

CHAPTER X.

Customs—Notchel Crying—Funeral Feasts—Moot Hall—Brown's Charity—Mort's Charity—Charity of Welles and Diggles—Improvement of Trades—Burgesses and People—Court Leet Transactions—Cases Tried—Foreigners and Fines—The Offence of bringing home Swine on Sunday, and the Penalty—Petitions of Thomas Chadwick, Linen Weaver; Richard Tyrer, Cooper; James Bullock, Tailor; Richard Richardson, Weaver, Ince—Court of October—Grand Jury—Petitions of John Ellom, Weaver, Newtown; Gerrard Winstanley; John Langshaw, Pewterer; John Leyland, John Houlcroft, Ralph Leyland, and Nicholas Parr—Hardman's Charity.

A VOLUME might be written on the local quack superstitions. The remedies adopted for cures of simple or peculiar diseases or complaints were as numerous and strange as the freaks of young women anxious to find lovers. A common complaint among children is whooping cough, and a strange belief existed that any person riding into the neighbourhood on a piebald horse could cure the ailment, by any prescription he might there and then make, although he really knew nothing of disease or medicine. Mr. C. W. Montague, a stranger to the district, ignorant of the prevailing belief, was unlucky enough to ride into the town on such a horse. All the women in the district, of whom he had heard many unpleasant and terrible tales, rushed to him, gesticulating vociferously. He was alarmed, especially when one of them laid hold on the bridle and demanded a recipe for whooping cough. He was no doctor, and told them so in vain, but at the suggestion of his servant, on finding their persistence, he wrote a prescription for very mild rhubarb pills, for which the suppliants were very thankful, and treated him with savage glee, whilst he meanwhile was amazed and wondered what it was all about.

In the advertising columns of the *Wigan Observer* of the present day there are many instances of irate husbands proclaiming the untrustworthiness of their spendthrift spouses, but this is but the new style of a very old town's custom, when the public bellman was the great advertising medium. When such a proclamation was to be made the bellman rang his bell in the Market Place and at the corners of streets, crowds of

children or gossiping women, with their bare arms akimbo, gathered round, and, proud of the importance of his vocation, he stentoriously proclaimed the name and address of the unhappy wife, and further declared that the injured husband would no longer be responsible for any debt or debts contracted by her. After this public denouncement no one who gave her credit could make a legal claim. Spirited wives would not quietly submit to this exposure, and, besides quiet curtain lectures, they generally hired the bellman on the following day to make public the meanness of the husbands, and thus were revenged. This custom was called "notchel crying." If indolent, unthankful, and grumbling husbands, who are now supported by the earnings of their hard-wrought wives, were thus exposed, it might have a good social effect.

It was customary in Lancashire to feast those who came to a funeral, a custom called a carval or arval, which really answered the same purpose among the poorer classes as the custom of endowing chantries by the rich, being neither more less than a paying for prayers for the welfare of the souls of the dead. It was often stipulated in wills that such drinkings and feastings should be paid for out of estates left by the deceased. When it was not so stated, the friends treated all who came to the funeral to bread and ale at some neighbouring tavern.

No wonder the walls and ceilings of the old Moot Hall had lost their original whiteness. It was not age alone that made them musty: not the filthy clothing of rascally prisoners that begrimed the seats and darkened the plaster: not the smoke from the bad coals in their fires. The meetings there might just as well have been held and judgment given in a low public-house. Students are supposed to be most industrious when they have their glass of ale and pipe beside them; so it was with judges and jury in the Moot Hall. Each was invariably provided with his jug of beer and churchwarden pipe, perhaps because they were considered good disinfectants or because they could the more soothingly give their attention to the cases.

All the particulars contained in the following accounts of the local charities are taken from the published results of the Charity Commissioners' investigations:—

William Brown, by his will bearing date 12th October, 1724, and proved at Chester, devised all his houses, outhousing, and lands at Poolstock, after the decease of his wife, charged as hereinafter mentioned, to trustees, with directions to sell the same. And after reciting that his uncle, George Brown, by his will, gave £10, the yearly interest to be laid out in wheat bread, to be distributed to the eldest poor people in Wigan, every Christmas Day, in the Parish Church of Wigan, the said testator gave £30, the yearly interest whereof he directed should be charged on his said houses and lands at Poolstock, and should be laid out in sixpenny wheaten loaves, to be distributed by his son, George Brown, his heirs and assigns, one-half

every Christmas Day and the other half every Easter Monday: and he further charged the said premises at Poolstock with the said sum of £10 given by his uncle, George Brown, and the interest thereof.

By indenture of feoffment bearing date 17th September, 1729, between Matthew Markland of the first part and Thomas Mort, of Damhouse, the Rev. Samuel Aldersley, rector of Wigan, and six others, of the other part, the said Matthew Markland, in consideration of £121 1s., granted and enfeoffed to the said Thomas Mort, and other parties of the second part, and their heirs, two closes, called Throstle Nests, or Baron's Fields, near a lane in Wigan, called Gidlow Lane, containing by estimation 2a. 1r. 20p., on the trusts thereafter expressed; and it was declared that £120, part of the consideration, was the money of Thomas Mort, who had many years before deposited the same in the hands of the said John Markland, to the end that the yearly profits thereof might be employed in binding apprentice to some lawful trade or occupation the children of some of the poor inhabitants legally settled in Wigan, and that for perpetuating the said charity the said John Markland had, with the consent of the said Thomas Mort, laid out the same, with 21s. of his own money, in the purchase of the premises above mentioned; and it was agreed that out of the first rents the said sum of 21s. shall be re-paid, and that afterwards the clear yearly rents should be employed for the binding such poor children as aforesaid, at the election of the said Thomas Mort, as long as he should live, and afterwards of the majority of the said trustees; and it was provided that, upon the death of any three or more of the said trustees for the time being, the survivors or survivor, or his heirs, should nominate such other persons, residing or having estates in Wigan, as they shall think meet, to be added to the survivors in a proper conveyance of the premises, whereby they might become co-trustees thereof, the rector of Wigan always to be one.

It appears from Mr. Barton's accounts (Mr. Barton was the only surviving trustee), which he produced to us for the year 1803, that he had received £354 18s., being 26 years' rent from January, 1803, to January, 1828, both inclusive, and that he had paid eight apprentice fees of £4 each annuity to £32; of these apprentices three were placed out in 1810, one in 1811, one in 1827, and three in 1828. Mr. Barton is also entitled to credit for a sum of about £20, for the amount of the property tax up to 1816, and of some payments on account of the poors' rates. If credit be given him for this sum, there would still be due from him a balance of upwards of £300.

The great irregularity which has occurred in the administration of this charity has arisen from the embarrassed state of Mr. Barton's affairs. Several years ago he became insolvent, notwithstanding which he continued very improperly to receive

the rents, and, except in the years 1810 and 1811, nothing was applied to the purposes of the charity from 1803 to 1827.

Mr. Barton declares that he is unable to pay in the balance now due from him, which we have reason to believe is the fact; but he has engaged to advance every year as long as he lives, until the balance is liquidated, a sufficient sum to pay for the apprenticing of twelve boys at £4 each.

We are given to understand that credit may be given to Mr. Barton for punctually fulfilling this arrangement, but we conceive that the payments should be made to the other trustees, who should see to the proper application thereof, and that the rents should in future be received by them, and regular accounts kept as well of the money paid by Mr. Barton towards the discharge of the balance now due from him as of the receipts and disbursements connected with the current income; and that the trustees should meet at least once or oftener every year for the purpose of auditing the accounts, appointing the boys to be bound out apprentices, and inquiring into the characters of the masters with whom they are to be placed.

By indenture of bargain and sale enrolled in the Court of Chancery, and bearing date 2nd July, 1737, between Daniel Welles and William Hulton of the first part; John Markland, the Rev. Samuel Aldersley, and William Curghey of the second part; and Margaret Diggles, widow, of the third part; reciting that Ellen Welles, widow, by her will, bearing date 24th March, 1726, gave a bond for £100 to her two sons, Thomas and Daniel Welles, and the said John Markland and his heirs, as trustees, to purchase land or a rent-charge, and to employ the produce thereof in clothing, after a decent manner, such poor people as should frequent the communion of the Parish Church of Wigan as they should think fit; and that she charged her real estates with the payment of so much money as, with the principal and interest of the said bond, would make up £200; and further reciting that the said Daniel Welles was the survivor, and paid the said sum of £200 to the said John Markland, and that the said Margaret Diggles had, as a free donation, advanced the further sum of £100 to be applied to the uses thereafter mentioned, and that the said John Markland had determined to lay out the two several sums of £200 and £100 in the purchase of the closes thereafter mentioned, and to add the above-named Samuel Aldersley and William Curghey as trustees for the management of the said charity; the said Daniel Welles and William Hulton, in consideration of £300, bargained and sold to the said John Markland and others, parties of the second part, and their heirs, three closes, called the Page Fields, in Wigan, containing by estimation five acres and a half, at eight yards to the perch, subject to the payment of the chief rent of 1s. 10d. upon trust, to dispose of the clear yearly rents and

profits thereof, viz., two-third parts thereof in clothing, after a decent manner, such poor inhabitants of Wigan frequenting the communion of the Lord's Supper in the Parish Church of Wigan, as the said Daniel Welles and the said trustees should think fit; and the other third part either for clothing such poor persons as above described, or the binding apprentices such poor children of the inhabitants of Wigan as the said trustees should think fit; and it was provided that whenever the trustees should be reduced to two or one, the survivors or survivor should choose so many more as should make up the number of four, so that the heir of the said Daniel Welles and the heir of the said John Markland for the time being should be always included.

The premises above mentioned have been conveyed from time to time to new trustees, and another deed of appointment was in preparation at the period of our inquiry, September, 1828, the Honourable the Reverend George Bridgeman and Thomas Barton being the only survivors.

The property called Page Fields consists of three closes in Frog Lane, in Wigan, containing about five and a half acres, at eight yards to the perch. Upon these premises a cottage was built, about four years ago, by the churchwardens, who applied to this purpose a sum of £78 0s. 6d., which was placed in a bank at Wigan to the account of the churchwardens, being the amount of a sum of money which had been levied as fines and penalties, and the interest which had accrued thereon.

These premises are let to the churchwardens and overseers of the township of Wigan for the use of the Workhouse; the yearly rent of £35 is reserved for the land, and the churchwardens and overseers also pay over to the trustees, or their agent, the rent for which they underlet the cottage, near £7 a year—these are stated to be fair rents. The cottage is in bad condition, the foundation having given way; but we are informed it might be properly supported at an expense of £10. The rent is paid to the rector's agent and carried to an account with a portion of Sixsmith's and of Guest's charities. The amount is disposed of chiefly in cloth and linen, which is made up into garments and given to such poor persons of the town of Wigan as are thought by the rector the most deserving objects. Within the three last years two apprentices have also been bound out, with premiums of £4 each, paid out of these charities. When the accounts were made up in January, 1828, there was a balance of £5 15s. 11d. in the hands of Mr. Smith (rector's agent).

Trade was steadily but slowly developing in Wigan. The great awakening effort at enterprise of 1720 seemed to be choked at its very birth by the failure to carry out the Act for navigating the Douglas, and the wonder is, not so much that it died, or declined then, but rather that the naturally conservative spirit of Wigan ever allowed the idea to become an Act. No town in England was more closely

hemmed in by restrictive laws or so imbued in the spirit of protection. It was governed by the strictest of old Toryism and Redtapeism. The burgesses were proud and unbending, and the people owned them as their municipal masters. The gates were closed in the face of able-bodied strangers, both able and willing to work, and who themselves might have fostered new trades or given their remunerative energies to the staple ones. At every Court Leet dozens of such persons were fined for daring to try to settle in the ancient and loyal borough, and ordered to go at once, unless they could produce excellent credentials as to their fitness to work and ability to maintain themselves in every likely emergency of misfortune or distress. Nor were the laws against the inhabitants themselves in this respect less strict. As in the days of their forefathers, so now—in 1742—severe penalties were imposed on those who harboured strangers, who paid honestly and well for their lodging. To show what power the Corporation had to humble a burgess, and what a suppliant that burgess had to become, the case may be cited of Nicholas Parr, who was perhaps related to the founder of the great local bank, although I am unable definitely to say so. He had been elected a burgess in the beginning of the year 1742, and in autumn he was elected to the office of bailiff by the Court Leet, but refused to serve. He was immediately disfranchised for contempt, and was not restored to his liberties until, on the 2nd of October of the same year, he made a most humble and public apology, in which he confessed he “did, in open court, in contempt, obstinately and contemptuously refuse to take upon him the said office,” and for which he “was afterwards legally and justly disfranchised from being a burgess of this Corporation and the liberties and privileges thereof, for which he is now really sorry and asks pardon of this Court, promises to behave himself well and more carefully for the future, and begs he may be restored upon this his liberties and privileges of a burgess, and that he may enjoy the same in as full and ample a manner as he formerly has done, and according to the customs and privileges of this Corporation” Beside this might be cited the humble petitions of poor, honest men, who had striven to “educate” themselves for the important office of waits or for the duties of awaking workpeople in the morning. These petitions appear in the subjoined list, which has not before been published, and will fittingly bring this chapter to a close. The following is a complete account of the preserved records of the Court Leet for 1742, the original of which is the property of the Corporation, and is preserved in the strong room at the Borough Courts. First there is given the following list of officials:—

Benchers.	}	Mr. Alderman Markland.
		Mr. Alderman Baldwin.
		Mr. Alderman Ugnall.
Mayor.		Mr. Alderman Markland.
Recorder.		

Ballives.	{ Mr. Richd. Leigh. } { Mr. Adam Bancks. }	Sworn.
Serjeants.	{ Wm. Rogerson. } { Thomas Taylor. }	
Attorneys.	{ Mr. Leigh. }	
Gaitwaiters.	{ Mr. Richd. Topping. }	
Market Street.	{ Phillip Hunt. } { John Lord. }	Sworn.
Hallgate.	{ Geo. Layland. } { Alex. Bradley. }	Sworn.
Wallgate.	{ Thos. Critchley Taylor. } { James Dawson. }	Sworn.
Standishgate.	{ Wm. farbrother, Butcher. } { Wm. Milligan. }	Sworn.
Millgate.	{ Wm. Mason. } { John Baron. }	Sworn.
Scoles.	{ Thomas Clark. } { Thomas Lowe ye Younger. }	Sworn.
Wood Houses.	{ Wm. Rainford. } { Samuel Wright. }	Sworn.
Surveyors of flesh and fish.	{ Robt. Critchley. } { James Bullock. }	Sworn.
Surveyors of bread and Bear.	{ John Sephton. } { Wm. Winkley. }	Sworn.
Searchers and Sealers of Leather.	{ Thomas Marsden. } { Peter Mort. }	Sworn.

We, the Jury, Elect Mr. Wm. Curghey and Charles Withnell Burgesses of this Borough.

The commonest of all offences, that about foreigners and their being harboured, are first tried and settled. The charges against the accused are all in one handwriting—clear, bold, and legible—whilst the judgments of the jury are in another, but crabbed style.

The Jurors, upon their Oaths, say and present that

Scoles. } John Tognall is a foreigner and Inhabitant in this Town, having brought no
John Hodson. } Certificate of his last Legal Settlement Pursuant to the Statute. Therefore.
Richd. Harrison. } He hath a Certificate. (This is entered in strange handwriting, without judgment
being given.)

That Mr. John Markland doth Harbour the said John Tognall, a foreigner, without such Certificate. Therefore. (No judgment given.)

That Ralph Morris is a foreigner and Inhabitant of this Town, having brought no Certificate of his last Legal Settlement Pursuant to the Statute. Therefore:—We amerce him in 39 shillings, unless he remove in a month's time.

That Mr. Curghey doth harbour the said Ralph Morris, a foreigner, without such Certificate. Therefore:—We amerce him in 39 shillings.

That Thomas Taylor is a foreigner and Inhabitant of this Town, having brought no Certificate of his last Legal Settlement Pursuant to the Statute. Therefore:—We amerce him in 39s., unless he remove in a month's time.

That Mr. Baldwin doth Harbour the said Thomas Taylor, a foreigner, without such Certificate. Therefore :—We amerce him in 39 shillings.

That Margaret Dawber is a foreigner and Inhabitant of this Town, having brought no Certificate of her last Legal Settlement Pursuant to the Statute. Therefore :—Amerce her in 39s., unless she remove in a month's time.

That Mr. Baldwin doth Harbour the said Margaret Dawber, a foreigner, without such Certificate. Therefore :—We amerce him in 39 shillings.

That Christopher Sherrock is a foreigner and Inhabitant of this Town, having brought no Certificate of his last Legal Settlement Pursuant to the Statute. Therefore :—We amerce him in 39 shillings, unless he remove in a month.

That James Miller doth Harbour the said Christopher Sherrack, a foreigner, without such Certificate. Therefore :—We amerce him in 39 shillings.

That John Morton is a foreigner and Inhabitant of this Town, having brought no Certificate of his last Legal Settlement Pursuant to the Statute. Therefore. (No judgment given.)

That Mr. Wm. Brown doth Harbour the said John Morton, a foreigner, without such Certificate. Therefore. (No judgment given.)

That Thomas Haddock is a foreigner and Inhabitant of this Town, having brought no Certificate of his last Legal Settlement Pursuant to the Statute. Therefore :—We amerce him in 39 shillings, unless he remove in a month.

Standishgate. } James Monks. } Wm. Belsher. }	That Joseph Houghton is a foreigner and Inhabitant of this Town, having brought no Certificate of his last Legal Settlement Pursuant to the Statute. Therefore :—We amerce him in 39s., unless he remove in a month.
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That Ralph Baldwin doth Harbour the said Joseph Houghton, a foreigner, without such Certificate. Therefore :—We amerce him in 39s.

That Grace Hatton is a foreigner and Inhabitant of this Town, having brought no Certificate of her last Legal Settlement Pursuant to the Statute. Therefore :—We amerce her in 39s., unless she remove in a month.

That Hugh Baron doth Harbour the said Grace Hatton, a foreigner, without such Certificate. Therefore :—We amerce him in 39 shillings.

That John Latham doth Harbour the said Mary Makcanister without such Certificate. Therefore :—We amerce him in 39 shillings.

That Robert Rudd is a foreigner and Inhabitant of the Town, having brought no Certificate of his last Legal Settlement Pursuant to the Statute. Therefore :—He's gone.

That Christopher Baldwin doth Harbour the said Robert Rudd, a foreigner, without such Certificate. Therefore. (No judgment given.)

That Richard Poor is a foreigner and Inhabitant of this Town, having brought no Certificate of his last Legal Settlement Pursuant to the Statute. Therefore :—We amerce him in 39s., unless he remove in a month.

That Wm. Baldwin doth Harbour the said Richard Poor, a foreigner, without such Certificate. Therefore :—We amerce him in 39 shillings.

That William Fleetwood doth Harbour the said Thomas Haddock, a foreigner, without such Certificate. Therefore :—We amerce him in 39 shillings.

That Edward Low is a foreigner and Inhabitant of this Town, having brought no Certificate of his last Legal Settlement Pursuant to the Statute. Therefore :—A Certificate.

That Lawrence Fish is a foreigner and Inhabitant of this Town, having brought no Certificate of his last Legal Settlement Pursuant to the Statute. Therefore :—We amerce him in 39s., unless he remove in a month.

That William Cooper doth Harbour the said Lawrence Fish, a foreigner, without such Certificate. Therefore :—We amerce him in 39 shillings.

That Felix Martindale is a foreigner and Inhabitant of this Town, having brought no Certificate of his last Legal Settlement Pursuant to the Statute. Therefore:—We amerce him in 39s., unless he remove in a month.

That Simon Sale doth Harbour the said Felix Martindale, a foreigner, without such Certificate. Therefore:—We amerce him in 39 shillings.

That Thomas Marsh is a foreigner and Inhabitant of this Town, having brought no Certificate of his last Legal Settlement Pursuant to the Statute. Therefore:—We amerce him in 39s., unless he remove in a month.

That Henry Tootell doth Harbour the said Thomas Marsh, a foreigner, without such Certificate. Therefore:—We amerce him in 39 shillings.

That Mary Makcanister is a foreigner and Inhabitant of this Town, having brought no Certificate of her last Legal Settlement Pursuant to the Statute. Therefore:—We amerce her in 39s., unless she remove in a month.

That Roger Foster is a foreigner and Inhabitant of this Town, having brought no Certificate of his last Legal Settlement Pursuant to the Statute. Therefore:—We amerce him in 39s., unless he remove in a month.

That Ralph Baldwin doth Harbour the said Roger Foster, a foreigner, without such Certificate. Therefore:—We amerce him in 39 shillings.

That Hannah Meriah is a foreigner and Inhabitant of this Town, having no Certificate of her last Legal Settlement Pursuant to the Statute. Therefore:—We amerce her in 39s., unless she remove in a month.

That Thomas Bridge doth Harbour the said Hannah Meriah, a foreigner, without such Certificate. Therefore:—We amerce him in 39 shillings.

Millgate.	}	That Thomas Askew is a foreigner and Inhabitant of this Town, having brought no Certificate of his last Legal Settlement Pursuant to the Statute. Therefore:—We desire time to enquire whether he served his apprenticeship in this town or not.
John Molyneaux.		
Richd. Wrennall.		

That Ralph Heys is a foreigner and Inhabitant of this Town, having brought no Certificate of his last Legal Settlement Pursuant to the Statute. Therefore:—A Certificate.

That James Wilding is a foreigner and Inhabitant of this Town, having brought no Certificate of his last Legal Settlement Pursuant to the Statute. Therefore:—We order him to bring a Certificate in a month, or remove.

That James Taylor is a foreigner and Inhabitant of this Town, having brought no Certificate of his last legal Settlement Pursuant to the Statute. Therefore:—A Certificate.

That Robert Bailey is a foreigner and Inhabitant of this Town, having brought no Certificate of his last Legal Settlement Pursuant to the Statute. Therefore. (No judgment given.)

Market Street.	}	That Ann Liptroit is a foreigner and Inhabitant of this Town, having brought no Certificate of her last Legal Settlement Pursuant to the Statute. Therefore:—We amerce her in 39s., unless she remove in a month.
John Prescott.		
Oliver Rigby.		

Wood Houses.	}	That Thomas Glazebrooke is a foreigner and Inhabitant of this Town, having brought no Certificate of his last Legal Settlement Pursuant to the Statute. Therefore:—Amerce him in 39s., unless he remove in a month.
Oliver Bibby.		
Peter Ascroft.		

That James Miller doth Harbour the said Thomas Glazebrooke, a foreigner, without such Certificate. Therefore:—We amerce him in 39 shillings.

That James Clarkson is a foreigner and Inhabitant of this Town, having brought no Certificate of his last Legal Settlement Pursuant to the Statute. Therefore:—We amerce him in 39s., unless he remove in a month.

That William Parr doth Harbour the said James Clarkson, a foreigner, without such Certificate. Therefore:—We amerce him in 39 shillings.

That Richard Martin is a foreigner and Inhabitant of this Town, having brought no Certificate of his last Legal Settlement Pursuant to the Statute. Therefore:—We amerce him in 39s., unless he remove in a month.

That Thomas Lawrison doth Harbour the said Richard Martin, a foreigner, without such Certificate. Therefore:—We amerce him in 39 shillings.

That Henry Farnworth is a foreigner and Inhabitant of this Town, having brought no Certificate of his last Legal Settlement Pursuant to the Statute. Therefore:—We amerce him in 39s., unless he remove in a month.

That Samuel Wright doth Harbour the said Henry Farnworth, a foreigner, without such Certificate. Therefore:—We amerce him in 39 shillings.

That George Norris is a foreigner and Inhabitant of this Town, having brought no Certificate of his last Legal Settlement Pursuant to the Statute. Therefore:—We amerce him in 39s., unless he remove in a month.

That Mr. Edward Standish doth Harbour the said George Norris, a foreigner, without such Certificate. Therefore:—We amerce him in 39 shillings.

That Anne Gleave is a foreigner and Inhabitant of this Town, having brought no Certificate of her last Legal Settlement Pursuant to the Statute. Therefore:—We amerce her in 39s., unless she remove in a month.

That Thomas Oldham doth Harbour the said Anne Gleave, without such Certificate. Therefore:—We amerce him in 39 shillings.

That George Bibye is a foreigner and Inhabitant of this Town, having brought no Certificate of his last Legal Settlement Pursuant to the Statute. Therefore:—We amerce him in 39s., unless he remove in a month, or bring a Certificate.

That Mr. James Hartliffe doth Harbour the said George Bibye, a foreigner, without such Certificate. Therefore:—We amerce him in 39 shillings.

That Peter Fairhurst, Thomas Hickman, and Roger Knight let their Swine go at Large. Therefore:—We amerce each of them in 12 shillings.

Hallgate.	}	That Edward Rigby is a foreigner and Inhabitant of this Town, having brought
Thos. Taylor.		no Certificate of his last Legal Settlement Pursuant to the Statute. Therefore:—
Roger Almond.		We amerce him in 39s., unless he remove in a month.

That Zacharias Ashurst is a foreigner and Inhabitant of this Town, having brought no Certificate of his last Legal Settlement Pursuant to the Statute. Therefore:—We amerce him in 39s., unless he remove in a month.

That John Jacobs is a foreigner and Inhabitant of this Town, having brought no Certificate of his last Legal Settlement Pursuant to the Statute. Therefore:—We amerce him in 39s., unless he remove in a month.

That Alice, the wife of John Bibye, brought home a Swine on the Sabbath Day, and abused the officer for doing his duty. Therefore:—We amerce her in 3s. 4d.

That John France is a Common disturber to all his Neighbours, both Day and Night. Therefore:—We amerce him in six shillings and eight pence.

That John Hart is a foreigner and Inhabitant of this Town, having brought no Certificate of his last Legal Settlement Pursuant to the Statute. Therefore:—We amerce him in 39s., unless he remove in a month.

That Henry Scolefield is a foreigner and exercises a trade as an Inhabitant of this Town, having brought no Certificate of his last Legal Settlement Pursuant to the Statute. Therefore:—He hath a Certificate.

That Ellis Dein is a foreigner and Inhabitant of this Town, having brought no Certificate of his last Legal Settlement Pursuant to the Statute. Therefore:—We amerce him in 39 shillings, unless he remove in a month.

Wallgate. } That Thomas Bibye is a foreigner and Inhabitant of this Town, having brought no
John Taylor. } Certificate of his last Legal Settlement Pursuant to the Statute. Therefore:—We
John Kirk. } amerce him in 39s., unless he remove in a month.

That George Catterall doth harbour the said Thomas Bibye without such Certificate. Therefore:—We amerce him in 39 shillings.

That Ralph Jackson is a foreigner and Inhabitant of this Town, having brought no Certificate of his last Legal Settlement Pursuant to the Statute. Therefore:—We order him to get a Certificate, or remove in a month, or pay 39 shillings.

That Mr. Wm. Curghey doth harbour the said Ralph Jackson, a foreigner, without such Certificate. Therefore:—We amerce him in 39 shillings.

That Joseph Lankester and Thomas Byrom are Foreigners and Inhabitants of this Town, having brought no Certificates of their last Legal Settlements Pursuant to the Statute. Therefore:—They have Certificates.

That Jane Baron doth harbour the said Joseph Lancaster and Thomas Byrom, foreigners, without such Certificates. Therefore:—(No judgment given).

That Peter Fairhurst is a foreigner and Inhabitant of this Town, having brought no Certificate of his last Legal Settlement Pursuant to the Statute. Therefore:—We amerce him in 39s., unless he remove in a month.

That Mr. Leigh doth harbour the said Peter Fairhurst, a foreigner, without such Certificate. Therefore:—We amerce him in 39 shillings.

That Oston Dawber is a foreigner and Inhabitant of this Town, having brought no Certificate of his last Legal Settlement Pursuant to the Statute. Therefore:—We amerce him in 39s., unless he remove in a month.

That Mr. Thomas Barton doth harbour the said Oston Dawber, a foreigner, without such Certificate. Therefore:—We amerce him in 39 shillings.

That Sarah Houghton is a foreigner and Inhabitant of this Town, having brought no Certificate of her last Legal Settlement Pursuant to the Statute. Therefore:—We amerce her in 39s., unless she remove in a month.

Hallgate. } That Wm. Johnson is a foreigner and Inhabitant of this Town, having brought no
George Leyland } Certificate of his last Legal place of Settlement Pursuant to the Statute.
and }
Alex. Bradley. } Therefore:—He hath a Certificate.

That James Hardman is a foreigner and Inhabitant of this Town, having brought no Certificate of his last Legal place of Settlement Pursuant to the Statute. Therefore:—He hath a Certificate.

Wallgate. } That Eliz. Barton is a foreigner and Inhabitant of this Town, having brought no
Thos. Ccritchley } Certificate of her last Legal place of Settlement Pursuant to the Statute.
and }
James Dawson. } Therefore:—She hath a Certificate.

That John Prescott lays his Rubbidge at the Stone Well. Therefore:—We amerce him in 12 shillings.

That Alice Atherton is a foreigner and Inhabitant of this Town, having brought no Certificate of her last Legal place of Settlement Pursuant to the Statute. Therefore:—We order her to bring a Certificate in a month or leave ye Town.

That Thomas Taylor is a very abusive and Troublesome Neighbour, and Harbours Travellers, and permits them to bear Children in his House. Therefore:—We amerce him in 6s. 8d.

Wood Houses. } That Henry Farnworth is a foreigner and Inhabitant of this town, having brought
 Wm. Rainford } no Certificate of his last Legal place of Settlement Pursuant to the Statute.
 and }
 Samll. Wright. } Therefore:—We amerce him in 39s., unless he remove in a month.

That John Ranson is a foreigner and Inhabitant of this Town, having brought no Certificate of his last Legal place of Settlement Pursuant to the Statute. Therefore:—We amerce him in 39s., unless he remove in a month.

That David Hodson is a foreigner and Inhabitant of this Town, having brought no Certificate of his last Legal place of Settlement Pursuant to the Statute. Therefore:—We amerce him in 39s., unless he remove in a month.

That George Norris is a foreigner and Inhabitant of this Town, having brought no Certificate of his last Legal place of Settlement Pursuant to the Statute. Therefore:—We amerce him in 39s., unless he remove in a month.

That Eleanor Silcock is a foreigner and Inhabitant of this Town, having brought no Certificate of her last Legal place of Settlement Pursuant to the Statute. Therefore:—She hath a Certificate.

That Alice Moles is a foreigner and Inhabitant of this Town, having brought no Certificate of her last Legal place of Settlement Pursuant to the Statute. Therefore:—We amerce her in 39s., unless she remove in a month.

That Richard Martin is a foreigner and Inhabitant of this Town, having brought no Certificate of his last Legal place of Settlement Pursuant to the Statute. Therefore:—We amerce him in 39s., unless he remove in a month.

That Henry Southworth is a foreigner and Inhabitant of this Town, having brought no Certificate of his last Legal place of Settlement Pursuant to the Statute. Therefore:—He hath a Certificate.

That James Clarkson is a foreigner and Inhabitant of this Town, having brought no Certificate of his last Legal place of Settlement Pursuant to the Statute. Therefore:—We amerce him in 39s., unless he remove in a month.

That Ralph Cooper is a foreigner and Inhabitant of this Town, having brought no Certificate of his last Legal place of Settlement Pursuant to the Statute. Therefore:—We amerce him in 39s., unless he remove in a month.

That John Radcliff is a foreigner and Inhabitant of this Town, having brought no Certificate of his last Legal place of Settlement Pursuant to the Statute. Therefore:—We amerce him in 39s., unless he remove in a month.

That John Lowe is a foreigner and Inhabitant of this Town, having brought no Certificate of his last Legal place of Settlement Pursuant to the Statute. Therefore:—We amerce him in 39s., unless he remove in a month.

That John Naylor exercises the Trade of a Cooper, not being free. Therefore:—We amerce him in six shillings and eight pence a month during his working in this Corporation, unless he purchase a freedom in a month.

The presentment of Oliver Bibby and Peter Ascroft, Gatewaters for Wigan Wood houses, 1742.

We present Thomas Glasbrook for a farener & }
 James Miller for Harbouring him. }
 James Clarkson do. & }
 William Parr for Harbouring him. }
 Richard Martin do. & }
 Thomas Sawrison for Harbouring him. }
 Henry Farnworth do. & }
 Samuel Right for Harbouring him. }
 George Norris do. & }
 Mr. Edward Standish for Harbouring him. }

Ann Gleave for a farener & }
 Thomas Oldham for Harboursing her. }
 George Bibby do. & }
 Mr. James Harttif for Harboursing him. }
 Thomas Bibby do. & }
 George Catterall for Harboursing him. }
 Ralph Jackson do. & }
 Mr. William Churgey for Harboursing him. }
 I present Ralph Widows A Farrender.
 Mr. Barton for Harbaring him.

I present Joseph Lancaster, and James Baron ditto for Harbaring him. Austen Dober ditto ditto and Widow Sharrock. Thos. Barton for Harbaring them. I present Peter Fairhurst ditto. Mr. Leigh for Harbaring him. I present Elizabeth Barton ditto. Mr. Tempest for Harbaring her. Margaret Sherlock ditto. I present Mrs. Thornton for Harbaring her. Jno. Prescot presented for laying his Rubbidge to a Stone Well. I present Alice Atherton ditto. Jno. Hardman for Harbaring her.

James Clarkson and Ralph Cauper.

John Ratcliff, John Lowe.

A list of foreiners in the Scoles :—

John fognall	Scool common	Mr. John Marckland.
Reyh Morris	Scool common	Mr. Cineley.
Margaret Green	Scool common	boby Withnell.
Thomas Taylor	}	Mr. Baldwin.
Margaret Dawber		
Christopher Shenrack		
John Morton		James Mills stands.
Tho. Haddock		Mr. Wm. Brown.
Edward Low.		Willm. feetwood.
Lawrence fish		Wm. Cowper.
Phelis Martindale		Simon Scul.
Tho. Marsh		Henry Tootell.
Mary MacKanister		John Latham.
Robert Rudd.		
Richard Poor.		Christopher Baldwin.
Henry Molineu		Mr. John Baldwin.
		John Hodson.
		Richard Harrison.

30th September, 1742, an account of all ye forinors in the milgate as follows :—

Thomas Achhow.
 Ralph Heya.
 James Wilding.
 Thomas Catteroll.
 Thomas Catteroll, Juor.
 James Taylor.
 Robart Bayley.

James Wigan and Potter
 Brighous, gate waters for 5d.
 next year.

Presentments.

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September, W., 30th, 1742, presented by James Monks and William Bellsher, gate waters, Joseph Houston, a Farrener, and Ralf Balldwin for Harbouring him.

Grace Hatton, a Farrener, and Hugh Baron for Harbouring her.

Roger Foster, Currier, a Farrener, and Ralf Balldwin for Harbouring him.

Hannah Merioh, and Thos. Bridge for Harbouring her.

Ann Liptroct, fariner, in the wheint.

The presentations were made by the gatewaiters of their several districts:—

January th. 1, 1742.

I present william Johnson for a fariner.

I likewise present Thomas byram for a fariner.

I likewise present Zechariah ashhurst for a fariner.

I likewise present James Hardman for a fariner.

I likewise present John Jacobs for a fariner.

I likewise present Henry Scollfield for a fariner.

I likewise present Ellic Dean for a fariner.

I likewise present Edward Rigby for a fariner.

I likewise present Thomas Taylor for a fariner, for scouling, and for lodgeing Travelers so long as one bore a Child at there house.

Gatewaters in ye Hallgate, Thomas Taylor and Roger Almond.

pre. Edward Rigby, fariner.

pre. Zacharias Ashurst, fariner.

pre. John Jacobs, fariner.

pre. Widow Winstanley, fariner.

pre. John Biby wife for bringing a swine home on ye Sabath day, called and abused him for doing office.

pre. John France for a comon uzz desturber, both me and my neighbours, both morning and night; we cannot sleep in bed.

pre. John Hart's wife for folloing hugstaring, being a fariner.

Henry Scofield, a fariner, for fowlong a trader, Ellis Dein, a fereigner.

John France,

Alexander Bradley,

gatewaters

for ye next year.

we present Joseph Lankster, fariner, and Thomas byrom, and James baron for Harboring of them both. we present peter farest for a fariner, and M. Leigh for Harboring of him. we present oston Dober, fariner, and Thomas Barton for Harboring of him. we present Sarah Houghton, fariner. we present likewise peter farest for leting there swine going at large, and Thomas hickman for is swine go at large, and Roger night for is swine going at large by

John Taylor and John kirk.

we present peter farest, being a fariner, likewise his swine one presentable.

we present oston Dober.

Wigan, jenuary 20th, 1742-3.

the names of the incommares:—

Henry Farneth, David hodson, John Rowinson, Georg Norris, Fransis Egermonday, Ellinor Silcock, Alice moles, Richard martain.

Wigan Lean.

Although many of the above cases are of a similar, and some of them of a very paltry, nature, I have given them in full, as in the original MS., from which they are taken, for both in their number and nature they are a very good basis for the thinking reader to form an idea of the social condition of the town at the time (1742). Although in olden times, as a walled town, Wigan was a refuge for runaway slaves and foreigners, the burgesses seemed to have always had a very strong antipathy to strangers settling in their midst, and their reasons for it are very evident. They were clothed in that little authority which gave them power to accept or reject whomsoever they pleased; as burgesses they were strong political sectarians, who valued their burghal rights perhaps as much as any foreigner or barbarian of the middle ages ever did his freeborn citizenship of Rome, and, consequently, were loth to bestow them promiscuously on aliens; above all, from a purely protective spirit, they believed the granting, or rather selling, of freedom—the best means of bringing wealth to the borough. The unusually large influx of strangers in 1742 is easily accounted for from the fact that the country was in a most unsettled state. There was great uncertainty about the stability of the Government, than which nothing can cause greater uneasiness in the money market, and a consequent want of confidence amongst capitalists and speculators. Able-bodied men could not get work where they were known, and so became what is known in modern times as *tramps*, wandering honestly in search of employment, and who, in most cases, after being soured of life by frequent disappointments, were easily induced to join the rebels, not so much from any strong political feelings, as simply a means of obtaining a livelihood. Ability to labour was not considered capital, and a man who had nothing but his healthy physical powers, and a will to work, was believed to be no acquisition to the town, but rather a likely object for claiming relief after a short residence. The following important burghal petitions will close this volume. They are not numbered in the original, but are so here for the convenience of the reader:—

(No. 1).—To the Worshipful John Marckland, Esquire, Mayor of the Borough and Corporation of Wigan, in the County of Lancaster, and to the Alderman and Jury assembled at the Court Leet held by adjournment in and for the said Borough, the 22nd day of January, 1742.

The humble petition of Thomas Chadwick, Linen weaver,

Sheweth,—That your Petitioner is in very good circumstances, has no family, and is desirous to inhabit and follow his Trade in your Corporation, and for that purpose to be admitted a freeman thereof, he being willing to pay such a sum of money for his freedom as your Worships and the Gentlemen of the Jury think proper.

Your Petitioner, therefore, humbly prays you, Gentlemen of the Jury, that he may be admitted a freeman of this your Corporation, he paying such a sum of money for his freedom as your Worships and you, Gentlemen of the Jury, shall think proper.

And your Petitioner shall ever pray. &c.

We Elect him a Freeman of this Corporation, he paying Four Pounds four shillings in a Month's time to the present Bailiffs.

(No. 2).—To the Worshipfull John Marckland, Esquire, Mayor of the Borough and Corporation of Wigan, in the County of Lancaster, and to the Aldermen and Jury assembled at the Court Leet held by adjournment in and for the said Borough, the 22nd day of January, 1742.

The Humble Petition of Richard Tyrer, Cooper, on behalf of himself and the rest of the Coopers' freemen of the said Borough,

Sheweth,—That Peter Dykes, of Shevington, hath lately, without any right or authority whatsoever, come into your said Borough, and does exercise and practice the Trade of a Hollow ware Turner in the said Borough, to the great detriment of your Petitioner and others, freemen Coopers of this Corporation, and in defiance to the Laws of this Corporation.

Your Petitioner, therefore, humbly prays that the gentlemen of the Jury may make answer to forbid and prevent the said Peter Dyke, under a severe fine, for practising the said trade of a Hollow ware Turner for the future, and your Petitioner be relieved as your Worships shall think meet and proper.

And your Petitioner shall ever pray, &c.

22nd Jany., 1742.

We order your said Peter Dyke not to work at his said trade in this Corporation above, Thirty-eight days after the rate hereof, upon forfeiture of Thirty-nine shillings, and to pay Thirty-nine shillings per month if he stay longer.

(No. 3).—To the Worshipful John Marckland, Esquire, Mayor of the Borough of Wigan, in the County of Lancaster, and to the rest of the Alderman and Jury at the Court Leet held by adjournment in and for the said Borough, the first day of January, 1742.

The Humble Petition of James Bullock, Taylor, on behalf of himself and the rest of the Taylors' freeman of the said Borough,

Sheweth,—That Robert Bailey, John Moreton, and Ralph Weedale, Taylors, have lately, without any right or authority whatsoever, come into the said Borough, and do exercise and practice their Trades in the said Borough, to the great detriment of your Petitioner and others, and in open defiance to the good and Salutary Laws of this your Corporation.

Your Petitioner, therefore, humbly prays that they may be redressed and relieved according to the Circumstances of this Case, and as your Worships shall think meet and proper.

And your Petitioner shall ever pray, and so forth.

We order Robert Bayley, John Moreton, and Ralph Widows each to remove in a month's time, or forfeit Thirty-nine Shillings each, and ye said sum for every month they stay afterwards.

The View of frank pledge or Leet of our Sovereign Lord the King, held in the Common Hall, within the Vill and Borough of Wigan, in the County of Lancaster, before Edward Holt, Esq., Mayor there, on Saturday, the second day of October, in the sixteenth year of the Reign of our Sovereign Lord, George the Second, King over Great Britain, France, and Ireland, according to the Custom of the same Borough (that is to say) :—

Edward, Earl of Derby.

James, Earl of Barrymore.

Sir Roger Bradshaigh, Barronett.

Humphrey Trafford, Esquire.

Ralph Standish, Esquire.

The Heirs of Hugh Dicconson, Esquire.

The Heirs of William Daniel, Esquire.

The Heirs of Robt. Molyneaux, Esquire.

The Heirs of Thomas Mort, Esquire.

The Heirs of John Davis, Gentleman.

The Heirs of Robt. Penington, Gentleman.

History of Wigan.

The Heirs of Hugh Jolley, Gentleman.
 The Heirs of William Glover, Gentleman.
 The Heirs of Robt. Markland, Gentleman.
 The Heirs of Robt. Leatherbarrow, Gentleman.
 The Heirs of John Bancks, Gentleman.
 The Heirs of Christi Sumner, Gentleman.
 The Heirs of John Curghey, Gentleman.
 The Heirs of Henry Browne, Gentleman.
 The Heirs of Edward Gorsuch, Gentleman.
 The Heirs of William Brown.
 Edward Standish, Gentleman.
 The Heirs of William Marsh, Gentleman.
 The Heirs of Charles Leigh.
 The Heirs of Ralph Wakefield.
 The Heirs of William Laithwaite.
 The Heirs of James Rigby.
 The Heirs of Ralph Tarleton.
 The Heirs of William Ford.
 The Heirs of Thomas Burgess.
 The Heirs of William Foster.
 The Heirs of John Laithwaite.
 The Heirs of Henry Mason.
 The Heirs of Bertie Entwistle, Esquire.
 The Heirs of James Scott, Gentleman.
 The Heirs of Robert Finch.
 The Heirs of Robt. Foster, Brazier.
 The Heirs of Ralph Langshaw, the Elder.
 The Heirs of Ralph Bancks.
 The Heirs of Robert Baldwin.
 Thomas Acton.
 The Heirs of John Baldwin, the Elder, Gentleman.
 The Heirs of James Tatlock, Gentleman.
 The Heirs of James Molyneaux.
 The Heirs of John Smith.

In a document similar to the preceding one is the following list, from which the acting jurymen at this Leet were chosen :—

Borough of Wigan, in the County of Lancaster.

The View of frank pledge or Leet of our Sovereign Lord the King, held in the Common Hall, within the Vill and Borough of Wigan, in the County of Lancaster, before Edward Holt, Esquire, Mayor there, on Saturday, the second day of October, in the sixteenth year of the Reign of our Sovereign Lord, George the Second, King over Great Britain, France, and Ireland, according to the Custom of the same Borough (that is to say) :—

The Names of the Burgesses within the said Vill and Borough (that is to say) :—

Edward Holt, Esquire, Mayor.
 Thomas Henry Ashurst, Esq., Recorder.

Aldermen.	{	James, Earl of Barrymore.
		Sir Roger Bradshaigh, Barronett.
		Roger Bradshaigh, Esquire.
		Leigh Master, Esquire.
		John Walmesley, Esquire.
		James Ford, Gentleman.
		James Tempest, Gentleman.
		Alexander Leigh, Gentleman.
		John Markland, Gentleman, dead.
		George Brown, Gentleman, dead.
		Thomas Bancks, Gentleman.
	John Baldwin, Gentleman.	
Bailives	{	Mr. John Latham.
		Mr. German Buxton, dead.
		Mr. Henry Holt.
Serjeants	{	William Rogerson.
		Luke Ashton.
Sword Bearer		Randal Crook, dead.
app.		Thomas Acton, foreman, Gentleman.
app.		Thomas Acton, the Elder, app. S.
		Ralph Baldwin, the Elder, app. S.
app.		James Bancks.
		Ralph Green, app. S.
		George Winstanley, app. S.
app.		James Acton, app. S., dead.
app.		Richard Hooton, app. S.
		Thomas Acton, the Younger, app.
		John Hardman, dead.
		William Browne, app. S., dead.
app.		Thomas Markland, app. S.
app.		Thomas Leatherbarrow, app. S.
app.		John Marsden, app. S.
app.		Richard Fairbrother, app. S.
app.		Miles Seddon, app. S.
		Jonathan Johnson, app. S.
		John Ugnall, app. S.
		Thomas Langshaw, the Elder, app., dead.
		William Higham, app. S.
		Thomas Taylor, app.
app.		Roger Bibby, app. S.
app.		Peter Hall, app. S.
		Gilbert Langshaw, app. S.
		William Langshaw, app. S.
		Richard Baron, d.
		Richard Leigh, app. S.
		Thomas Heys, Gentleman, d.
app.		Gerrard Tarleton, app. S.
app.		Henry Unsworth, app. S.

Adam Bancks, app. S.
 John Latham.
 Edward Standish, app. S.
 app. Edward Woods, app. S.
 app. William Finch, app. S.
 Thomas Withnell, app. S.
 Henry Mort, app. S., dead.
 John Prescott.
 William Woods, d.
 app. Richard Holme, S.

We Elect Mr. John Ugnall an Alderman of this Borough.

We Elect Nicholas Parr a Burgeess of ye same.

(No. 4.)—To the Worshipful Edward Holt, Esquire, Mayor of Wigan, in the County of Lancaster, and to the Aldermen and Jury at the Court Leet held in and for the said Borough the Second day of October, 1742.

The Humble Petition of John Ellom, of Newtown, in the County of Lancaster, Butcher,

Sheweth,—That your Petitioner has for several years last past carried on the Trade of a Butcher, in Newtown aforesaid, frequented the Market of this Corporation, married the daughter of a freeman thereof, and by such marriage is Intitled to a Considerable Estate in fee simple in this Corporation, has a legal Right to Settlement there, is in good Circumstances, and desires to be admitted a Freeman of this Corporation.

Therefore your Petitioner humbly hopes you Gentlemen of the Jury will take your Petitioner's affair into due Consideration, and admit him a freeman of this Corporation.

And your Petitioner, as in duty bound, shall ever pray, &c.

Continued.

No. 5.)—To the Worshipful John Marckland, Esq., Mayor of the Borough and Corporation of Wigan, in the County of Lancaster, and the Alderman and Jury assembled at the Court Leet, held by adjournment there, the Twenty-second day of January, in the year of our Lord 1742.

The Humble Petition of Richard Richardson, of Ince-within-Mackerfield, in the said County, fustian weaver,

Sheweth,—That your Petitioner has been informed and believes that there is not any person that follows the trade of a fustian weaver within your Corporation, and conceiving that the said Trade, if carried on within your Corporation, might tend to the advantage thereof, not only by the Employment of several poor persons, but by the resort of several that would, of course, frequent your Corporation by reason of such Trade. That your Petitioner has a considerable fortune, sufficient for the carrying on and management of the said Trade, and is desirous to settle amongst you, if you think proper to admit him a freeman of your Corporation, for which your Petitioner is willing to pay such a sum as shall be thought reasonable.

Your Petitioner, therefore, prays he may be admitted a freeman of this your Corporation.

And your Petitioner shall ever pray, &c.

Continued.

Borough of Wigan, in the } To wit.
 County of Lancaster. }

(No. 6.)—To the Worshipfull Edward Holt, Esquire, Mayor of Wigan, in the County of Lancaster, and to the Aldermen and Jury at the Court Leet held in and for the said Borough the 2d day of October, 1742.

The Humble Petition of Gerrard Winstanley,

Sheweth,—That your Petitioner has been Bellman of this your Corporation for severall years, has carried and demeaned himself all along very civilly, is very diligent in his place, and always ready when wanted, and will continue so to be, and hopes he gives generall Satisfaction to the Corporation.

Therefore your Petitioner humbly prays you Gentlemen of the Jury to continue him Bellman, he having nothing else to depend upon, and he will ever pray.

Allowed.

(No. 7.)—To the Worshipful Edward Holt, Esquire, Mayor of Wigan, in the County of Lancaster, and to the Aldermen and Jury at the Court Leet held in and for the said Borough the Second day of October, 1742.

The Humble Petition of John Langshaw, son of John Langshaw, of Wigan aforesaid, Pewterer,

Sheweth,—That your Petitioner, being the son of a freeman of this Corporation, and having the misfortune to become lame, he has with great pains and Industry learned to get an honest Livelyhood, and to prevent himself from being troublesome to your Corporation. And your Petitioner further sheweth unto your Worships that Thomas Leyland, one of the Waits of this Corporation, died lately, and his place is yet Vacant.

Allowed.

No. 8.)—To the Worshipfull Edward Holt, Esquire, Mayor of Wigan, in the County of Lancaster, and to the Aldermen and Jury at the Court Leet held in and for the said Borough the Second day of October, 1742.

The Humble Petition of John Leyland,

Sheweth,—That your Petitioner is the son of Thomas Leyland, deceased, who was a freeman, and for many years one of the Waits of this your Corporation, that he taught your Petitioner the art of Musick, in the hopes that your Petitioner might have the Happiness to succeed his said Father as one of the Waits aforesaid, which your Petitioner would now look upon as a very great favour, and will do all things in his power for the service of and the pleasure of this your Corporation.

Therefore your Petitioner humbly prays you Gentlemen of the Jury that you would be pleased to permit him to succeed his said father as one of the Waits of this Corporation.

And your Petitioner, as in duty bound, shall pray, &c.

Therefore your Petitioner humbly prays you Gentlemen of the Jury that you would be pleased to permit him to succeed the said Thomas Leyland as one of the Waits of this your Corporation.

And your Petitioner, as in duty bound, shall ever pray, &c.

Allowed.

(No. 9.)—To the Worshipfull Edward Holt, Esquire, Mayor of Wigan, in the County of Lancaster, and to the Aldermen and Jury at the Court Leet held in and for the said Borough the Second day of October, 1742.

The Humble Petition of John Houlcroft,

Sheweth,—That your Petitioner has for several years past gone along with the Waits, and knowing all the Inhabitants can call them by their several names, and has been very useful in having a diligent and watchful eye upon all strolling, idle persons that take opportunities in the night of Committing Robberies or mischievous acts, and used, and constantly will use his utmost Endeavours for the detecting of all such Villains, and preventing such Crimes in your Corporation.

Therefore your Petitioner humbly begs you Gentlemen of the Jury to allow him to go as usual.

And your Petitioner as (in duty bound) shall ever pray, &c.

Allowed.

(No. 10.)—To the Worshipfull Edward Holt, Esquire, Mayor of Wigan, in the County of Lancaster, and to the Aldermen and Jury at the Court Leet held in and for the said Borough the Second day of October, 1742.

The Humble Petition of Ralph Leyland,

Sheweth,—That your Petitioner for several years last past has had the honour to go through this your Corporation in the Night time as one of the Waits thereof, and has given great satisfaction, not only as one of the Waits, but also in having a diligent, watchfull eye upon all strolling, idle persons that take opportunities in the Night of Committing any Robberies or mischievous acts, and used, and constantly will use his utmost endeavours for the detecting of all such Villains, and preventing of any such Crimes in your Corporation.

Therefore your Petitioner humbly prays you Gentlemen of the Jury to allow him to go as usual.

And your Petitioner, as in duty bound, shall ever pray, &c.

Allowed.

(No. 11.)—To the Worahipfull Edward Holt, Esquire, Mayor of Wigan, in the County of Lancaster, and to the Aldermen and Jury at the Court Leet held in and for the said Borough of Wigan aforesaid the Second day of October, 1742.

The Humble Petition of Nicholas Parr, late one of the Burgesses of the said Corporation.

Sheweth,—That your Petitioner some years since being regularly elected unto the office of one of the Bailives of this Corporation. That your Petitioner did, in open Court and in Contempt of the said Court, obstinately and Contemptuously refuse to take upon him the said office, for which your Petitioner was afterwards legally and justly disfranchised from being a Burgess of this Corporation, and the Liberties and privileges thereof, which your Petitioner is now really sorry for, asks pardon of this Court, promises to behave himself well and more Carefully for the future, and begs he may be restored, upon this his Liberties and privileges of a Burgess, and that he may enjoy the same in as full and ample a manner as he formerly has done, and according to the Customs and privileges of this Corporation.

And your Petitioner shall ever pray, &c.

Nicholas Parr.

John Hardman, by his will, bearing date 27th April, 1742, and proved at Chester 8th August, 1743, bequeathed to Ralph Banks and Gerard Tarleton £200 upon trust after the death of Alice, his wife, to place the same out, or as much thereof as should not be lost, in the purchase of lands or a rent charge, the yearly produce thereof to be laid out in the purchase of cloth to be made into garments for the clothing of three old men and three old women, being poor impotent persons in and belonging to the town of Wigan who should never have had any relief from the inhabitants of the said town.

The sum of £200 above mentioned was, together with the further sum of £404 arising from various donations to the parish of Standish, lent in 1792 on a mortgage of premises in the Scholes, in Wigan, now belonging to John Hawarden. The mortgage deeds bear date 25th and 26th April, 1792, and the sum of £200 is thereby secured, with interest at £4 15s. per cent., payable to Elias Chadwick and his heirs, in whom it is stated the principal sum was then vested as executor of John Latham, the executor of Ralph Banks, who was the surviving executor of John Hardman.

The interest on this mortgage is received by Mrs. Chadwick, of Swinton, near Manchester, the widow of Elias Chadwick, the son of the mortgagee, and she disposes of it in the purchase of woollen coats and cloaks, which she sends to the Rev. Edward Hill, one of the curates of Wigan. He distributes these articles amongst poor persons of the town of Wigan, frequenting the church and sacrament, but he has not strictly confined it to such persons as do not receive parochial relief, not having been aware of this provision in the testator's will. We are given to understand that Mrs. Chadwick is desirous of giving up the trouble of the trust, and in such case it seems desirable that some proper persons of the town or neighbourhood of Wigan should be elected, to whom she should assign her interest in the mortgage above mentioned.—(Commissioners' Report in Free Library.)