

# REPORT

OF THE COMMISSIONERS

FOR INQUIRING INTO

PUBLIC CHARITIES,

SO FAR AS RELATES TO PUBLIC CHARITIES  
WITHIN THE

PARISH OF WIGAN.



WIGAN :

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1830.

We were informed that there were persons living whose parents had received clothing from the tenant of the estate above mentioned, but the evidence appeared much too slight to support any claim at the present time.

*An account of the charities of Edmund Molyneux and John Guest, in which this township is entitled to partake, will be found under the head of the township of Wigan.*

## TOWNSHIP OF HAIGH.

### SCHOOL.



Miles Turner, by his will, bearing date 15th October 1634, as recited in the indenture hereafter abstracted directed that after his debts, funeral expenses and legacies were discharged, the overplus of his estate, if any should be divided into three parts, two parts whereof should be bestowed upon the highways in Haigh, or upon the poor within the said township, according to the direction of his master, Roger Bradshaigh, esq.

By indenture of lease and release, bearing date 30th, April, and 1st May 1767, between Matthew Smith and nine others, inhabitants or freeholders within the township of Haigh, of the first part; Sir Roger Bradshaigh of the second part; and the Rev. John Chisnell and eight others of the third part; reciting the will of Miles Turner; and that the said Roger Bradshaigh, esq. named in the said will, with the principal inhabitants of the said township, had met soon after the death of the testator, to consider of the most beneficial means of disposing of the money which had been paid by the testator's executors to the said Roger Bradshaigh, and had directed that the same should be laid out in the purchase of land, the yearly rents and profits thereof to be applied for the maintenance of a schoolmaster, for the teaching

of such children whose parents should be inhabitants of or possessed of lands or tenements, or contributed to the lays in the said township of Haigh; and that the said Roger Bradshaigh had accordingly laid out the same in the purchase of the messuage or tenement, with the lands thereto belonging, in Billinge, called Outley-snape, which premises were by indenture, bearing date 14th August 1739, (intended for 1639) conveyed to the use of the said Roger Bradshaigh; and that the yearly rents and profits thereof had ever since, which was then upwards of 120 years, been yearly applied to the maintenance of a schoolmaster for the teaching of such children as aforesaid; and further reciting, that by indenture, bearing date 14th. December 1746, Henry Latham and the said Sir Roger Bradshaigh, conveyed the said premises to Benjamin Cooper and others, and their heirs, upon trust, that they would, as soon as conveniently might be, recommend to the said Sir Roger Bradshaigh and his heirs, a proper person to be schoolmaster, at the school of Haigh, in the room of the then late schoolmaster, such master to be approved by the said Sir Roger Bradshaigh, and his heirs, in writing, before he should be placed in the said school; and that after such recommendation and approbation the said trustees should dispose of so much of the rents and profits of the said premises, as would be sufficient for the purpose, in keeping the said school in good repair, and should pay all the residue thereof to the schoolmaster for the time being, so recommended and approved, for the teaching of such of the children within the said township, whose parents should be inhabitants of or have any lands or tenements, or contribute to the lays in the said township; and it was provided, that as often as any seven or more of the trustees for the time being should die, the survivors or survivor should recommend to the said Sir Roger Bradshaigh, and his heirs other fit and proper persons to be elected in the room of those that should be dead; and that the said premises

should be conveyed to the use of such new elected trustees, being approved by the said Sir Roger Bradshaigh, and his heirs; and further reciting, that the parties of the first part, the then surviving trustees named in the indenture last recited, had recommended to Sir Roger Bradshaigh, the said John Chisnell, and others, parties of the third part, as fit persons to be elected in the room of the deceased trustees, and that the said Sir Roger Bradshaigh had duly approved of them; the said Matthew Smith, and others, parties of the first part, conveyed the said premises in Billinge, to the use of themselves, and the parties of the third part, their heirs and assigns, upon the same trusts, and with the like provision as to the appointment of new trustees; and it was further provided, that if any schoolmaster should be negligent in the discharge of his duty, or should be thought incapable, or not a fit and proper person to be schoolmaster, or otherwise misbehave himself, it should be lawful for the said Sir Roger Bradshaigh, and his heirs, notwithstanding such schoolmaster should have obtained his approbation as aforesaid, to remove him; and it was further provided, that the said trustees should not at any time thereafter charge, convey, or employ the said premises, or the rents and profits thereof, to any other use or purpose than as aforesaid, without the consent of the said Sir Roger Bradshaigh, and his heirs, first had, in writing, in the presence of two or more credible witnesses; and it was agreed between the parties that the said trustees, or such of them as conveniently could, should meet every 24th June, with the said Sir Roger Bradshaigh, and his heirs, to consult together for the better management of the trusts thereby created, and that at such annual meeting they should produce their accounts; and that two persons should be chosen annually, the one by Sir Roger Bradshaigh, and the other by the trustees, to be collectors of the rents and profits.

The endowment of the school at Haigh appears to have been augmented by Dame Dorothy Bradshaigh, who gave 100*l.* for that purpose, as appears from a bond produced to us by Thomas Grimshaw, esq. a solicitor in Wigan, bearing date 9th June 1702, granted by Alexander Lindsey Earl of Balcarres, to William Porter, John Hart, Roger Grimshaw, William Chamberlain, and Thomas Entwisle, (five of the trustees named in the indentures above abstracted,) and James Lord Lindsey, described as trustees for the school of Haigh, for securing the sum of 100*l.* which is therein expressed to be a donation of the late Dame Dorothy Bradshaigh, for the benefit of the school at Haigh, with interest at four and a half per cent.

All the parties to the indentures of 1767 are dead, and no subsequent appointment of trustees has taken place.

The estate at Billinge, which was purchased in 1639, consists of a farm house with outbuildings, and ten acres of land, at eight yards to the perch, now let to Sir William Gerard, bart. as yearly tenant, at a good rent of 50*l.* per annum.

This farm has for many years been let by the Agents of the late and the present Earls of Balcarres, the rents have been received by them and entered in the general rental of their estate, the expenses of repairs having been charged to this account in the same manner as if the farm was part of the estates belonging to that family.

About the year 1796, the present schoolmaster was appointed by three of the trustees named in the indentures of 1767. He has had the use of a school and dwelling house with a shippon and garden adjoining, belonging to the Earls of Balcarres, and from the time of his appointment he has received from the agents of the Earl of Balcarres for the time being a yearly salary of 20*l.* and we understand that the same salary was paid to his predecessor.

It is probable that when the present master was first appointed, the clear income of the school, after deducting the expenses of repairing the house and farm buildings in Billinge, and the school and school-house, did not much exceed 20*l.* a year. The Billinge estate was then let at 25*l.* per annum, so that with the interest at four and a half per cent on the sum of 100*l.* secured by the bond of Alexander Earl of Balcarres, the gross income amounted to 29*l.* 10*s.* From 1800 to 1812 each inclusive, the rent was 30*l.* per annum. From 1813 to the present time it has been 50*l.*

Considering the situation in which the Earls of Balcarres have stood, with respect to this charity, that their agents have received the rents, that the accounts of the receipts and disbursements in respect of the farm in Billinge have been kept with the accounts of the estate, and that a fixed salary has been paid by them to the schoolmaster, without reference to the increase of the income, we conceive that the present Earl though until the period of our inquiry he was undoubtedly in total ignorance with respect to the endowment of the school, is nevertheless accountable as well for the interest on the bond given by his late father, as for the clear rents of the Billinge estate as if he and his father had been actually trustees of the charity. It seems right, however, that a reasonable allowance should be made for the expenses incurred in the repairs of the buildings, in Billinge, though it is impossible now to obtain a particular account thereof, and also an allowance for the rent, or at least for the repairs of the school premises in haigh.

Upon these principles, we have made out an account, with the assistance of Henry Gaskell, esq. Lord Balcarres's solicitor, of which the following is the result:

	£.	s.	d.
Rents of the farm in Billinge, from 1793 to 1827, inclusive...	1,315	0	0
Interest on bond at $4\frac{1}{2}$ per cent, during 32 years, which period it is in evidence that the Schoolmaster has not received any interest otherwise than as it might have formed part of his salary of £20.....	144	0	0
	1,459 0 0		
	£.	s.	d.
Payment to Schoolmaster, at 20 <i>l.</i> per annum	700	0	0
Property Tax.....	42	17	6
Repairs of farm calculated at 5 <i>l.</i> a year.....	175	0	0
Do of School Premises, at 2 <i>l.</i> a year....	70	0	0
Rent of School premises, at 8 <i>l.</i> a year for the 15 years.....	120	0	0
	1,107 17 6		
Balance	351	2	6
	£.1,459 0 0		

Out of the sum of 351*l.* 2*s.* 6*d.* for which the Earl of Balcarres is ready to account, it seems expedient that a sufficient sum should be paid for the repairs of the farm house in Billinge, which it is estimated will cost above 100*l.* and also the necessary expenses of a new trust deed, the schoolmaster having agreed to accept 50*l.* out of the balance in full of all demands, it is proposed to place out the residue at interest for the benefit of the school.

As soon as new trustees are appointed, which it is intended should be done immediately, fresh security ought to be given to them for the sum of 100*l.* for which Lord Balcarres is liable; the amount of the rent to be paid for the school-house should be fixed; and it ought to be considered whether some regulations may not be made for extending the benefit of the school, so that the poor children of Haigh may be better instructed in writing and accounts without any charge to their parents, in consideration of the increased income to which the schoolmaster will be entitled.

He now instructs in reading all the children belonging to the township of Haigh free, and he teaches them writing two months in the year; the average number of free scholars is about 70.

### RECEPTACLE.

By indenture of bargain and sale, bearing date 14th July 1775, and inrolled in the High court of Chancery, between Dame Dorothy Bradshaigh, of the one part, and Sir Richard Clayton, baronet, Roger Palmer and Geoffry Hornby, of the other part, reciting that the same Dame Dorothy Bradshaigh had lately erected, at her own cost, a building in Haigh, called the Receptacle, being a house divided into 10 dwellings, each consisting of one room on the groundfloor, with a pantry adjoining, and one chamber over the same; and had also allotted ground adjoining thereof, for a little garden to each of the said dwellings, all which premises, including the fences thereto, contained 160 feet by 116; she intending the same to be for ever thereafter appropriated and used as an almshouse, in the manner hereinafter mentioned; the said Dame Dorothy Bradshaigh granted to the said Sir Richard Clayton, Roger Palmer and Geoffry Hornby, their heirs and assigns, her reversion or remainder expectant on the death of Elizabeth Dalrymple without issue, of and in the said receptacle or almshouse, and the said parcel of ground allotted thereto, in trust, that the same might for ever thereafter be appropriated and used as an almshouse for the reception, habitation and maintenance of 20 poor persons of both sexes, or of either sex, residing in the several townships of Haigh, Wigan, Blackrod and Aspull, or in any of them, if so many proper objects should, from time to time, as vacancies should occur, be found therein; and if so many proper objects should not be found therein, then from such other townships or places as the nominators to the said charity, and their successors, should from time to time think fit to name and appoint, subject to such rules



and regulations as were expressed therein; and it was declared, that the sole right and power of nominating and placing poor persons in the said receptacle, and of expelling, dismissing, removing, visiting and ordering, by themselves and their Agents, the said poor persons in all things concerning their behaviour in the said houses, whilst they should continue members thereof, and of abridging and stopping their stipend or pay for misbehaviour, disobedience or other offences against the rules of the said house, and for keeping in good repair the said house and premises, and for such other matters as were or should be committed to their care and trust concerning the said charity, should, after the death of the said Dame Dorothy Bradshaigh, be vested in and belong to such person or persons as should, for the time being, be the owner or owners of the manor or Lordship of Haigh, and it was provided, that if at any time thereafter it should happen that there should be only one acting trustee surviving, such survivor might, with the rector of Winwick for the time being, nominate such two other persons as they should think fit, to be trustees of the said charity, in writing, to be signed by them and attested by two credible witnesses, the heirs of the trustees appointed by the said Dame Dorothy Bradshaigh having always the preference, if they should choose to act under the said trust; and it was further provided, that when any vacancy should happen in the said receptacle, if the same should not be filled up within two months next after notice in writing, signed by one of the said trustees, and given to the owner or owners of the said manor, or left at the mansion house of Haigh, it should be lawful for the said trustees to fill up the same according to the rules aforesaid, within ten days after the expiration of the said two months.

The said Dame Dorothy Bradshaigh, by her will, bearing date 28th July 1780, directed that a sum of 3000*l.* (which was, by the will of her late husband, Sir Roger Bradshaigh, charged upon the Haigh estate, and

bequeathed to her, and for the raising of which sum he devised the said estate to trustees for a term of 1000 years,) with all the interest which should be due at the time of her decease, should be raised by the trustees named in her husband's will, and paid to her executors, who should lay out the same on government security or mortgage of lands, to be approved of by the Hon. and Rev. John Stanley, and his successors, rectors of Winwick; and she gave to the said John Stanley and his successors, the interest and produce of the same sum, upon trust, to pay and distribute thereout, yearly, so much as should be sufficient to make good any deficiencies as should happen in repairing, supplying, and carrying on the receptacle or almshouse lately founded by the testatrix in Haigh, and to distribute the surplus to the charitable purposes therein mentioned; and by a codicil to her said will, bearing date 6th May 1784, the said testatrix gave particular directions in what manner the interest of 1000*l.* part of the said 3000*l.* should be applied.

By indenture, bearing date 3rd March 1787, Sir William Henry Ashurst, the surviving devisee in trust under the will of the said Sir Roger Bradshaigh of the term of 1000 years, by the direction of Alexander Earl of Balcarres, assigned the said term of 1000 years to Elbrough Woodcock, of Lincoln's Inn, redeemable by the person entitled to the inheritance of the said estate, expectant on the determination of the said term, on payment of the sum of 5000*l.* with interest. In this indenture it is recited, that the bequest in the will of the said Dame Dorothy Bradshaigh of the sum of 3000*l.* which was charged on the manor and estate of Haigh, was void by the statute of mortmain, and that the same therefore sunk into the residue of her personal estate, which she had bequeathed to Elizabeth Palmer; and that the premises, which, during the life of the said Dame Dorothy Bradshaigh, and since her death, had been used as the

almshouse, was part of the estate at Haigh, which, by the will of the said Sir Roger Bradshaigh, was devised to the then Countess of Balcarres for her life: it is also recited, that the said Elizabeth Palmer was desirous of confirming the disposition made by the will and codicil of the said Dame Dorothy Bradshaigh, and that the said Earl and Countess of Balcarres being also willing that the said charitable purpose should be carried into effect, had consented that the said house at Haigh with the appurtenances, should thenceforth continue and be used as an almshouse; and the said Earl of Balcarres having paid out of his own money the sum of 2000*l.* to the said Roger Palmer and Geoffry Hornby, the acting executors under the will of the said Dame Dorothy Bradshaigh the said Elizabeth Palmer covenanted with the said Earl and Countess of Balcarres, that 2000*l.* only, part of the 3000*l.* above mentioned, should be raised by mortgage of the Haigh estate, and that 1000*l.* residue thereof, should not at any time thereafter be raised, so long as the persons entitled to the freehold of the said estate should permit the said house to be used as an almshouse, and that if the person who should at any time thereafter be entitled to the fee-simple and inheritance of the said premises used as an almshouse, should convey the same to the said Roger Palmer and Geoffry Hornby, their heirs and assigns, for the use of the said charity, the estate should from thenceforth be wholly discharged from the payment of the said sum of 1000*l.* The assignment of the said term was in consideration that the said Earl of Balcarres had, by the direction of the said Elizabeth Palmer, paid to the said Roger Palmer and Geoffry Hornby the sum of 2000*l.* in full satisfaction 2000*l.* part of the said legacy of 3000*l.* and the further sum of 3000*l.* to three persons therein named, legatees under the will of Sir Roger Bradshaigh.

By Indenture of bargain and sale, bearing date 16<sup>th</sup>. March 1811, and inrolled in the High court of Chancery, between Alexander Earl of Balcarres, Elizabeth

Bradshaigh Countess of Balcarres, his wife, formerly Elizabeth Dalrymple, and James Lord Lindsey, eldest son of the said Countess of Balcarres, of the first part; William Henry Ashurst, eldest son and heir at law of Sir William Henry Ashurst, of the second part, Robert Holt Leigh, of the third part; Joseph Budworth and Elizabeth his wife, formerly Elizabeth Palmer, of the fourth part; Roger Palmer and the Rev. Geoffry Hornby, rector of Winwick, of the fifth part; and the Hon. and Rev. George Bridgeman, rector of Wigan, of the sixth part; reciting the will of Sir Roger Bradshaigh, the indenture of bargain and sale, of 14th July 1775, the will and codicil of Dame Dorothy Bradshaigh, the assignment of the term of 1000 years to Elbrough Woodcock, and two subsequent assignments of the said term, whereby the same became vested in the said Robert Holt Leigh,; and also reciting, that by virtue of certain indentures of lease and release, bearing date 23rd and 24th July 1804, and a recovery suffered in pursuance thereof the said Earl and Countess of Balcarres, and Lord Lindsey, were empowered, during their joint lives, by any deed attested by two credible witnesses, to limit and appoint the equitable estate in fee-simple of the said almshouse or receptacle, and the gardens &c. thereto belonging, the legal estate being vested in the said William Henry Ashurst, as the heir of the surviving devisee, in trust, under the will of the said Sir Roger Bradshaigh, the said Earl and Countess of Balcarres, and Lord Lindsey, in order that the estate of Haigh might be for ever exonerated from the said sum of 1000l. part of the said 3000l. at the request of the said Joseph and Elizabeth Budworth, limited and appointed, and the said William Henry Ashurst, at the like request, and by the direction of the said Earl and Countess of Balcarres and Lord Lindsay, bargained and sold to the said Roger Palmer and Geoffry Hornby, their heirs and assigns, the said house at Haigh, called the Almshouse or the Receptacle, and the gardens and appurtenances, upon the same

trusts and purposes, and under the same rules and regulations as were contained in the said recited indenture of bargain and sale of 14th July 1775, concerning the reversion thereof expectant upon the decease of the said Countess of Balcarres without issue, and the said Robert Holt Leigh, at the like request and direction, being well satisfied that the remainder of the estates comprised in the term of 1,000 years was a sufficient security to him, assigned to the said George Bridgeman, his executors, &c. the said almshouse, &c. for the residue of the said term of 1,000 years, upon trust, to attend the inheritance.

The sum of 2,000l. appears to have been laid out in the purchase of 4,555l. 8s. 8d. three per cent consols, which stock now stands in the names of the Hon. and Rev. George Bridgeman, and the Rev. James John Hornby, producing the yearly dividends to the amount of 136l. 13s. 2d. per annum.

From the year 1810 the dividends (2s. yearly have been deducted for postage,) have been received by Mr. Willm. Wiswell, of Billinge, and all the disbursements on account of the charity have been made by him. He was first employed for this purpose by the Hon. and Rev. George Bridgeman, for whom he acted as steward, and who was probably requested to undertake the management of the charity by the late Rev. Geoffrey Hornby, rector of Winwick. In 1824, Mr. Wiswell ceased to act as steward to Mr. Bridgeman, and he then submitted his accounts of this charity to Mr. Bridgeman's solicitor, who examined them and informed him that the Rev. James John Hornby, the then rector of Winwick was the sole trustee of the charity. Mr. Wiswell then applied to Mr. Hornby, and he was requested by him to continue to act for him in the same manner as, under the directions of Mr. Bridgeman, he had done up to that period.

Previously to the year 1816 when the property tax was taken off, the income amounted to 122l. 19s. 10d. per annum, out of this Mr. Wiswell paid.—

	£.	s.	d.
To each of the 20 Alms-people 1l. a quarter per annum...	80	0	0
To a Chaplain per annum.....	10	0	0
To an Apothecary, for attending the alms-people, a yearly salary of.....	10	0	0
	<hr/>		
	£100	0	0

Out of the residue he paid the expenses of repairing the almshouses, and whatever surplus remained he distributed amongst the inmates, chiefly to those who were sick, as he thought best, the directions given him by Mr. Bridgeman having been to apply the surplus for the benefit of any of the almspeople who happened to be sick or in any other works of charity.

Since 1816 a similar mode of application has been pursued. The annual payments during the last six years have been as follows :—

Allowances to the Alms-people.....	80	0	0
The Rev. E. Hill, his salary, as chaplain.....	10	0	0
Payments made to an apothecary for Medicine and attendance, as charged by him instead of a yearly salary about..	12	0	0
Repairs, upon an average, about.....	5	0	0
Money given to the almspeople in cases of sickness, about	1	10	0
	<hr/>		
	£.108	0	0

It appears from Mr Wiswell's accounts which he produced to us, that in 1816 there was a balance of 150l. due to him, but that this debt was gradually liquidated and there was, in September 1818, a balance in his hands amounting to 221l. 13s. 6d. His accounts have not been examined by Mr. Hornby or any other person since they were submitted to Mr Bridgeman's solicitor, on the occasion above mentioned.

The almspeople are appointed by the Earl of Balcarras, as the owner of the manor or lordship of Haigh; of those who now receive the benefit of the charity, all were resident in or belonging to the township of Haigh at the time of their appointment, except two or three who were chosen from the township of Wigan and one from Aspull. There are now 10 men and 10 women in the almshouses including three married couples. The buildings are in good repair, and there is appropriated to each tenement a small plot of garden.

With reference to the power of control and management of the funds of this charity, the following observations occur:—

Upon referring to the deed executed by Dame Dorothy Bradshaigh in 1775, it appears that she thereby intended to constitute Sir Richard Clayton, Roger Palmer and Geoffrey Hornby, trustees for the purpose of holding the legal estate in the almshouses, without any power of interfering in the concerns of the charity, unless upon a vacancy occurring amongst the almspeople it should not be filled up within the space of two months. But by her will she gave the rector of Winwick for the time being the entire disposal of the funds which she intended as the endowment of the almshouses. By the deeds of 1787 and 1811, the equity of redemption of the site of the almshouses was conveyed to Roger Palmer and the Rev. Geoffrey Hornby and their heirs, upon the trusts, and subject to the regulations contained in the deed of 1775; and the legal estate for a term of a 1000 years was conveyed to the Hon. and Rev. Geo. Bridgeman, in whom the term is still vested, in trust, for the heir of the Rev. Geoffrey Hornby, who survived his co-trustee Mr. Palmer; it seems, therefore, that in conformity with the regulations contained in the deed of 1775, the heir of the Rev. Geoffrey Hornby ought to convey to three such persons as he, with the rector, should approve

The sum of 2000*l.* was paid to the above named Roger Palmer and Geoffrey Hornby, the acting executors of Dame Dorothy Bradshigh, in satisfaction of the legacy of 3000*l.* which she intended to leave them. It seems therefore that they took the sum of 2000*l.* upon the trusts declared in her will, viz. to lay it out on such security as should be approved of by the rector of Winwick for the time being, and upon trust to permit the rector of Winwick for the time being to receive the yearly produce and dispose of it for the support of the almshouses and the maintenance of the inmates, and to distribute the surplus, if any, to other charitable purposes. The power thereof of disposing of the funds of this charity, is, as we conceive, vested in the Rev. James John Hornby, and his successors, as rectors of Winwick, and it appears to us that he ought to direct and superintend the application of the income and to examine the accounts.

With regard to the balance now in the hands of Mr. Wiswell, it may perhaps be reasonable that some portion should be allowed him for his trouble, and for which he has hitherto made no charge.

It will also be for the consideration of Mr. Hornby, whether the remainder of the balance in hand should be invested in augmentation of the principal, or laid out for the benefit of the persons now resident in the almshouses.

### KINDSLEY'S CHARITY.



In a book belonging to this township there is an entry apparently made about the year 1790, stating that Ellen Kindsley gave for the benefit of the poor of Haigh, 1*l.* yearly, to be received off an estate in Whittington-lane, in Aspull, in the possession of James Middlehurst.



The yearly sum of *l.* is now paid by Peter Hilton, in respect of a farm in Whittington, rented by him of Sir Robert Holt Leigh, who ~~was~~ informed purchased it of James Middlehurst, ~~subject~~ to this charge.

Till 1828 this sum has been distributed every Easter Tuesday, with other money as hereafter mentioned, under the head of the charities of Greaves and others. In 1828 this sum was carried to the poor's rate with the intention of disposing of it for the benefit of the poor when the interest of the charities should be paid.

### CHARITY OF GREAVES AND OTHERS.

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By indenture bearing date 1st May 1767, between Sir Roger Bradshaigh, baronet, of the first part; James Pilkington, the personal representative of Ralph Greaves Andrew Knowles and Alice his wife, who was the personal representative of James Monk, Harry Vause, an infant, the heir of Ralph Vause, thereafter mentioned, and Robert Leigh the surviving executor of the will of William Higham, of the second part, and William Porter and six others, free-holders and inhabitants of Haigh, of the third part; reciting, that Ralph Greaves, by his will, bearing date 16th November 1696, gave to James Pilkington and Matthew Rycroft 20*l.* to be placed out, the interest thereof to be from time to time disposed of for and towards the binding apprentices poor children within Haigh, and in case at any time there should be no child or children who should stand in need thereof, for the use and benefit of the most impotent poor within Haigh, at the discretion of his said trustees, or the survivor of them, and his heirs; that James Monk, by his will, bearing date 9th October 1728, gave to the poor of Haigh 20*l.* the yearly interest thereof to be applied in buying cloth or towards the binding of children apprentices, as his executors Ralph Vause and Ralph Winstanley, their heirs and assigns, should think most needful;

that William Higham, by his will bearing date 22d May, 1729, gave to the poor of Haigh 20l: the yearly interest to be from time to time applied for and towards clothing some poor inhabitants in Haigh with linen or woollen, as his executors, Ralph Winstanley and Robert Leigh, their heirs and assigns, should think most convenient; and that the said Sir Roger Bradshaigh had given 20l. and his wife, Lady Bradshaigh the further sum of 20l. towards augmenting the said poor stock, which said sums were also to be placed forth, and continued at interest upon the trusts thereafter mentioned; and reciting that it had been agreed that the said three legacies, together with a sum of 5l. theretofore given by the Bradshaigh family should be lodged with or vested in the said trustees for the purposes in the respective wills mentioned; the said James Pilkington and others, parties of the second part, according to their respective interests therein, assigned to the said William Porter and others, parties of the third part, their executors &c. the said three legacies of 20l. amounting in the whole to 60l. upon trust, to place forth and continue the same at interest upon such good securities as they should think most advisable, and to pay and distribute the interest for and towards binding of poor children of and belonging to the said township of Haigh apprentices, and for and towards clothing of poor people within and belonging to the said township, with linen or woollen as they should think most proper, and for and towards the relief of the most impotent poor within and belonging to the said township of Haigh, agreeable to the true intent of the said several wills; and it was declared and agreed that the said William Porter and others, parties of the third part, their executors &c. should be possessed of the said two sums of 20l. paid to them by the said Sir Roger and Lady Bradshaigh, upon trust, to place forth and continue the same at interest upon such securities as they should think proper, and the yearly produce thereof to apply or distribute unto or for the use and benefit of such

of the poor inhabitants of and belonging to the said township of Haigh, and in such manner and form as the said trustees, and the survivor of them, with the consent of the said Sir Roger and Lady Bradshaigh, should think most suitable and beneficial for the same poor persons ; and it was provided, that when the trustees should by death be reduced to five, the survivors should within three months meet at some convenient place in Haigh, two days notice thereof being given to the principal inhabitants of the township, and with the approbation of the inhabitants then present, elect four other proper and substantial freeholders within Haigh, to be trustees in the place of those deceased.

By indenture, bearing date 4th March 1791, reciting the indenture above abstracted, and that the several legacies and sums therein mentioned, amounting to 105l. were placed at interest with Robert Pennington, of Wigan, on a bond of even date therewith, William Porter and three others, all since deceased, assigned the said securities to Peter Grimshaw and seven others therein named, of whom George Barton is the only survivor, upon the trusts declared in the indenture of 1767.

The bond above referred to which was given to Wm. Porter, Roger Grimshaw, John Hart and Henry Lowe, for securing the payment of 105l. with lawful interest, bearing even date with the deed, was produced to us with the indentures above abstracted, by Thomas Grimshaw, esq. solicitor, of Wigan.

The interest on this bond was paid by Robert Pennington, during his life, and after his death, till about the year 1818, by Mr. R. Grimshaw, solicitor, of Wigan. We were informed by Mr. Thomas Radcliffe, of Haigh, who frequently acted as overseer about this period, that he was told by Mr. Roger Grimshaw in 1818, that he had received the money secured by the above mentioned bond from Mr. Pennington's family, and that he wished

to keep it in his hands; that after some time this proposal was agreed to, and Mr. R. Grimshaw gave a promissory note for the sum of 100l.

It further appears that about the year 1818, there were unsettled accounts between Mr. Grimshaw and the persons who were employed by the Earl of Balcarres in the management of his collieries or iron works, that the overseers of Haigh relied in great measure upon Lord Balcarres's agents for the money left in Mr. Grimshaw's hands, and to the year 1824, 5l. as the interest of 100l. was paid at the office of the person who acted as clerk for Lord Balcarres's iron works. Since the death of the late Earl Balcarres in 1825, no interest has been received.

There seems to be no sufficient evidence to show that the late Lord Balcarres or his agents, ever became responsible for the money left in Mr. R. Grimshaw's hands, and we are informed that Mr. R. Grimshaw was, in 1818, and from that period up to the time of his death, indebted to Lord Balcarres to a considerable amount; that there is no chance of this debt being liquidated, or of any sum being recoverable for the benefit of the charity.

The interest when paid was laid out, together with the yearly sum of 1l. derived from Kindsley's charity and a portion of Guest's charity, in the purchase of linen cloth, which was given away on Easter Tuesday to poor persons of the township, whether they receive parochial relief or not.

For the years 1826 and 1827, no interest having been received on the sum of 100l. 5l. was in each year paid out of the poor's rate, and laid out in like manner, in the expectation that it would be eventually repaid; but in 1828 no distribution took place.

## POOR'S STOCK.

By indenture, bearing date 29th September 1744, between Sir Roger Bradshaigh, bart. of the one part, and Roger Bradshaigh esq. his son and heir, William Curghey, the Rev. Benjamin Cooper, and nine others, inhabitants or freeholders within Haigh, of the other part; reciting, that several persons had given to the poor of Haigh 65l. which with 3l. the interest thereof, making 68l. 5s. was in the hands of Sir Roger Bradshaigh, the said Roger Bradshaigh, esq. and others acknowledged that they had received the said sum of 68l. 5s. from the said Sir Roger, and covenanted that the same should be laid out and the yearly interest applied for such uses for the poor of Haigh as the said parties thereto, with the churchwarden and overseer of the poor for the time being should approve.

We have not been able to obtain any further information as to the money above mentioned.

## GRIMSHAW'S CHARITY.

James Grimshaw, by his Will, bearing date 12th. February 1822, bequeathed 40l. (part of a principal sum of 200l. bequeathed to him by Peter Grimshaw, and then in the hands of John Hodson, esq. at interest), after the death of his brother's widow, to the overseer of the poor for the time being of the township of Haigh, in trust, for the use of the poor of the said township, pursuant to the directions of his late brother's will.

The above mentioned sum of 40l. is in the hands of Thomas Grimshaw, esq. who is ready to give security for the amount.