by yo^r Wor^{sh}ps.)

Therefore yo^r peticoners humbly pray that yo^r Wor^{sh}ps will be pleased to consider the petition seriously, and that the said Charles Robinson may not be sworne a freeman of the Corporation, nor to admitt or suffer him to exercise or use the said trade of a Cutler therein. And also that yo^r Wor^{sh}ps will be pleased to Repeal and make void the said ord^r. And yo^r peticoners, as in duty bound, will ever pray, &c.

9th March, 1685.

The Jury award was :—

Wee doo Repeale the order heretofore made for y^e swearing of Charles Robinson a freeman according to y^e peticoners' request.

To the Honorable Sir Roger Bradshaigh, Knight and Bart., Mayor of the Borough of Wigan, and to the Aldermen, Common Council, and Burghesses of the same borough.

The humble petition of Thomas Holins, of Wigan aforesaid,

Sheweth,—That y^r petitioner, about the beginning of April last, in obedience to the command of Mr. King and Mr. Langton, now Bayliffes, did attend the dragoones then lyeing in this Burrough, and did march with the s^d dragoones, upon the said bayliffes' comand, to Drayton, with his cart and foure horses, and carrying a full load of carriage, and att the return of the said dragoones did, att the comand of the said bayliffes, march with the aforesaid teame, full laden, upon attendance of the said dragoones, to Warrington, and this petition furstly sheweth that, upon the 21st of September last, yo^r pet^r, upon the comand of Mr. Reeting, now Bayliffe, did attend with the teame aforesaid the four companys then remaining in Wigan, and did march along with them with his said team, full laden, to Lancaster, and was not discharged from this attendance of the said companys untill the 26th day of September aforesaid.

Yor peticonr, therefore, humbly desiring you to take into consideracion what losses yor peticonr hath herin sustained, not onely in neglect of his own affaires att home, but also beating (baiting) out his team upon the s^d sevrall marches, desires such satisfacion as you in yor discretion shall thinke fite herein, and yo^r pet^r shall ever pray, etc.

(Jury Award.)

Wee ord^r that the pet^r and his partners shall have four pounds ten shillings allowed them by the Towne in satisfacion of the service aforesaid.

(Note on back.)

Though the petition mencons but one cart, yet there weare five carts employed upon the whole service within meconed, vidt., Mr. Earless, John Curghey, Widd. Ashton, and Oliver Bibbye, with ye s^d Tho. Holins.

Rent in all of the souldiers, the sum of forty shillings, beings six dayes out