





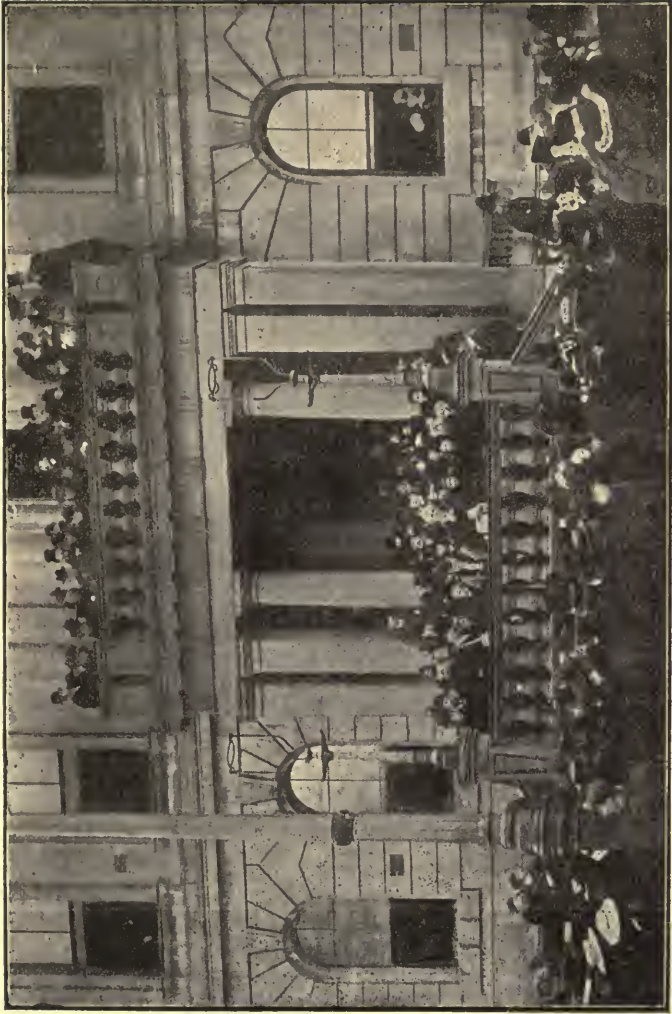
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PROCLAMATION OF KING EDWARD VII., JANUARY 29, 1901.  
TOWN HALL, SOUTHPORT.

ANNALS  
OF  
SOUTHPORT  
AND DISTRICT.

A CHRONOLOGICAL HISTORY  
OF  
NORTH MEOLS

FROM  
ALFRED THE GREAT TO EDWARD VII.

BY  
E. BLAND.

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Southport:  
J. J. RILEY, PRINTER, "GUARDIAN" OFFICE.  
1903.





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## PREFACE.

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"IF any there be which are desirous to be strangers in their owne soile and forrainers in their owne citie—they may so continue and therein flatter themselves; for such I have not written these lines nor taken these paines," wrote Camden in the introduction to his *Britannia*. But I cannot think there are any in the beautiful town of Southport who "are desirous to be strangers in their owne soile." The "Annals of Southport" were written with the conviction that few things so deeply and permanently influence the human head and heart as the historical associations of *home*. It was the fashion, with many persons, to sneer at the idea of North Meols having any history. I am of opinion that the following pages will show how mistaken those persons were. Hitherto no attempt has been made to publish the history of North Meols. Being out of the beaten track, none of the ancient writers went to the trouble of visiting this "bald"—the word Meols in the ancient Celtic means "bald"—place. Odd items in old documents show that the place was known before the Conquest, and probably other information will yet come to light. Before the manor was given to Roger de Poictou the tithes—or some of them—had been given to the monks of Lancaster. Some twenty years ago Mr. W. Norbury, in an article on the Peat Bogs of Lancashire, expressed an opinion that the district was inhabited long prior to the Celts coming here. He said, "Let anyone who is acquainted with the different localities, and who can remember fifty years back, recall the kind of people there were on Lindow Common, Sale Moor \* \* \* \* \* and I think I might add Southport—whose donkey-drivers and sand-grounders are

from the end of a bog at Churchtown, and who were there before Southport was built—and I think he will arrive at the fact that these different peoples were until recently a distinct race from the people of the rest of the country; that they were, in fact, of the old Euskarian race, driven to these bogs long ages before the Romans set foot in Britain, and who have continued almost intact until recently.”

As will readily be understood, the facts recorded in the following pages have been found scattered about in documents of all kinds in this and the adjoining counties.

The valuation of *Mele* in Domesday-book is above the average of the neighbouring places, and soon after the Conquest the Manor was given to Richard Fitz-Utred, probably a descendant of the original Saxon holder Utred, of King Edward's day. Previous to the Reformation, the history of the parish, as I have been able to record it, is only of a skeleton nature. Several passages, however, in these “Annals” tend to give the reader an impression that the Church living was a somewhat valuable one. Such men as Bishop Stanley were scarcely likely to take the incumbency unless the emoluments were of a respectable character. Until the 18th century, when Roger Hesketh married Miss Fleetwood, the Church living was in other hands than the Lordship of the Manor; but there is, in the Palatine Court records, plenty of evidence that the parsons were the influential men of the parish. In 1464 we find the rector as a mortgagee of the estate, though he was but a minor ecclesiastic from Evesham Abbey. In 1551, the last (probably) of the Roman Catholic rectors, one Lawrence Waterward, entered an action for trespass against the Lords of the Manor, and three years later the first Protestant rector also laid claim to certain rights against the patrons of the Church and the Lords of the Manor. In 1580, Campion the Jesuit visited the parish on his mission,

and twelve years later there was at Meols Hall "one Gabriell Shawe." There have been various rectors, who seem to have been noteworthy men, and, perhaps, one fact as noteworthy as many has been the longevity of some of them. As an instance, from 1748 to 1876, there were only three rectors of the parish.

Without the kind assistance of many friends, it would have been impossible to produce this work. Its defects are all my own. Whatever merits it may have, I can only say that any other writer, with the same opportunities, might have produced it as well. I have not attempted a work of great literary ability—my one object has been to make known what I could of the past history of the neighbourhood in which I have lived nearly all my life, to collect the facts, put them in order, and leave the reader to form his own idea as to the merits or demerits of the book. The following items are strictly bare statements of facts, without any expression of my own opinions—facts, with very few exceptions, taken from the dry records of the past—from the Palatine Court Records, Church and Cathedral books, &c.

My thanks are due to so many persons, that it would be impossible for me to particularise them. I thank one and all for their kind assistance. I have had every assistance possible from the various libraries and custodians of books and documents necessary for my purpose. I must, however, pay a well-merited tribute to the late Mr. E. E. Holden, for his invaluable assistance in the initial stages of the work. His splendid education and his extensive local knowledge were entirely at my service; his death was a sad blow to myself, along with many others.

E. B.

*Southport,*

*February, 1903.*



# ANNALS

OF

## SOUTHPORT & DISTRICT.

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**A Chronological History of North Meols,**

FROM

**Alfred the Great to Edward VII.**

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*“He who loves not his Country loves nothing.”—*

BYRON.

PRIOR to the time of the Norman Conquest the history of North Meols is almost a blank, so far as records go. That it was of as much importance as most places, circumstantial evidence proves. Martin Mere in bygone centuries was (superficially) the largest lake in England, and on its borders lived a numerous population. The lake is the scene of many legends, and gave the title of “du lac” to Sir Lancelot of the Round Table. It is said to have been the home of Merlin, and by the Romans the neighbourhood was called the “District of Linus” or the Lake. At the time of the Saxon Heptarchy this locality was included in the great kingdom of Stráthclyde, and in the seventh century

formed portion of the territory Teyrullung, which extended from the Dee to the Derwent. This was the country of the old Sistuntii, and at the time of Domesday Book, had been attached to no county. "Inter-ripe-et-Mersham" (between Ribble and Mersey) it is described in that book. Who the original inhabitants were can only be conjectured, but every evidence tends to the Celtic race. All the most antient names are Celtic, though some writers would like to claim a Scandinavian origin for the first settlers. There are many proofs of human occupation of this bank of Martin Mere during the Roman period. Coins of the reigns of Trajan and Vespasian have been unearthed from the margin of the mere, where they have, probably, lain since the days of Agricola. King Arthur is said to have fought several of his battles near to the lake, on the banks of the Douglas. But it must be remembered that it is only in modern times that the name of Douglas has been attached to the last few miles of that stream. Until quite recently its name after its confluence with the Yarrow was the Astland. Properly speaking, according to old legends, a "Sandgrunder" must be born on sand land "betwixt Alt and Astland." When Martin Mere was first drained, a number of "dug-out" canoes were found, one of them being iron-plated. Roby, in his "Traditions of Lancashire," makes Martin Mere the scene of several of his Legends.

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**867**—The first mention of the name of the parish, so far discovered, is in connection with the itinerary of the bones of our Patron Saint. On the Danish invasion of 867, the monks of Lindisfarne, in obedience to the directions of St. Cuthbert, on his deathbed two centuries earlier, took up the bones of the Saint and carried them away, in fear of the invaders desecrating the tomb. The record is, that for seven years the body of St. Cuthbert was carried from place to

place in the six northern counties of England "even unto Galloway." They, however, never got away from England, this coast of which was then included in the Galloway province of Strathclyde. Prior Wessington, who translated the records of these wanderings of the Saint, gives a list of the resting places, and puts twelve of them in Lancashire. We find *Meler* sandwiched between Lytham and Halsall, and as wherever the body rested, a church was established, we have here, without a doubt, the origin of the Church of North Meols.

**1066**—Directly after the Conquest, Roger de Poictou, son of Roger Montgomery, Earl of Shrewsbury, became possessed of the Honour of Lancaster. He made large gifts to the Monks of Lancaster, who were attached to a foreign Order (the "Abbey of Sees"), including tithes from a large number of places "et Molas." The tithes given from North Meols were those of "fowls, calves, lambs, goats, hogs, corn, cheese and butter." These tithes remained the property of the Lancaster Monks, the gift being confirmed by King John, when Earl of Morton.

**1086**—Domesday book, which was finished this year, says "Mele was held by three Thaners for three Manors." These were, probably, Meols, Birkdale, and Argarmeles. The last-named was submerged by the sea some centuries later (*vide* 1503). Roger de Poictou had made Warinus Bushi or Bussel Baron of Penwortham, and this Warin held *Mele* along with other estates. In the interval between the Conquest and the completion of the Domesday Survey the lands had been forfeited by the defection of Earl Roger. During the reign of William the Conqueror, Warin Bussel conferred the Manor of Penwortham and the *Chapel of Mele*, with all its appurtenances, on the Abbey of Evesham. Surprise has been

expressed that churches and lands in Lancashire should be attached to a religious house so far away as Evesham in Worcestershire, but it is explained by the fact that Warin Bussel had married a lady Matilda, who had extensive possessions in Evesham. The grant was made on the distinct condition that three monks and a chaplain should daily perform Divine offices at Penwortham. This led to the building of Penwortham Priory, but the monks always considered it a punishment to be sent to Penwortham.

**1113**—Richard Bussel, second Baron of Penwortham, confirmed his father's gifts to the Abbey of Evesham, granting to that institution "the Chapel of *Moles*, with all its appurtenances and 2/-." Soon afterwards Albert Bussel, third Baron and brother to Richard, further confirmed the grant, giving "the whole Chapel of *Meoles*, with all its appurtenances and one-fourth of the fishing." Hugh Bussel, the fourth Baron, also confirmed the gifts of his father, uncle, and grandfather.

**1189-99**—In the reign of Richard I. Hugh Bussel granted "the whole of *Normoles*" to Richard Fitz-Utred, probably a descendant of the Utred of Domesday book.

**1199-1216**—The Manor of *Northmelis* was held by Robert de Meolis, son of Richard Fitz-Utred, in the reign of King John.

**1203**—Henry de Lacy, Earl of Lincoln, in 1293, claimed (amongst many other things) "under a charter produced, and dated 4 John, the wreck of the sea in his Manors of Penwortham in Laylandshire, *Northmelis*, and Wydnes in Derbieshire, and in Newton, Freckelton, and Warton in Amundernesse." Verdict for the Earl.



- 1217**—Early in the reign of Henry III., William de Koudre, son and heir of Robert de Meolis, “held the fourth part of a knight’s fee in *Nortmelis*, of the Earl of Lincoln.” (Five hides made a knight’s fee.)
- 1224**—Robert de Coudray was this year granted a right of market at *Melys*. He was succeeded by his son, William Fitz-William, whose eldest son was Madoc de Aghton. In 1285, “Walter, son of Madoc de Aghton,” appears as witness to a church deed (*vide* 1377).
- 1229**—In 14 Henry III. John de Farinton, son of William de Meles, married Avicia, daughter of Robert Bussel, Baron of Penwortham, who received as a free gift, a marriage portion of one moiety of the Manor of Leyland. Worden or Wearden Hall, the ancient seat of the Faringtons, descended from this John de Farinton, whose grandfather, Hugh de Meolis, was living at the time of the Conquest. The family continued in Leyland in uninterrupted male line for twenty-five generations, until the death, in 1848, of James Nowell Farington, Esq. In 22 Richard II., John of Gaunt, and William de Farinton, held the manor in moieties.
- 1278**—Breck-en-le-dale (Birkdale) was at this time held by Sir Robert Blundell, of Crosby, the first bearing that name. He was the son of Sir Adam de Aynolesdale (Ainsdale), and was descended from Osbert de Aynolesdale, father of Robert to whom King John, when Earl of Morton (1155) gave Great Crosby, confirming the gift when he came to the throne. Sir Adam was the father of Sir Robert Blundell, thus showing a generation earlier than the Blundells of Ince. The Rev. Thomas Ellison Gibson was of opinion that Sir Osbert must have belonged to the Norman family of Blundell, and, for a time, to have relinquished the name on acquiring the Manor of Aynolesdale.

**1290**—Thomas, parson of the Church of North Meles, sued Hugh Plunket, to render an account, as the plaintiff's bailiff in North meles. *De Banco* Michaelmas term 17 Edward I.

**1291**—North Meols does not appear in the *Valor* of Pope Nicholas taken this year, but would be included in the account of Penwortham or Evesham.

**1292**—Nicholas Blundell claimed to have "the wreck of the sea at Aymulnedale [Ainsdale] which his ancestors had possessed from time immemorial," but the verdict was for the King.

**1296**—In the compotus of the lands of Henry de Lacy, Earl of Lincoln from 29th September, 1295, to 29th September, 1296, appears the following:—"Fishery of Northmeles, £1 6s. 8d.; Rent of Robert de Meles, 8s. 1d.; Rent of Northmeles, 2s.; custody of land and heir of Richard de Stockport, 7s. 8d." Penwortham Priory paid a total of £30 3s. 4 $\frac{3}{4}$ d. The heir of Richard de Stockport (See 1307), who died in 1292, was his daughter Joan, who afterwards married Sir Nicholas de Eton.

**1300**—October 13th, at York. "Thomas, le clerk of Meles, and Emma, his wife, plaintiffs, *versus* Thomas, son of Alan de Snape; claim of a messuage and 24 acres of land in Halsall. Thomas, son of Alan, acknowledged the messuage and land to be the right of Emma, and for this acknowledgment they gave him ten pounds sterling."

—————North Meols, Anno 1300. Patron, Abbot of Evesham.  
*Cartul Ep. Coventry et Litchfield.*

**1307**—February 21st. Robert, son of Adam, receiver of Cliderhou, in rendering his compotus to the Earl of Lincoln, from March 30th to September 29th, 1305, says:—"Fishery of

Northmeles, 26s. 8d. ; Robert de Northmeles, 8s. 1½d. ; Rent of Northmeles, 2s. ; custody of land and heir of Richard de Stockport, for Birkdale, 7s. 8d."

**1311**—February 16th. The great de Lacy inquisition, when it was proved that "Alan de *Mels* payed to the said Earl yearly 8s. 1d. ; by custom the said Earl had an ancient rent in the Town of *Mels* yearly worth 2s. ; he had at Galwath Lands yearly 1s. ; Thomas de Sutton held freely there 3 Oxgangs of Land paying yearly 2½d. ; the Prior of Penwortham held of the said Earl an Oxgang of Land in *Mels* by the service of 1-64th of a knight's fee and a rent of a penny three-farthings.

—From inquisitions held in this and the two following centuries, it appears that the Lords of this Manor held land in Barton-juxta-Halsall. There is no definite record of how they became possessed of it, but we find that in the year 1311 there was living Margarie, widow of John de *Meles*. She was the daughter of Robert Goch (or Gow) second son of Richard Blundell, of "Hynes and Barton." As this Richard is the last of the Blundells described as of "Barton," it appears very likely that Robert Goch had succeeded to this portion of his father's estate, and that it had descended to his only child Margarie, who in the year 1292 and thereabouts, along with her husband, John de *Meles*, released to William Blundell several plots of land in Ince.

**1324**—The following specimens of the "Police Intelligence" of the fourteenth century are taken from the "Court Rolls" of the County of Lancaster, for the 17th and 18th years of Edward II. (A.D. 1323-4):—

"November 16th, 1323. Robert de Hasilingtene and John, son of Elot de Meles," paid "for entry to 4½ acres of land, seventy shillings."

December 23rd, 1323. For fighting "William, son of

William de Crossens and Thomas Baron, for breach of the peace, 6d."

March 9th, 1324. "Magot, daughter of William del Moels, for bad ale, 3d."

———John, son of John de Bank, for contempt, 3d.

May 1st, 1324. "John Bonde del Bonck, for default of service, 3d."

June 4th, 1324. "Alan del Meols, for respite of homage until Easter, 2s."

November 5th, 1324. "Walter del Melis, for unjust detention against John del Nottingham, 2d."

———"William de Melis and Emma la Mareschal, because they brewed and sold contrary to the assize, 6d."

———"Dobyn Emmok and the wife of Walter de Melis, for the same, 6d."

———"William de Melis, for unjustly withholding a debt, 5d."

December 14th, 1324. "Alan le Coudray, for carrying away brushwood, 3d."

**1325**—April 9th. "Robert son of Gilbert, and William de Melis, for unjust detention, 5d."

———June 11th. "Adam Balle and William de Melis, for trespass, 6d."

———September 23rd. "The wife of Walter del Melis, because she brewed contrary to the assize, 3d."

**1332**—Exchequer Lay subsidy. Money raised for the purpose of enabling the King to bring Scotland under feudal subjection to England. The gentry of "Northmeles cum Crosnes" paid:—

Walter de Coudray, vis viijd.

Walter fil William, ijs.

Roger fil Thomas, xvjd.

Richard de Swartbrex, ijs.

Robert de Hesketh, xiiij.

Adam fil William, iijs.

Walter fil William fil Walter, xvij.

Adam fil Robert, xij.

William fil Hugh, xv.

Summary, xx.

**1353**—Thomas, son of Walter de Aughton, conveyed to Richard de Lythrylond a certain meadow called "le Platte Medowe," in "Villa de Aughton," for a term of nine years. The seal is that of the judge, and bears the device of a man's head, surrounded by the inscription REVELARI LEGISLANDO, which, freely translated, means "what manner of man I am is to be discovered from my decrees." The witnesses are neighbours, Gilbert de Scarisbreck, Richard le Walsche, Henry son of Simon de Bykerstath, Robert de Lydiate, and John de Walsche, clericus; the last named probably being the clerk of the court and not a priest.

**1371**—"The Abbot of Dieulencresse (Leek, Staffordshire) complained of John le Gardener, Roger son of Robert Bonde, and William son of Roger de Holmes, because they, together with Richard de Aughton, had forcibly broken the Abbat's houses at North Meeles and carried off timber to the value of £10." This property would, probably, be really in Scarisbrick. That portion between "Snape" and North Meols was often described as being in the latter parish, particularly in "Gorsuch" actions-at-law.

**1377**—William Fitz-William (*vide* 1224) or his son Madoc seem to have become possessed of the estate of Aughton, for during the fourteenth century we find the family described as "de Aughton" in various documents, and it is certain that for several centuries the two parishes had an intimate connection, as subsequent pages will prove. Madoc, son of William Fitz-William, is the first described as "de Aughton," but we

have no record of his death. He was succeeded by his son Walter, whose son, Richard de Aghton, in 1377 married his cousin Katherine, daughter of Robert de Coudray, a descendant of William Fitz-William, their common ancestor, and thus succeeded to the North Meols estate (see 1503).

**1397**—Hugh de Aghton, son of Richard and Katherine, died, and was succeeded by Nicholas de Aghton, who in turn was followed by Hugh, son of William de Aghton. The following note, copied from the Duchy Records, explains itself:—

*Translation.*

—————Probatio etatis Hugo de Aghton filii et heredis Willimi de Aghton defuncti 21 Richard II. Natus fuit die Sabbati prox post festum St. Hillarii Anno 49 Edward III. Hugo de Standish fuit Compater et Ellena de Pemberton fuit Comater baptisatus fuit in Ecclesia de Meles.

“ Proof of age of Hugh de Aghton, son and heir of William de Aghton, who died 21st Richard II. (1397-8). He was born on the Sabbath next after the feast of St. Hillary, 49 Edward III. (1376). Hugh de Standish was godfather and Ellen de Pemberton was godmother. He was baptised in the Church of Meles.

This Hugh died 22nd March, 1423, and was succeeded by his son bearing the same name (*vide* 1464).

**1392-1413**—In the reign of Henry IV., Robert Parre granted the Manors of Argarmeles and Birkdale (with others) to Gilbert Halsall for life, with remainder to his sons and heirs male.

**1464**—July 20. Died, aged 57, Hugh de Aghton, Lord of the Manor of *Northmeles*. He had married Johanna, daughter of Henry de Scaresbreck, who survived him. An inquisition was held at Wigan “on the Friday next before the

feast of the apostles Simon and Jude, 4 Edw. IV. [25 October, 1464] by John de Pilkington, Escheator," and a jury "who said upon oath that the said Hugh Aghton, who died on the 27th day of July last, was then seized of the manor of *Northmeles*, with appurtenances, in the county of Lancaster; 5 messuages, 120 acres of land, 12 acres of meadow, 40 acres of pasture, and 80 acres of moss with other appurtenances in the villa of Barton-juxta-Halsall, and 20 acres of land in Prestecote. According to a deed, dated the 20 January, 38 Henry VI., he was also possessed of the reversion of other manors, messuages, lands, and tenements in the counties of Lancaster, Worcester, and Warwick, all of which by the aforesaid deed were granted to Edmund Farrington, Rector of the Church of Halsall, and John Ireland, Rector of the Church of *Meles*; with appurtenances in Thistleton, and also a parcel of land called Le Wik, in *Northmeles*, to have and to hold for the aforesaid Hugh, for the term of his natural life, with reversion to his heirs male, and remainder to Nicholas, brother of the aforesaid Hugh, to have and to hold to the said Nicholas and his lawful heirs male of his body. And if it so happens that the said Nicholas should die without heirs male lawfully begotten, then the said manors, etc., shall remain to the right heirs of the aforesaid Hugh. And the jurors further say that the aforesaid Edmund and John by the same deed gave Hugh de Aghton, Esquire, the reversion of all the manors aforesaid, except the whole of the messuages, lands, and tenements adjacent, which Richard Ball, Richard Henreson, Michael de Mann, William Ball, Robert Haywarde, John Blevyn, Robert Matthewe, Thomas Ball, Henry Ball, Thomas Coppock, and William Haywarde separately, now hold at will, in the Vil de *Northmeles*, and also a field called Meddehey in the same villa, all which were held by the aforesaid Hugh. And in the event of the aforesaid Nicholas

dying without lawful heirs male, then the remainder to the rightful heirs of the aforesaid Hugh. The jurors also say that the aforesaid Edmund and John, by a deed dated the 25th January, 38 Henry VI. gave unto Johanna, the wife of the aforesaid Hugh, the whole of the said messuages, land, &c., which Richard Ball, Richard Henreson, &c., then separately held at will in the Vil de *Northmeles*, and a field sometimes called Meddehey, in the same villa, containing 11 messuages, 73 acres of land, 29 acres of meadow, and three acres of moss, held of our Lord the King, as Duke of Lancaster, by knights service, to hold to the aforesaid Johanna for the term of her natural life, and after her death with remainder to the aforesaid Hugh and his heirs. The jurors also say that the aforesaid Hugh was himself seized of five messuages, 100 acres of land, 20 acres of meadow, 40 acres of pasture, and 40 acres of moss, with the appurtenances in Thistleton; and also of the parcel called Le Wik, containing 60 acres of land, messuage, and appurtenances. The parcel called Le Wik was given to the aforesaid Johanna, daughter of Henry de Scaresbreck, Esquire, for the term of her natural life, with remainder to the aforesaid Nicholas, brother of the aforesaid Hugh, and his heirs male. In the event of the death of the said Nicholas without heirs male, then the said Hugh shall have reversion by virtue of the gift to the said Johanna, with reversion to herself. The jurors also say that the said messuages, lands, and tenements, in Thistleton, are held from the Abbot of Cockersand, by fee and service of twopence; and that the parcel called Le Wik is held of the King by the twelfth part of a knight's fee; and they also say that the aforesaid manor of *Northmeles* is held of the King as Duke of Lancaster, by the twelfth part of a knight's fee. And they also say that Elizabeth, daughter of Hugh de Aghton, sister and heiress of the Hugh de Aghton aforesaid, is now



aged 50 years and more." Nicholas named in the inquisition, had pre-deceased Hugh. *Ob. s.-h. m.*

**1503**—August 24 (St. Bartholomew's Day). The King's Escheator of the County of Lancaster proceeded against Sir Henry Halsall, knight, as to a disputed title to lands in Wyke, *North Melys*, Scaresbrig lordship and Argarmelys. Sir Henry claimed that as the son of Hugh Halsall he was entitled to certain lands, the said Hugh Halsall being heir to Hugh Aghton, whose grandfather married Katherine, one of the daughters and heirs of Robert, son of William Cawdray. Henry Scarisbrick had married Alianore, another daughter of Robert Cawdray, but died without issue.

"This is the answer to the title made by the King's Escheator, made for the proof that Sir Henry Halsall, knight, should hold certain lands and tenements in Argarmelys. First, where it is surmised by the Escheator that the said Sir Henry should hold certain lands and tenements in Argarmelys of the King, by knight's service, and for proof thereof shows a "feodare" proving the fourth part of a knight's fee to be there held of the said Duchy. Thereunto the said Sir Henry says that the said Argarmelys and all the lands and tenements in the same are, and were at the decease of Hugh Halsall, his father, whose heir he is, and long before "within the hegh See and drowned and Adnichilate with the sayd see, and oute off the lawgh water marke, and also oute off the bodye of the sayd countye," so that they are not held of the King or any other person.

John Sherlock, aged 80 years, born in Halsall and having always lived there, never knew any land called Argarmelys, but has "hard sey that such londes there were drowned in the See, but wher ne in what parte he never hard tell."

William Harryson, aged 66, of Barton, sayd the same.

Hugh Tokwold, of Halsall, aged 77 years, was born at

Snape, has heard that the Abbots of Meryvale and Whalley had great lands within four miles of Halsall "worn into the see."

Evidently Argarmelys, which appears to have been on the borders of Ainsdale, was washed away by the sea, in the early part of the fifteenth century, for it was well known in the middle of the previous one.

**1518**—In 10 Henry VIII., Gilbert Sutton died possessing lands in *North Meols*.

**1520**—Elizabeth de Aghton (*vide* 1464) seems to have been succeeded by another branch of the family, for in 1520 we find that Hugh de Aghton died and was succeeded by his son Richard, who married Isabell, daughter of John Butler of Radcliffe.

**1529**—In this year an inspection of the deeds and rights of Richard Aghton, Esq., the Lord of the Manor, took place. The original deed is in Latin, the following being a translation:—

"Inspeximus of Grants, &c., within the Liberties of North Mylls.—To all the faithful to whom these presents shall come and whom the under written concern or can concern, as it is my will for the future Arthur Plantagenet, Viscount Lisley, Knight of the Order of the Garter, Lieutenant and Vice-Admiral of the very powerful Prince and Lord, Lord Henry Duke of Richmond and Somerset and Earl of Nottingham, High Admiral of England, Wales, Ireland, Gascony, Normandy, and Aquitaine, Greeting in the Author of our common Salvation, our beloved in Christ, Sir John Wodhall, our commissary General of the Admiralty of England, has seen, inspected, and thoroughly read over the privileges and concessions of Kings and the liberties of old conceded to Richard Aghton, Esquire, and his heirs for ever and to his ancestors formerly in the county of Lancaster, and has by our

Authority examined, that the before named Richard Aghton, Esquire, has enjoyed the same from time immemorial, as plainly manifested itself and appeared before our said commissary, and as it is manifest and appears in the enquiry held and made before him of which said enquiry the following is the tenor. KNOW all men present and to come that I, John Wodhall, General and special Commissary of Lord Arthur Plantagenet Viscount Lisley, Knight of the Order of the Garter, Lieutenant and Vice-Admiral of the most powerful Prince and Lord, Lord Henry Duke of Richmond and Somerset, and Earl of Nottingham, High Admiral of England, Wales, Ireland, Gascony, Normandy, and Aquitaine, have seen, inspected, and thoroughly read all and singular the privileges, concessions, and donations conceded to Richard Aghton, Esquire, and to his heirs for ever by the most powerful Prince William the Conqueror, then King of England, and also all the confirmations of all Kings from the time of King William the Conqueror, together with the confirmation of the most illustrious and greatly to be dreaded Prince and Defender of the Faith, the last King Henry the Eighth of that name, on account of which privileges the powers possessions of lands and all and singular the harbours within the domain of the liberty of Richard Aghton Esquire aforesaid as well by land as by water and sea, namely from the Cross in the Hose in the Town of *North Mylls* as far as Snotterston, and so to a distance at sea as far as one can see towards the Humbar Barell in the County of Lancaster, AND also farm tenants and other men and all and singular within the said liberties were and are fully free from all kind of Jurisdiction and power of the Admiral of England and of his officials whomsoever, Inasmuch that all Punishments, Fines, Deodands, Waveson, Flotteson, Jetteson, Lagason and Wrecks and all Royal fishes and other casualties happening what-

soever, whensoever, or in what manner soever over lands waters and sea, with all and singular their appurtenances within the liberties aforesaid are shown to belong to the aforesaid Richard Aghton and his heirs for ever in the county of Lancaster aforesaid, also by prescribed custom in use from time and through time immemorial. All the above written and recited were pleaded in the 19th year of the reign of King Henry the Eighth on the first day of the month of April, before me John Wodhall, commissary or Deputy aforesaid. Which certain enquiry and all and singular therein contained, esteeming good and pleasing we, by the Authority committed to us, do approve, ratify, and confirm. In testimony whereof we have commanded the Great Seal of our office of the Admiralty of England aforesaid to be appended to these presents. Dated at London, as to the sealing of this the twenty-eighth day of the month of April in the twentieth year of our Lord King Henry the Eighth.

(Signed),

J. WODHALL


 SEAL.

**1535**—Penwortham Priory suppressed by 27 Henry VIII., and there is added “Yt is to be pinned to no. xxi. Hy. VIII.”

The Abbey of Evesham was not abolished until four years later, and, according to the Institution Book, a rector was “presented” to North Meols in 1537. Robert Ffaryngton was rector in 1534-5.

**1539**—A lease was made on the “xxth daie of ffebruarie in the xxxth yeare of our Sovereigne King Henry VIII.,” between the Abbat and Convent of Evesham on the one part, and John fletwoode of London, gentleman, on the other part, of the manor and rectory of Penwortham and the advowson of Leiland, “and also the advowson of the parsonage of Meles

in the said county," for the term of "fourescoure and nyneteene years, for certen greate somes of mony, to them paid at the sealyng of these presents by the said John fletewoode," he paying a further sum of £99 5s. 3d. per annum. North Meols then became an independent parish, said to contain 10,682 statute acres.

**1541-2**—Clergy List. "Normelis; Dns. Edmundus Hogeson, "ex Stipendo"; Dns. Jacobus Hogekeynson, presented by Richard Aghton, miles. The tenths and subsidy payable by the Rector of North Meols were 16s. 4½d. and 14s. 9d., total 31s. 1½d. (The Rector of Halsall was liable for £4 13s. 4¾d.; the Vicar of Ormskirk for 38s.)

**1542**—Sir Richard Aghton, Lord of the Manors of *North Meols* and Aughton, died and was succeeded by his son John.

**1543**—January 24th. King Henry VIII. granted to John Fletewode and his heirs "the Priory and land at Penwortham, value yearly £7 2s. 8d., the reversion of the grove of wood at Penwortham, and also £7 3s. 8d. yearly out of the £99 5s. 3d. reserved unto the lease (with the Abbot of Evesham) and also the patronage of the rectory and Parish Church at North Meyles, and the vicarage of Leyland" and other gifts, Mr. Fleetwood to render to the King by knight's service "the twentieth part of a knight's fee and the yearlie rent of nine shillings and nine pence."

**1550**—John Aghton, died, aged 60. As he left no male heirs the estates fell to his two sisters, Elizabeth, who had married John Bold of Bold Hall, and Anne, who was the wife of Barnaby Kytchine.

**1551**—Lawrence Waterward, rector; Jacobus Hogekinson and Edmund Hogeson, assistants.

———Lawrence Waterward, clerk, "Parson of Northmelles," entered an action in the Duchy Courts, complaining "that whereas he is seized in his demesne, as of fee, as in the right

of the said parsonage, of certain meadow-grounds in Northmelles, called the Parsons Meadows: which plaintiff and all his predecessors have always quietly enjoyed without interruption from anybody, and which he has enjoyed as parson for 21 years last, and to which he and all his predecessors have always had free passage and carriage, as well with carts and wains, as horses and other carriages to pass too and from the same and to carry the hay growing upon the same without any disturbance: Now so it is that the premisses notwithstanding, John Bolde of Northmelles, Gentleman, since the 27th day of July last [1551] has not only interrupted plaintiff when he used the said way, but has also, of a 'covetous and gredie mynde' taken from him all the hay growing on the said meadows, carried it with him to his own mansion and converted it to his own use. Moreover the said John Bolde has since the first day of July past [1551] taken from plaintiff all such tithe hay as was due to him for the meadows of the Manor of Northmelles, within the said parish of Northmelles, and refuses to restore the same or to allow plaintiff to use the said way."

Accordingly a Privy Council writ was issued to John Bold (see 1554).

**1552**—October 4th. Inventory of Church Goods. "This Indenture made iijth day of October In the sixt yere of the Reigne of our Sou'aigne lord Edward the sixt by the grce of god Kyng of England fraunce and Ireland Defendor of the faith and of the church of England & Ireland in erth the sup'me hedde. Betwene the right honorable *Edward Erle of Derby* of the honourable order of the garter Knight, *Thomas Gerrard* Knight, and *Thomas Boteler* esquier Com'ission's to our sou'aigne lord the King apou the behalf of his highnes of the one partie and *Will'm Breykell*, *John Wright*, *Hugh Hayworth*, and *Henry Rymor* Churchwardens of the p'ishe

Churche of NORTHMEYLES in the hu'dreth of West derby in the Countye of Lanc' of the other p'tye. Witesith that where the said Comysson's have delyv'ed at the tyme of Sealing and delyvere hereof to the said Churche Wardons:—

j vesteme't lawnye damaske

j vestme't of old blue chamlet

two corse Albes with stoales

Amyces and fānās belonging to the same

j Chalice

j senser brasse with . . . .

one cruet

two crosses cov'ed with leyd and the other cov'ed  
with brasse

ij bells in the steple

j hand belle used at buryalls

j small sacr'ing belle and

j pyxe of brasse

belonging to the said Churche Saulfelie to be kept to thuse of our Sou'aigne lord the Kyng. The said churchewardens for theym and their executors do covenante and graunt by these p'nts to and with the said com'ission's that the p'misses or any p'te thereof shall not at any tyme hereaft' be alienated Imbecellid or otherwise put away from our said sou'aigne lord but shalbe answerable and furth cum'ying to thuse of his highness at such tyme and tymes as his Ma'tie or his honorable Counsaill shall demaunde the same. In wytnes whereof the p'ties afforesaid to these p'sents enterchaungeable have put their Seales the day and yere above wrytton."

**1553**—In the Lancashire Military Muster this year, West Derby hundred was called upon to find 430 men. *North Meoles* supplied nine of them.

**1554**—Peter Prescot presented to the living of North Meols by Henry Forshaw "by grant from Clemens, late Abbot of

Evesham." He compounded for "first-fruits and tenths" on October 8th. Value of Rectory, £114 16s. 9d. The same year he was "at law" with John Fletewood, John Bold, and others about the title to the Mansion House, glebe lands, and tithes.

**1554**—Peter Prescotte, clerk, Parson of the Parish Church of North Meyles, in the County of Lancaster, complains that where he, about the 12th day of September, 1554, was lawfully presented and inducted to the rectory or parsonage of the said parish church, then vacant by the deprivation of Lawrence Waterward, a married priest, and by force thereof was seized of the said parsonage and of one messuage called the parsonage of North Meyles, and of six other messuages and certain lands and tenements containing 100 acres of land, meadow and pasture, in North Meyles, being glebe lands, in his demesne as of fee in right of the said church: Now so it is that John Fletewood, John Bolde, gentlemen, William Hayward, husbandman, and the said Lawrence Waterward, of their covetous and extort power, with force and arms not only entered into the mansion house of the said parsonage and into all the glebe lands and tenements thereof and repulsed the plaintiff from the possession thereof and have taken the profits thereof to their own use, but have also gathered and taken all the tithes of all manner of corn and hay and all other things titheable arising within the said parish since the deprivation of the said Lawrence, amounting altogether to the value of £20, which said deprivation took place in April, 1554. Although plaintiff has often requested to occupy and enjoy all the said premises and to have the tithes and profits thereof, the said John Fletewood and others obstinately refuse to comply with his wishes.

Plaintiff therefore prays that a writ of Privy Seal may be directed to them commanding them to suffer him to enjoy and



occupy the said mansion house, &c., and to take all the said tithes, &c., or else to appear and make answer."

The answer of John Bolde.

"Defendant says he is not guilty of any riot or trespass.

The said Lawrence Waterward being parson of the said rectory, by indenture made between himself of the one part and the said John Fletewoodde of the other, dated 2nd January, I. Mary (1554), demised and to farm let the said rectory of North Melles and all manner of glebe lands, tithes, oblations, profits, &c., thereto belonging, to the said John, from the feast of Annunciation next ensuing for the term of three years, and so from three years to three years during the term of 21 years, he paying yearly for the same to the said Lawrence a yearly rent of £7 9s. 8d., by force whereof the said John Fletewood entered into the premises and so being thereof possessed by good assurance in the law, about the 26th day of September in this present year, sold all his estate, term and interest in the said parsonage, &c., to defendant, to hold for the number and term of years then to come, who by force thereof entered into the same.

Although plaintiff is parson there, yet the demise made to John Fletewood concerning the tithes belonging to the parsonage is good and available in the law for six years next after the deprivation of the said Lawrence without that that the defendant in riotous manner entered the said mansion house, &c., &c."

The replicaton of Peter Prescott, Clerk.

"The said Lawrence having been married before making the said lease, and then being deprived because of the marriage, the said lease or any other act by him done is of no avail."

**1554**—In this year one William Stoppefforth of Martyn [Martin Mere] claimed "twelve acres of meadow, with the

appurtenances called Baldemanyhokes *alias* the Wykes, lying in the parish of Northmeales," alleging that Thomas Gorsuche and Margaret his wife "were, in right of the said Margaret, seized in their demesne as of fee" of the meadow land, and had granted the same to complainant, "together with all the deeds, charters, &c., concerning the premises." But "of late divers of the said charters, &c., have come into the hands of John Bolde and Elizabeth his wife, by colour whereof Robert Wright, servant of the said John and Elizabeth, Percival Brekyll, Thomas Ball, Edmund Matthew, William Jump, Richard Ball the younger, Richard Ball the elder, Hugh Matthew and Edmund Ball, together with divers other riotous persons to plaintiff unknown, about the 27th day of June last, assembled at the said close of Baldemanyhokes and with 'stronge hand and multytude of men' did mow and cut down the grass and hay growing on the premises, and likewise accompanied by John Rymer, Robert Rymer, Thos. Copeland, William Haywarthe, John Nycawson, Christopher Blundell, Peres Rymer, Christopher Ball, Edmund Ball, Robert Matthew, Robert Wright of Blaywicke [Blowick], Peter Rymer of Byrkedale, and Peter Wynstanley of Byllynge, with forty others, gathered themselves together at the said meadow, on the 6th July, arrayed with swords, bucklers, daggers, &c., in warlike manner, some of them being 'layed and placed' in ambush, and carried away 100 loads of hay to the value of £50. The said John Bolde refuse either to give up the said deeds or to suffer plaintiff to enjoy the said premises: he therefore prays that a writ of Privy Seal, &c."

The answer of John Bolde.

"Defendant says that John Agheton, Esq., was seised in his demesne as of fee of the Manor of Northmeales, whereof the said 12 acres of meadow mentioned in the bill are parcel,

and so seised died without heirs of his body : after his death the premises descended to Elizabeth now wife of the defendant and to Anne now wife of Barnabe Kechyn, as sisters and heirs of John Agheton, by force whereof defendant and his wife and Barnabe and his wife entered into the premises. After a division was made, and the twelve acres of meadow were *inter alia* allotted to defendant and Elizabeth his wife to hold in severalty in recompence of other lands assigned to the said Barnabe and Anne."

Robert Wright, Percival Brekill, and the other defendants reply that the meadow was the "sole" freehold of John and Elizabeth Bolde, "whereof defendants as their servants very quietly carrying only such weapons as they always had with them for their work, went to the said meadow and in a peaceable manner cut the grass and hay."

The other defendants said the hay belonged to John Bolde and Elizabeth his wife, and they carried it in their carts and carriages to the mansion house of the said John in Northmeles.

Depositions were taken at Ormskirk on the 8th April, 1556, when all the defendants gave evidence, the labourers saying "they only carried 'sythes,' and their only purpose was to mow the grass, which was in danger of being injured by water; they certainly did not intend to fight with anybody who might prevent them from cutting the grass. There were about seven or eight carts or carriages to take away the hay, and there were two persons at least to each cart."

Nearly sixty witnesses were called by the different parties to the suit. The land in dispute appears to have been that mentioned in the "inquisition" *re* Hugh de Aghton [1464]. Evidence given in other actions appear to locate "Baldmany-

hokes" as lying between the "Snape" and Martin Mere, on the inland side of the road from Snape Green to North Meols, and now included in Scarisbrick Township. One of the witnesses, "John Ball of Meles, aged about 106 years," said that the lands in variance were always taken to be parcel of the manor and lordship of Northmeles. Witness had known seven lords of the manor of Northmeales during the last 100 years.

The Duchy Court decided that the question was one for the Common Law Courts to settle, and consequently ordered plaintiff to sue there for his remedy.

**1556**—April 13th. Henry Halsall of Halsall entered a complaint in the Duchy Courts, 2 and 3 Phil. and Mary, in which he claimed the Manor of Birkdale, which he, his father, and his grandfather had held for 61 years. But "divers deeds, &c., concerning the said premises have fallen into the hands of Edmonde Holme, gentleman, Richard Barton, Henry Richardson, Homfrey Barton, William Carre, and Thomas Lee, who by colour thereof on the 16th May, 1553, about one o'clock 'at after midnight,' accompanied by more than 100 malefactors and evil disposed persons to plaintiff unknown, riotously 'with harneys on their backes' and with bows, arrows, bills, swords, axes, and other weapons in their hands, assembled at Birkedale and unlawfully entered (at the command of the said Edmund Holme) a certain house and messuage, and about 600 acres of land commonly called Menedale, parcel of the said manor of Birkedale, pulled down the house, took and bound Thomas Rymor, plaintiff's tenant there, and 'settynge sharpe daggers and billes to his brest did manasse to slea and kyll him if he either moved or spoke, which so terrified him that he was in peril of his life for a long time afterwards.' Not content with that, they on the 20th October, 1553, and at divers times after, with force and

arms entered the said 600 acres of land and disturbed plaintiff's tenants and farmers so much that they could not take the profits thereof according to their right.

The answer of Edmond Holme and others.

"The said Edmond says he is seized of the manor of Anoldisdall and of eight stallages or fishyards parcel of the said manor, containing 800 acres of land or more, which said manor and stallages adjoin the said manor of Birkdall. The 800 acres of land here mentioned, and the 600 acres of land claimed by plaintiff, deponent supposes are one and the same. Richard Holme, father of defendant, held the land and took the profit for 13 years, and after his death defendant entered upon them until plaintiff made a pretended title thereto claiming them as parcel of the said Manor of Birkdall, whereas all the said Manor of Birkdall is within the parish of Mele, and the said Manor of Anoldisdall and the said stallages or fishyards are in the parish of Walton. Plaintiff then caused certain persons to set up a frame on a parcel of the 800 acres, intending probably to mak a little house there. When defendant heard this he commanded the rest of the defendants, being his servants, to go quietly in the day time to the said frame and to pull it down. Defendants say they went without weapons, except staves such as they use to walk with, and quietly pulled down the frame of the house."

The reply of Henry Halsall.

"There is no manor in Lancashire called Anoldesdale, but plaintiff has often heard it reported for a truth that there was a certain town in time past called Aynesdale near adjoining the said 600 acres of land called Meanedale, wherein the said Edmond Holme, one of the defendants, had certain lands or tenements; which said town time out of mind has been and still is 'overflowen' with the sea, so that there remains no remembrance thereof now."

The certificate of Myles Seddon and Robert Shawe,  
Commissioners to take evidence.

“We met at Byrkedale, 13th April, 1556, and examined witnesses on behalf of Henry Halsall. None of the defendants appeared before us on that day.”

Seven or eight witnesses were examined, the principal one being

Thomas Heskin of Downholland, gentleman, charterer to their Majesties of the Hospital of St. John of Jerusalem. He defined the boundaries of Birkdale: “they begin at a place called the Springwale, near to the demesne of Aynsdale, and from thence, following certain stoups to the Brownhill or Browne brante and so to the fawcone hawe, and so westward into the sea. The said Springwale stood directly head upon head ‘anenst’ Halsall windmill and Ormeskirke Church, and the said stoupes stood directly between the said Springwale and the sea.”

**1556**—December 23rd. The Rev. Thomas Stanley, Bishop of Sodor and Man, instituted as rector of North Meols on the death of Peter Prescot. John Fletewoode, Esq., presented as “true and originall patron.” This Stanley was “a man of many parts.” He was a son of the first Lord Monteagle, the hero of Flodden Field (“on, Stanley, on”), but in a King’s document he is described as “a bastard.” This seems likely, unless Lord Monteagle had two sons bearing the same Christian name, for the second Lord Monteagle was named Thomas. In 1542, on the death of Heskyn or “Black Leach,” Stanley was created Bishop of Sodor, but in 1545 he was deposed from the See for refusing to comply with the Act 33 Henry VIII., dissolving the diocese from the province of Canterbury, and attaching it to that of York. He was, however, restored in 1556. In addition to *North Meols* he also held the livings of Wigan and Winwick

in Lancashire, and Badsworth in the diocese of York—then three of the richest livings in England. About 1562 he wrote the earliest history of the Stanleys, Earls of Derby. It was in metrical verse, two copies being still extant in the British Museum, one amongst Cole's papers (vol. xxix. p. 104), and the other in the Harleian M.S.S. (541). The Bishop did not let the cares of his numerous offices weigh very heavily on him, for in 1564 we find Bishop Pilkington, of Durham, writing to the Archbishop of York, "the Bishop of Man liveth here [Durham] at his ease, as merry as Pope Joan." Under *Northmelis* in 1562 the Bishop is entered as "Ep'us Sodorem: rect," without any curates, though a little earlier Edmund Hodgson was still acting as curate. The bishop died in 1568.

**1560**—Barnaby Kechin sued John Bold, Robert Smythe, and William Warren, respecting a meadow called the "Shylds" and the fishery of a water called "Water Dyche." *Cal. of Pleadings Duchy of Lancaster*, 3 Eliz.

**1562**—February 20th. A deed was executed reciting that Birkdale belonged to Henry Halsall of Halsall, and Ann his wife. In the said deed all the estates (over twenty in number) were settled in remainder on nine persons in succession. Five of the nine were natural children of various members of the family.

**1563**—There were 1,000 communicants at Northmelis; the value of the parsonage was £80. "There was no preacher."

**1565**—An Irish vessel, wrecked off the coast, came ashore near the Old Pool and broke up. Her cargo was principally sugar and potatoes, which were washed up in large quantities. From this event came the name of Sugar Hillock, then a long bank not far above high water mark. The potatoes were utilised by the natives, large quantities being carried to Formby and Altcar. An ancient Scotch encyclopedia gives

this event as the introduction of the potato to England, "first grown at a place called the *Meales* in Lancashire."

- 1565**—8th Eliz. John Bold claimed (in right of his late wife, Elizabeth Bold) damages for trespass against Barnaby Kytchyn, William Matthewe, Hugh Haward, and other trespassers, for "closes of Demesne land called the 'Wykes,' with the ditches and fishing called the 'Wykes Ditch.'" *Cal. of Pleadings Duchy of Lancaster*, vol. 2, p. 184.
- 1567**—John Bold of *North Meols* and William Patten had the advowson of Preston Parish Church, to which they presented Leonard de Chorley.
- 1568**—June 18th. Peter Clayton, rector of *North Meols*, compounded for "first fruits and tenths," on his appointment, *vice* Bishop Stanley, deceased.
- 1571**—The parish church of St. Cuthbert re-built of stone.
- 1572**—September 4th. Nicholas Danyell instituted vicar of Preston on the presentation of John Bold of *North Meols*.
- 1574**—In the "Muster Roll" of Soldiers for Lancashire this year, Barnaby Kytchine and John Bold, of *North Meols*, were each ordered to provide seven men.
- 1577**—About this time the persecution of Catholics was at its height, and *North Meols* appears to have been a favourite hiding place for "recusants." There is evidence of this in the fact that when Queen Elizabeth's ministers ordered all clergymen to make return of the number of communicants in their parishes, the Rector of *North Meols* gave the number for his Church at 501, a number that must have been far in excess of the whole normal population at the time. At this period we first find members of the Hesketh family resident at Meols Hall. They had evidently come there in hiding, for their place of residence and estates were at



Aughton. Everybody, in travelling through Lancashire, seems to have adopted the plan followed by Leland and Camden, keeping to the high roads, travelling from Liverpool to Formby, and then crossing to Ormskirk, or *vice versa*, leaving this corner then adjoining the great lake, called Martin Mere, unexplored. But on November 10th, 1577, we find the Bishop of Chester supplying a certificate of recusants, in which he includes "John Sotheworthe of Samesburie, Knight, and dame Marie his weif; Thomas Sotheworthe, sonne and heire apparent to the said John Sotheworthe, Knight; Bartholomew Hesketh\* of Aughton, Gent., and [Jane] his weif, being daughter to the said John Sotheworthe, Knight." Mrs. Hesketh at this time went regularly from Meols Hall to Churchtown to hear Mass, which was celebrated by the Rev. Dominic Halsall, a Cistercian monk. Edmund Campion the Jesuit, the "Prince of Martyrs," who was executed at Tyburn, Dec. 1st, 1581, confessed, under the rack, that he had been entertained in Lancashire by Sir John Southworth, Mr. Bartholomew Hesketh and others. He was at Meols Hall between Easter and Whitsuntide, 1580.

**1579**—Richard Bold of *North Meols* and Bold was this year High Sheriff of the County. He was strongly suspected of being "ill disposed in religion," and many reports were made against him by informers; but there is no record of his having been either fined or had any levy made upon him. During his term of office he appears to have petitioned strongly against the measures pursued in Lancashire, and particularly as to the hardship of the levy of 8d. per week, which had been laid on each parish, to support poor recusants in the New Fleet at Manchester. He was, however, unsuccessful. In

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\* This Bartholomew Hesketh is described as a natural son of William Hesketh Esq., of Rufford.

1582 he married Jane, daughter of William Morley, of Oakley, Bedfordshire. This lady is referred to in a subsequent page [*vide* A.D. 1612].

**1580**—Birkdale at this period was in the possession of Elizabeth Halsall.

**1584**—Letter from Sir Francis Walsingham to William Chaderton, Lord Bishop of Chester, desiring him to cause Mr. Bartholomew Hesketh's wife (a busy recusant) to be apprehended; and to enquire what may be the reason why Sir John Southworth is minded to disinherit his son, that care may be taken to prevent his so doing:

“ 1. After my hartie comendation to your Lordship,

2. My Lords of Her Majesties Councell being enformed of the bad Disposition of the Wyfe of *Bartholomewe Heskyns* within your Diocese, and howe she dothe much Hurte in beinge at Libertie to go (as she useth to doe) where she will amongst recusants and like persons;

3. Their Lordships have willed mee to signifie unto you that their pleasure is, you doe apprehend the sayd wiffe of Heskyns and comitt her; according to such order and Direction as my verie Good Lord the Erle of Derby shall in this Behalf nowe send to your Lordship.

4. And moreover whereas my Lords be likewise enformed that Sir John Southworth hath a purpose to disinherit his eldest Sonne, only because the young gentleman as is sayd, is not ill affected (like the father) but well given in religion; and to dispose his Lands upon some other, his children.

5. Their Lordships would have you inquier and learne what you can of this Purpose of Sir John, and to certify hither as you shall understand thereof; to thend that in case the bad Father have so ill a meanyge towards his eldest and best

Soon, some Order, by their Lordship's means, may be taken for to stay his purpose, and to preserve the inheritaunce to his right Heire.

6. And soe I comend your Lordship most hartely to God.

From the Court at Greenwich the second of Maie, 1584.

Your Lordship's Assured Loving friend,

Bushopp of Chester.

FRA. WALSINGHAM.

The "eldest and best soon" named above was the same who had been returned as ill-affected, by the Bishop, a few years earlier. Mrs. Hesketh was taken from Meols Hall on this Order, and confined in the New Fleet at Manchester, where her father was also a prisoner.

**1587**—John Fleetwood, Esq., of Penwortham, High Sheriff.

**1588**—Mr. Bartholomew Hesketh's brother, Thomas, was a successful lawyer, and this year became a bencher and reader of Gray's Inn, and about the same time he purchased an estate at Heslington in Yorkshire.

**1589**—February 20th. Subscriptions "by way of loan for the purpose of resisting to the utmost the Advance of the Spanish Armada." *Northmeales*, Richard Bold, Armiger, £25; John Fletewood, Ar., £25; Barnabie Kitchen, Ar., £25. Oliver Rymer was one of the Churchwardens.

**1590**—John Bold, Lord of the Manor, died and was succeeded by his son Richard, who had been High Sheriff in 1579.

**1591**—May 5th. The Rev. John Hill nominated rector, in succession to Peter Clayton, on the presentation of John Fletewood, Armiger, patron. He is recorded to have been "a preacher." He gave bond for "first-fruits and tenths" on the 24th August, having been instituted on June 23rd.

**1592**—At the “Visitation” of 1592, there is entered in the Diocesan Register:—

“Northmeales. Against *Ralph Cleaton and Stephen Cleyton, executors of the will of the last rector there*:—To reparaire the Chancell ruined in his time. *Excommunicated.*” (For non-appearance). (later). “The Church in reparaire. Ytt appeareth the Chancell is reparaired by the Executors sins the presentment, and farther by the relations of Mr. Wierden. [Sentence of excommunication recalled.] Against the Wardens: The Churchyard wanteth reparation, they wante a bible and Communion book. *Excommunicated* (for non-appearance).

—————“Mr. Bartholomew Hesketh, of the New Hall, hath kept for sondrie yeares now together, one Gabriell Shawe, to be his schoolmaster, which Shawe is most malitious against true-hearted subjects.” *Lancashire Calender.*

**1593**—A wooden tablet in the old schools at Churchtown, bore this inscription:—“1593. Edward Halsall, Esq., endowed a Grammar School, &c., with 20 marks per annum for ever, from lands in Eccleston, Sutton, and Ditton.” Edward Halsall was the son of Sir Henry Halsall, knight, by his wife Margaret, daughter of James Stanley, Bishop of Ely. He was Chamberlain of the Exchequer at Chester; Recorder of Liverpool 1572, and Mayor of the latter city in 1579 and 1586.

**1594**—The oldest existing registers at the Parish Church of St. Cuthbert commence this year. There are recorded four baptisms, but no burials or deaths during 1594.

**1595**—May 23rd. Robert Bamforde, rector, compounded for “first-fruits and tenths” on appointment.

**1598**—Henry Bold of *North Meales*, gentleman, assessed for Her Majesty’s service in Ireland, for recusancy, v. li. (£5).

**1600**—March 21st. Robert Bamforde, rector, resigned. Rev. Matthew Ffrench presented to the living by Richard Fletewode, April 21st. He compounded for “first-fruits and tenths,” June 9th. During this year there were entered five baptisms, five marriages, and one burial.

—————A list of Lancashire freeholders for this year includes

Ricus Bold de Bold, Ar.

— Scaresbrecke de Scaresbrecke, Ar.

Barthus Hesketh de Aighton, Ar.

Johes Bold de *Northmeales*, Ar.

Barnabas Kitchen de *Northmeales*, Ar.

Ricus Fleetwood de Penworthame, Ar.

Ricus Fformby de formeby, gen.

**1601**—January 14th. Buried at Churchtown, John Boulde, Esq., one of the Lords of the Manor.

—————August 22nd. Baptised Jane and Julian, daughters of Richard Ashton, gent. Mrs. Ashton was the second daughter of Barnaby Kytchine. One of these children, Julian, was buried June 25th, 1602.

**1603**—Peck, the antiquary and historian, who flourished at the beginning of the eighteenth century, thus writes of *North Meols* in the days of Queen Elizabeth:—“*North Meols Bank*: This bank, a long, shelving, and sandy flat, is upon the Lancashire coast, nearly 20 miles north of Liverpool, and is about half that distance from the Burbo Bank. The beach is plain, open, and level, and at this time is much used for sea-bathing; though in Elizabeth’s reign there was scarcely a house to be seen, unless we should dignify with that appellation a few straggling cabins that had been thrown up by fishermen who frequented the coast of *North Meols* during the fishing season, and which were formerly loose logs of wood patched over with turf and thatched with rushes that grew in the neighbourhood. The coast as it retires inland

consists of a chain of barren sandhills, which are holden together by the sea-matweed, and were probably then used as a rabbit warren. The people were totally rude and unlettered in these parts; but the clergy were even in those days extremely desirous of imparting religious knowledge. The Sephton, Lydiate, and Halsall clerks were most assiduous in giving information to the hinds of that quarter, and appointed Church-Town as their rendezvous at Easter and Whitsuntide for the purpose of giving instruction."

**1603**—July 7th. Died Barnaby Kytchine. "Inquisition taken at Preston in Amoundernes 10 Sept., 2, James [1604], before Robert Hesketh, Esq., Edward Leghe, Esq., Escheator, and Roger Downes, Feodary and a Jury, who say: Barnaby Kytchine and Anne his wife, one of the sisters and co-heirs of John Aighton, of *North Meales*, Esq., deceased, were seized in her right of a moiety of the Manor of *North Meales*, and a dovehouse, a watermill, a windmill, 100 messuages, 40 cottages, 140 gardens, 140 orchards, 1,000 acres of land, 500 acres of meadow, 1,000 acres of pasture, 1,000 acres of turbarry, 100 acres of wood, 1,000 acres of land covered with water, and their several appurtenances in *North Meales*, Barton by Halsall, Thistleton, Formebie, and Cornarowe, in the county of Lancaster. So being seized they had issue Alice, now wife of Hugh Hesketh, of *North Meales*, Esquire; and Anne Kytchine died at *North Meales* 8th Aug. 14 Eliz. [1572], and Barnaby continued to hold the premises for life as tenant by the law of England, up to the 7th July, 1 James [1603], when he died at *North Meales*; the reversion thereof belonging to Hugh Hesketh and Alice his wife; and to the heirs of Alice, who is sole daughter and heir of Anne Kytchine. Barnaby was also seized in fee of the Manor of Pillinge, *alias* Pilline, Garstang, Cockerhame, and Ellel. \* \* \* \* He being so seized 20 Jany. 42 Eliz. [1599-1600] enfeoffed of a 3rd part of

the premises (Ulckricke Meadow in Pilling excepted), the said Hugh Hesketh and Alice his wife, to them and their heirs to the use of himself for life, and after his decease to the use of the said Alice Hesketh and the heirs of her body." Barnaby Kytchine also left two daughters by a subsequent marriage, Anne, wife of Richard Ashton, of Croston, gentleman; and Elizabeth, wife of Nathaniel Bannester, of Altham. The remaining two-thirds of the Manor of Pilling, &c., was left, one moiety to each of the said younger daughters of Barnaby, with remainder to each other and "for default to Edmund Balle, son of John Balle, of *North Meales*, and Dorothy, his late wife, for life." \* \* \* \* "The moiety of the Manor and other premises in *North Meales* are held of the King as of his Duchy of Lancaster, by the 24th part of a knight's fee, and are worth per annum (clear) £5. The messuages in Barton, near Halsall, are held of Thomas Irelande, Esq., as of his Manor of Warrington by the 12th part of a knight's fee, and are worth (clear) 40s." \* \* \* \* During the lifetime of the said Barnaby, the said Alice was married to Hugh Hesketh,\* Anne to Richard Ashton, and Elizabeth to Nathaniel Bannester at *North Meales*, and there (as above said) the same Barnaby died 7 July, 1 James [1603] leaving his daughters and co-heirs Alice Hesketh, aged 50, Anne Ashton, aged 22, and Elizabeth Bannester, aged 17, and more at the date of this inquisition." [Nicholas Bannester, of Altham, died 20 August, 10 James [1612], and was succeeded by his son Nathaniel, aged at the date of the inquisition [13 April, 1613] 31 years and six months]. The second wife of Barnaby Kytchine was Alice, widow of William Forshaw, gentleman.

**1607-8**—January 10. Buried "Nicholas Bamford, clerk."

**1608-9**—January 24th. Buried Elizabeth, wife of Matthew Ffrench, rector of *North Meols*.

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\* This Hugh Hesketh was a natural son of Sir Thomas Hesketh, of Rufford.

**1612**—September 12. Buried at North Meols, Thomas Bould, miles. “Inquisition taken at Wigan, 30 Aug., 11 James [1613] before Edward Rigbie, Esq., Escheator, after the death of Sir Thomas Bould, knight. The jurors say “ that the said Thomas Bould, by the grant of one Richard Bould, of Bould, Esq., now deceased, was seized in freehold for life of the Manors of Bolde, Burtonwoodde, Sutton, Great Sonkie and *North Meales*, with remainder to his eldest and other (up to ten) sons successively in tail male. \* \* \* \* Thomas Bould had power to assign at any time by deed lands out of the premises (except that portion limited to the use of one Jane Bould) to any woman he might hereafter marry, to hold for her life as jointure. He being so seized of the premises with remainder and reversion as aforesaid, lawfully married Bridget Norres, daughter of William Norres, Knight of the Bath, and afterwards by deed dated 13 Sept., 5 James [1607], according to the power reserved to him, assigned to Bridget Bould, then his wife, the Manor of *North Meales* and other messuages, lands, &c., in *North Meales* and *Hoole* to hold for her life as jointure; which manor, etc., were not any parcel of the premises before excepted as limited to the use of Jane Bould. \* \* \* \* The Manor, &c., in *North Meales* are held of the King as of his Duchy of Lancaster by the 24th part of a Knight’s fee, and are worth per annum (clear) £6. \* \* \* \* Thomas Bould, Knight, died 3 Sept. 10 James [1612] without any heir of his body lawfully begotten and without any heir to himself, being a bastard son of the aforesaid Richard Bould, Esq., deceased. Bridget, his late wife, yet survives at *North Meales*. Richard Bould, Esq. [the next heir] is aged at the time of taking this inquisition 23 years and more.”

————James Bradshaw, curate of North Meols. Very few of the rectors have resided in the parish, for nearly all the entries in the registers are made by the curates.



- 1613**—Instruction to Justices of Peace: "Item.—That ye said Justices in their sev'all hundrethes and divisions shall cause publique warninge to be given in all Churches and Chapels, that the parsons, ministers, and churchwardens shall wi<sup>th</sup>n xx daies after Easter next, by virtue of their oath, make a true p'sentm't unto the saide Justices of all p'sons w<sup>th</sup>in their p'ishes above the age of xvi yeares that have not com'unicated within the space of one yeare then last past."
- 1615**—January 25th. Buried Matthew Ffrench, rector of *North Meales*. His death seems to have been anticipated, for the day after his funeral, viz., on January 26th, Henry Wright was appointed on the presentation of Richard Fleetwood. He compounded for "first-fruits and tenths" on Feby. 3rd.
- 1618**—October 21st. Buried Alice *uxor* Hugh Hesketh, aged 55. This was the first lady of the manor bearing the name of Hesketh.
- 1620**—This year the clergy were called upon by the King for a subsidy made to the Barō of Dono for the use of Count Palatine of the Rhine, the King's son-in-law. Bishop Bridgeman, in his private ledger, says, "The totall loane of the clergy in the Dioces of Chester is five hundreth marks, besides Manchester Church sent up for their parts xxx li. to Dr. Murrey, in toto 306. 06. 08." Mr. Wright, "p'son of *Northmeales*," contributed £1 4s. 6d.
- 1622**—February. "Subsidy to the King towards the recovery of the Palatinate." The Bishop in his note-book says, "Rector de *Northmeales* nil—Mr. Gee hath it—item, Mr. Gee paid Edw. Lloyd for *Northmeales* 26s. 8d."
- 1624**—Subsidy (to the King) from the clergy "Rector *Northmeales*, Mr. Wright £1 8s. 0d."
- 1625**—March 30th. Buried Hugh Hesketh, Esq., aged 81, Lord of the Manor of *North Meales*. He was succeeded by his son Thomas.

**1628**—By statute 6 Edward 1 [1278] all persons possessing an income of £20 per annum were considered worthy of knighthood, and in the thirteenth and fourteenth centuries everyone who held a knight's fee and was of age was liable to be summoned to accept the order of knighthood, or else pay a fine to the King. In the fifteenth century, in the reign of Henry VI., the annual income of those worthy of knighthood was raised to £40. James I. did not trouble himself on the matter, but when Charles I. was crowned [Feb. 2nd, 1625-6] the usual proclamations were made, calling on all persons worth £40 a year to take up their knighthood. Many persons neglected to do so—the journey to London was expensive, and the fees amounted to over £60. On the 29th May a commission was issued to assess the fines of those who had not taken up their knighthood. The Lancashire list of defaulters is very large, and includes the following gentlemen of this neighbourhood, who were fined the sums named, viz. :—Edw. Scaresbrecke, of Scaresbrecke, Esq., xij li. vjs. viijd. \*Bartholomew Hesketh, of Aughton [and *Northmeols*], Esq., x li. Robert Blundell, of Ince, Esq., xxv li. (erased in list). John Fleetwood, of Penwortham, Esq., xij li. vjs. viijd. Richard Bold, of Bold, Esq., xxx li. \*William Hodgkinson, of Heskethbancke, gent., xli.

Those marked with an \* did not pay their fines, though ordered to do so. In 1630 a second commission was sent down to Lancashire, and Mr. Hodgkinson is returned as having then paid his fine.

**1632**—This year Robert Blundell, of Ince, bought "Ren-acres" from Sir Cuthbert Halsall, having two years earlier purchased the manors of Birkdale, Meanedale, and Ainsdale from Sir Cuthbert. Downholland and Halsall had been purchased by the Gerards, Earls of Macclesfield, and very

soon disputes arose respecting the boundaries of the several parishes, and lawsuits ensued, which lasted several generations (*vide* 1662).

**1634**—March 13th. Baptised, Robert, son of Robert Hesketh, Esq.

**1634-5-6**—During these three years three subsidies from the clergy of the diocese were collected towards the repair of St. Paul's Cathedral. The accounts show "Rector *Northmeales*, Hen. Wright, pd. 13s. 4d."

**1635**—At this time Richard Bold, Esq., was in possession of a list of deeds from which it appears that Hugh Bussel, Baron of Penwortham, in the time of Richard I., granted to Richard Fitz Utred "*totas Normoles*" with all their rights members and appurtenances, and that John Earl of Morton, afterwards King John, confirmed the grant. Hugh Bussel, in the reign of John, conveyed his barony of Penwortham to Roger de Lacy, Constable of Chester, and by a deed existing amongst the Bold evidences of title John de Lacy, Constable of Chester, gave to Robert de Coudray, a successor in title of Hugh Bussel's grantee Richard Fitz Utred, "All the town of *Melys* with its mills and appurtenances as freely and fully as they were at any time in his hand with free fisheries and other appurtenances," to hold by the service of the eighth part of a knight's fee. There is an extract of this grant in the Harleian MS. (2063).

**1635-6**—Assessment of the clergy for ship money "*Northmeales*, Mr. Wright, rector, 35s., ob. (Sefton was assessed at £5 5s. 5d., Halsall £5 5s. 5d., and Aughton 20s.)

**1636**—Died, aged 47, Richard Bold, Esq., one of the Lords of the Manor.

**1636**—In the Bodleian Library at Oxford is a MS. Itinerary of Lancashire, written in 1636 by the Rev. Richard James, D.D., Fellow of Corpus Christi College. Having reached this neighbourhood, the Rev. Doctor writes:—

“ Let us varie sportes  
 Whoe are at leasure and seek niew resortes  
 For recreation. Ormeschurch and ye Meales  
 Are our next jorney. We direct no weales  
 Of state to hinder our delight. Ye guize  
 Of those chaffe sands which doe in mountaines rize  
 On Shore is pleasure to behold, which Hoes  
 Are called in Worold; windie tempest blowes  
 Them up in heapes; ’tis past intelligence  
 With me how seas do reverence  
 Vpon ye Sands; but sands and beach and peobles are  
 Cast up by rowling of ye waves a ware  
 To make against their deluge, Since the larke  
 And sheep within feede lower than ye marke  
 Of each high flood. Heere through ye wasshie Sholes  
 We spye an owld man wading for ye soles  
 And flukes and rayes, which the last morning tide  
 Had stayd in nets, or did at Anchor ride  
 Vpon his hooks; him we fetch up and then  
 To our goodmorrow, “ Welcomme gentlemen ”  
 He sayed, and more, “ You gentlemen at ease  
 Whoe money have and goe where ere you please  
 Are never quiett; wearye of ye day  
 You now comme hither to drive time away;  
 Must time be driven? longest day with us  
 Shutts in too soon, as never tedious  
 Vnto our buisnesse; making, mending nett,  
 Preparing hooks and baits wherewith to gett  
 Cod, whiting, place, vppon ye sandie shelves

Wherewith to feede ye markett and our selves.”  
 Happie ould blade, who in his youth had binne  
 Roving at Sea, where Essex \*Cales did winne  
 So now he lives. If any †Bushell will  
 Live west the world, withoute projecting skill  
 Of Ermitage, he shall not need to seek  
 In rocks, or Calve of Man, an ember weeke,  
 Heere at ye desert Meales he may, unknowne  
 Bread by his own paines getting, live alone  
 Without a ‡Callott or a Page to dress  
 Or bring bought meate unto his holiness.  
 But haste we back to Ormeskircke, least, I feare  
 Our friends depart and leave us in ye reare.

**1638-9**—January 29th. Buried “Henry Wright, Parson of *North Meales*.” On March 22nd, John Fleetwood was instituted by King Charles I., though a note written in the parish register reads, “James Starkie, rector, 1638, *in absentia ejus*, John Crellin sub-rector.”

**1640**—March 18th. James Starkie instituted rector on the presentation of King Charles I. This gentleman seems to have been a veritable “Vicar of Bray.” He was a pluralist, for in the first year of his rectorship, when the King called for a subsidy from the clergy to assist him in the wars against the Scots, Mr. Starkie contributed £1 12s. od. as rector of *North Meales* and £3 as vicar of Preston. Though he had been appointed by King Charles, he in 1648 and 1649 attended the “Lancashire Assembly of Divines” at Preston, the lay representatives of this parish being “James Moss, of Cross-ends, gentleman, and William Watkinson, of Blowick, yeoman.” But in 1662 Mr. Starkie must have obeyed the

\* Cales—Cadiz.

† Bushell—A Manx Hermit of James I. time.

‡ Callot—A serving-wench.

"Act of Uniformity," for he retained his office up to his death in the last year of the reign of Charles II.

**1641**—Died Edward Gorsuch, described in the inquisition as "seized of lands in *North Meales*." The Gorsuches were a branch of the Scarisbrick family, "Adam de Gosefordische," son of Walter de Scaresbrecke, being alive in 1189. Gorsuch Hall was about midway between Scarisbrick and Halsall, and was burnt down about 1816. This family in all old deeds is included amongst the "lesser gentry."

—————List of recusants over xvi. and noncommunicants over xxi. years, each of whom was charged with the payment of xvid Pole for the Subsidy to the King:—

Northmeales Parish.

Ellin uxor Thomas Hesketh, Esq., xvid.

William Hesketh, Gent., xvid.

Robert Hesketh, Gent., xvid.

Margerie Brekill, widow, xvid.

Elizabeth ux' Gabrill Gill, xvid.

Alice ux' Robert Wright, xvid.

Elizabeth Wrighte, widow, xvid.

**1644**—July 11th. Administration of the estate of William Hesketh (who was baptised Sept. 30th, 1616) granted to Anne Hesketh, his widow, William Hesketh having been killed on the battlefield. As he had died in the service of the King his estates were sequestrated, and many attempts were made to set aside the sequestration.

When Hugh Hesketh died in 1625 his son Thomas succeeded, though a younger son Robert appears to have had an annual rent charge of £5 on the estate for his own life. Thomas Hesketh, by deed, dated 17th September, 1642, "for the consideration therein mentioned" conveyed "all his manors in Lancashire" to his son William and his heirs, reserving annual rent charges of £30 for himself, £30 for his

wife Elin, for her life, to his younger sons, Hugh £3 6s. 8d., Edmund, John and Richard, each £6 13s. 4d., during the lifetime of their father. But William joined the Royalist Army and was killed in battle. He had married Anne, daughter of Thomas Gillebrand, of Chorley, but left no male issue. His estates were sequestrated as a consequence of his delinquency, and his widow was soon re-married. Her second husband, Richard Girlington, of Stanworth (Leyland), also forfeited his estates for "treason to the Commonwealth."

In consequence of the sequestration of the estate, the father, brothers, and uncle of William Hesketh were all in needy circumstances, and they petitioned for a restoration, but the legal machinery moved very slowly. Robert Hesketh petitioned as brother and next heir on March 17th, 1650, and said "the estates before the trouble were worth £110." Another petition (23 January, 1652) showed that four years earlier he had petitioned the then Committee of Lords and Commons, and set forth his right and title to a moiety of the Manors of North Meols and Pilling which had been, and was at the date of this petition, under sequestration for the recusancy or pretended delinquency of William Hesketh, petitioner's brother, and upon that petition he prayed that his title might be taken into consideration, and that the deed of entail of the said lands being in the custody of Anne Hesketh, relict of the said William, might be produced whereby the truth of the premises might appear; which petition had been referred by their Lordships to the then (1651) late Committee of the County to examine and certify the true state of the case. An order was granted as prayed for, and the matter referred to Mr. Reading.

Gilbert Mabbott, gentleman, guardian to, and on behalf of Ann, daughter and heir of William Hesketh, gentleman, deceased, presented a petition which disclosed that the said

William was seized of the moiety of the Manor of North Meales and of the Manor of Pilling, and all the messuages belonging to them. He so settled them that he had only a life interest in them. That in antecedent proceedings Petitioner's right had been allowed by the Commissioners for Removing Obstructions, and the documents were then ready to be reported. So he prayed for an order to receive the rents until the cause was decided. 25 October, 1653.

Order granted. Petitioner to receive the rents for six weeks. Case to be heard a month from that day. If petitioner did not produce to the Commissioners below an allowance of his title, the Commissioners were to re-demand the rents and profits so received, and proceed to levy the same.

After reviewing the points in the case, Mr. Reading submitted (1 Nov., 1653) that the sequestration should be discharged.

Mr. Reading, on 5 June, 1654, made a report, based on an order of 22 June, 1652, on a petition of Hugh Hesketh, gent., of North Meales, desiring an allowance of an annuity of £5 issuing and payable to petitioner during the life of Robert Hesketh, his uncle, out of the estates of William Hesketh, a delinquent, in North Meols, Barton near Halsall, and Thistleton, in the County of Lancaster.

He found that by an indenture dated the 6th October in the second year of King James (1604), made between Hugh Hesketh, Esq., petitioner's grandfather, and Alice his wife, of the one part, and Robert Hesketh, one of their younger sons, of the other part, reciting that the said Hugh and Alice had by fine conveyed the manors of North Meols, Barton and Thistleton, &c., to Thomas Hesketh and Richard Asheton and their heirs, to certain uses contained in an indenture dated in the month of July 34 Elizabeth (1592), wherein



(amongst other things) is mentioned that it should be lawful for the said Hugh and Alice, by their last will or by any other deed lawfully executed, to convey out of the said manors, &c., such annuity, or annuities, unto all or any of their younger sons, as to the said Hugh and Alice or to the survivor of them, should be thought meet, so that the said annuity should not exceed £5, and the same to be granted only for the life of such younger sons, and the said Hugh and Alice for the better preferment of the said Robert Hesketh according to the purport of the said fine and indenture granted to him an annuity of £5 to have and to hold for his life.

John Watkinson, Greetly Hill, Burscough, yeoman, one of the witnesses to the indenture, proved the sealing and delivery thereof on or about the day of the date thereof; and further that Nicholas Bamford, William Watson, and Roger Worthington, three of the witnesses, were then dead, but he saw them sign their names as witnesses thereof.

He (Mr. Reading) also found by indenture in paper dated 25 August, 1645, made between Robert Hesketh, gent., of the one part, and Hugh Hesketh, gent., of the other part, reciting the aforesaid indenture, the said Robert Hesketh, for good considerations him moving, assigned to petitioner the said annuity.

Thomas Hodges, of North Meols, yeoman, one of the witnesses to the indenture, proved that the said Robert Hesketh was then living, and that the said indenture was sealed and delivered on or about the date thereof. Examined further on December 21, 1653, witness said that he knew Robert Hesketh, who was younger brother of Thomas Hesketh and son of Hugh Hesketh, then deceased, and that the said Robert was living on the 18th December, but was so old as not to be able to travel above five miles from his place of abode without great danger to his life.

Robert Hesketh, of Northmeales, gent., sworn before the Lancashire Commissioners 26 August, 1652, deposed to the same effect, as to the sealing and delivery.

Robert Hesketh, of Rufford, being, as he (Mr. Reading) supposed, the grantee of the said rent charge, had deposed that he had not released his interest of and in the said annuity, save that he had assigned the same to his nephew (petitioner), and that he knew nothing either in law or in equity whereby petitioner should be debarred from receiving the said annuity.

James Starkie, rector of North Meols, deposed that he knew Thomas Hesketh, son of Hugh and Alice, who had granted the annuity to Robert, one of their younger sons; and he knew Thomas was entirely reputed and taken to be Lord and owner of the said Manors, &c., and that William Hesketh, of North Meales, was son and heir of Thomas Hesketh, who was son and heir to Hugh Hesketh aforesaid, and that Thomas Hesketh, upon a marriage between William his son and Ann the daughter of Thomas Gillibrand, did convey his lands in North Meales and Pilling unto the said William his son and heir, and he (William) did covenant to pay out of the premises several annuities, among them the £5 to Robert, who was son of Hugh Hesketh aforesaid. In cross-examination, witness declared it his belief that the said annuity of £5 was due to the said Robert or his assigns yearly, and he believed the cause why it was not paid was that the lands out of which it issued had been sequestered for the delinquency of William Hesketh.

Emme wife of Edmond Hesketh (of Hesketh Bank) deposed to the like effect, and further that the said William became possessed of the premises and paid the annuities,

among them that for £5, until he became a delinquent. She also deposed to knowing Robert son of Hugh deceased, and that Robert was then living.

He (Mr. Reading) also found that William Hesketh, out of whose lands the said £5 was granted, had been inserted in the original Act for sale of lands forfeited for treason, and that the said annuity had on the 27 January, 1653-4, been allowed by the Commissioners for Removing Obstructions.

A communication dated "Preston, 6th September, 1652," signed by Robert Cunliffe and G. Pigott, certified that the lands out of which the annuity issued had been sequestered in 1643 for the popery and delinquency of Mrs. Hesketh, then late of North Meales.

Out of this matter, another petition appears amongst the State Papers. In it Edmund Werden, of Preston, gent., said that Thomas Hesketh, of the *Meales*, owing to petitioner £350, he (petitioner) noticing that other creditors had obtained judgments against Thomas Hesketh for amounts due, to protect himself obtained a lease of Mr. Hesketh's property in Meales and Pilling, and, in virtue of the lease, had before 1642 received the sum of £300 only. The troubles of the nation ensued, and petitioner had been several times plundered by the enemy for his true and faithful services to Parliament, and had his said lease and other writings taken from him, and was even "outed" of his possession of the said lands by William, son and heir-apparent of the said Thomas Hesketh. The lands were subsequently sequestrated for the delinquency of the said William (who was, at the time these proceedings were taken, dead) and the profits allocated to the use of the State notwithstanding that petitioner had, to the date of petition, regularly paid into the Court of Exchequer the reserved rent.

He therefore prayed that they would afford him the benefit of the said lease then in being, or else afford him full recompense for what had been taken from him, out of the estate.

The Court referred the matter to Mr. Reading and the Commissioners.

**1649**—January 10th. A deed of partition executed, by which the Hall and demesne of Pilling was divided into three parts, Thomas and Robert Hesketh, sons of Hugh Hesketh, of *North Meales*, deceased, taking one part, one third going to Richard Banastre, and the remaining third to Richard Ashton.

**1656**—January 12. Died, aged 82, Robert Blundell, Esq., of Ince-Blundell, Lord of the Manor of Birkdale. He was succeeded by his son Henry, born 1633, who married Bridget, daughter of General Sir Thomas Tildesley, who fell in battle at Wigan Lane, 1651.

**1662**—January 26th. One of the trials in connection with Birkdale. Mr. Henry Blundell claimed the wreckage, &c., on the coast of Birkdale, calling a large number of witnesses in support of his claim.

“William Norrys, of Aynsdale, yeoman, aged 81 years, or  
 “thereabouts, said he had lived as servant or bayliff unto Sir  
 “Cuthbert Halsall 24 yeares together, then lorde and owner  
 “of fformby, Aynsdale, and Birkdale, during all which tyme  
 “all the shippwreck that was cast upp, as namely butter and  
 “sundry other things, was brought to Sir Cuthbert’s Mannor  
 “House and there delivered, and when any masts, planks, or  
 “any other such things were cast upp this deponent sould the  
 “same by the direction of Sir Cuthbert, and delivered him  
 “the money. This deponent was afterwards 24 yeares in the  
 “service of Mr. Robert Blundell, and continued to seize on  
 “the wreckage, &c., for his said master. About 20 yeares  
 “before there was cast upp a sturgeon, which witness took to  
 “Mr. Blundell. During his 48 yeares service, or during his

“ memory, he did never know or hear that anyone demanded,  
“ shewed title, or had, any shippwreck but only Sir Cuthbert  
“ and Mr. Blundell.

“ Richard Rymer, aged 91, yeoman, blynd, said he had  
“ known the seashore 70 yeares or more, and during all that  
“ time all shippwreck, &c., was seized and disposed off by Sir  
“ Cuthbert and afterwards by Mr. Blundell and his sonn.

“ James Balshaw, of Birkdale, aged 68, said that his father  
“ lived as servant to Sir Cuthbert Halsall, finding his house in  
“ rabbits, ffish, and foules. About 50 yeares sithence there  
“ was cast ashore, near Birkdale, a sale yard from a shipp,  
“ of eleven yards in length at the least, also a ywal called a  
“ bolster tree, and the said Sir Cuthbert having notice of, sent  
“ word from Halsall by his officers to take the sale yard (and  
“ brls. oil) from the shore and laye it at the house syde of  
“ this deponent, where it laye neare two yeares together, and  
“ then caused the tree to be brought to his house at Halsall,  
“ and afterwards he sold the sale yard to one Mr. Bartholomew  
“ Hesketh, who had then a shipp at sea.

“ John Rymer, of Birkdale, aged 74, gave evidence to a  
“ similar effect.

“ Thomes Rymer, of Birkdale, aged 74 years, said that he  
“ and his brother William found on the seashore at Birkdale a  
“ porpose, which they carried to a place called Sorwick (where  
“ the said Sir Cuthbert then lived), and there shewed the  
“ same unto him (he, the said Sir Cuthbert, being then in  
“ bedd), who gave order to this deponent to leave the same.  
“ And further sayeth that after Robert Blundell, of Ince-  
“ Blundell, Esq., deceased, had purchased the mannors of  
“ fformby, etc., the deponent carried a porpose to Ince-  
“ Blundell, and also a barrell of tallow, which was cast upp on  
“ the shore in Birkdale, and because the porpose was taken in  
“ a nett, he (the said Mr. Blundell) declared that the porpose

“ did not belong unto him, but to this examitant, whereupon  
“ the said Mr. Blundell gave order that he should leave the  
“ tallow and take back the porpose.

“ Nicholas Stevenson, of Birkdale, aged 54 yeares and  
“ upwards, sayeth there has byn cast upon the shore within  
“ the said mannors or townships sundry ffyshes ryall as  
“ namely a shirk, a seale, and several porposes, and that all  
“ the same were employed and disposed off by the owner of  
“ the said mannors, who has sent severall pieces or parcels to  
“ sundry friends and neighbors (as merely due to courtesy)  
“ and others, amongst which one part or piece of the shark  
“ was sent unto Richard, Lord Moleneux, who accepted of the  
“ same as a great courtesie, and caused to be given to the  
“ bearer 5s., to this deponent's best remembrance. Also there  
“ was cast upp a cock-boat, which was seized upon for th' use  
“ of the said Robt. Blundell, and afterwards was fitted for a  
“ ffshing boat on the Meyre called White-Oter, for the only  
“ use of the said Mr. Blundell.

“ James Bloom, of Crossens, mariner, aged about 80 yeares,  
“ sayeth that he well remembered that about 50 yeares sithence  
“ there was cast upp upon the shore in Birkdale, a saile yard  
“ about eleven yards in length, which Sir Cuthbert Halsall did  
“ bestow of one Mr. Bartholomew Hesketh, who then made  
“ use of the same for a sail yard, and sayeth that the Lords of  
“ the Manor of *North Meales* and all the neighbouring Lords  
“ that have their lands bordering upon the sea, during his  
“ remembrance, have peaceably enjoyed all the wreck that  
“ was cast upp upon their severall lands.

“ Robert Wryght, of Crossens, aged 66 yeares, agrees with  
“ James Bloom's testimony (except for the sail yard).”

All these witnesses deposed that they never heard of any  
other claimant of the wreckage, &c. Verdict for the King.

**1665**—March 31st. Buried, at Churchtown, Thomas Hesketh, Esq., one of the Lords of the Manor. He was succeeded by his nephew Robert, born 1634, whose father, Robert Hesketh, had married a daughter of "Forneby, of Forneby."

**1666**—March 1st. Buried Eline, widow of Thomas Hesketh, Esq.

**1675**—December 19. Buried, at Churchtown, Robert Hesketh, Esq., who was succeeded by his son Rodger.

**1676**—February 3rd. Buried, Elizabeth, wife of James Starkie, rector of *North Meales*.

**1683**—This year there was considerable alteration in the parish church. The old warden's seat is carved—

WARDENS SEAT 1683.

**1684**—May 3rd. Buried Rev. James Starkie, who had been rector of the parish over 44 years. He left £40 to the Grammar School, the first sum mentioned on the tablet in the church. On May 28th the Rev. Henry Rycroft was instituted rector on the presentation of Edward Fleetwood, Esq.

—————June 18. Dame Anne Ashton (widow of Sir Ralph Ashton) and Robert Chadderton, sued Peter Bold, Richard Leigh, and Lawrence Rawsterne, or Rowsterne, in the Courts of Exchequer, charging for the maintainance of the defendant, Peter Bold, by Sir Ralph Ashton, and since by the plaintiff, Dame Anne Ashton, and also touching the management of the estates of the defendant Bold (during his minority), including manors in Bold, Sutton, Farnworth, Eccleston, Burtonwood and *North Meales*, &c., &c.

—————August 28th. "Buried Misteris Hesketh."

**1688**—March 30th. Died Henry Blundell, Esq., of Ince-Blundell, Lord of the Manor of Birkdale. He was succeeded by his son Henry, born 1660.

**1688**—July 6th. At Quarter Sessions held, by adjournment, at Ormskirke, an elaborate order was made for the perfect repair of the roads in West Derby Hundred. Gentlemen were appointed to see that the work was carried out by the overseers. Those appointed for North Meols were Barnaby Hesketh, Esq., James Gorsuch, Esq., Mr. Rich. Formby, and Mr. Nicholas Fazackerly. The last named gentleman was also deputed to attend to the roads of Altcar.

————September 12th. Died, the Rev. Henry Rycroft, rector of the parish. On Nov. 15th, the Rev. Richard Hardy was instituted on the presentation of Mr. Edward Fleetwood.

**1690**—Thomas Blevin left £20 to the Grammar School.

**1691**—William Banestre, one of the “lesser gentry,” died possessed of land in *Northmelles*.

**1692**—April 4. Richard Ball, of Blowick, left £20 to the Grammar School. It was lost by Dan. Ambrose and made up by Law. Jump.

————Mr. Thomas Fleetwood, of Bankhall, near Chorley, and of Rossall, who was owner of the advowson of North Meales, and much neighbouring land, in the year 1692, by agreement with adjoining landowners, attempted to drain Martin Mere, then the largest lake in England, and covering 3,132 acres. Having obtained the necessary Act of Parliament, he “began his operations by making a canal from the mouth of the Ribble to the lowest part of the Mere, erecting in it a pair of floodgates near the sea.” Dr. Charles Legh, in his “History of Lancashire, Cheshire, and Derbyshire” [1700], says of Lancashire, “The most noted *Ponds* are only Two, and both of them call’d by the Name of *Martin-Meer*; the larger of which is now Dreign’d by that Ingenious Gentleman and Generous Undertaker, *Thomas Fleetwood*, of the *Bank*, Esq., and will no doubt turn to his extraordinary Advantage; part of it being a fat Muddy Soil and containing



a great Quantity of *Marle*. Its Circumference is about Eighteen Miles, its Diameter Two. In it were found great Quantities of Fish, as *Roach, Ecls, Pikes, Pearch, Bream* and the like. Upon the Draining of this *Meer* were found no less than Eight *Canoes* in Figure and Dimensions not much unlike those used in *America*. As to these *Canoes*, One of which had some Plates of Iron upon it, 'tis my Opinion they were made use of in Fishing these *Meers* and passing *Rivers*." Elsewhere in his history the Doctor says, "One thing had almost slipt me, how sometimes in *Mosses* are found human Bodies, entire and uncorrupted, as in a *Moss* near the *Meales* in *Lancashire*."

**1694**—At the Jacobite trials at Manchester, "Bar. Hesketh, Esq., of *Northmeales*," was sworn as a Grand Juror. At the same time Rodger Hesketh, Lord of the Manor, and his wife Mary were prisoners. During their incarceration some of the outbuildings at Meols Hall were erected. A stone in one of the walls bears the following record:

H

R & M

1695

**1697**—November. Terrible storm of hail by which rooks and hares were killed in great numbers.

**1700**—Dr. Leigh, in his "History of Lancashire, Cheshire, and Derbyshire," says, "In a place in Lancashire called the *Meales* under the Moss, four Yards within Marle was found an exotic Head, which, by the description given me of it by the Country People, may doubtless be that of an *Elke*, the Brow Antlers were bigger than usually the Arm of a Man is, the Beams were near two Yards in height, and betwixt the two opposite Tips of the Horns, which is the Diameter, was two Yards likewise. Such a Curiosity never before seen in these parts induced the Country People to cut it asunder into

many pieces, each preserving a part as a Rarity ; so that had it been entire it had been much greater. The scattered remains may now be seen in different Places, but that is but a slender satisfaction to a Curious Enquirer. The *Elke* most certainly is and ever was a creature foreign to this Nation ; how, therefore, so many Yards in Marle, under the Moss, this should come to be deposited by any other means than an Universal Deluge, I would gladly be informed ; considering likewise the wildness of the Place and the thin Number of the People where this Phaenomenon was observed (for the *Meales* are little more cultivated than the Desarts of *Arabia*), I think I may venture to affirm, if a Man will lay aside Prejudice and not be too fond of an overweening Opinion, he cannot account for it in any other way." Dr. Leigh also gives illustrations of the Canoes, Whetstone and Metal Axe found on the draining of Martin Mere, and also of the "Stag of Canada found in the *Meales*."

**1701**—April 23rd. Fair on Martin Mere. The Charter under which it was held runs thus: "22nd of March, 1700, this Charter was granted by King William III. to Thomas Fleetwood of Bank, Esq., Lord of this Manor [Tarleton]. The first fair was held upon Merton Mere, the 23rd day of April, 1701."

**1702**—In this year there were nine marriages, fifty-three baptisms, and thirty-four burials at the Parish Church.

**1703**—October 5. William Hesketh, Esq., buried, *vide* memorial in the Church.

**1705**—The West Gallery erected in St. Cuthbert's. A carved tablet on it says :

ROBERT : RYMMER of Banks

NICHOLAS : WRIGHT

THO MAS : RYMMER

CH : WARDENS 1705.

- 1708**—July 24th. Rev. Ralph Loxam presented to the rectory by Henry Fleetwood, Esq., on the death of Rev. Richard Hardy.
- 1709**—At this time the district lying between the Birkdale Boundary and London Street was known as South Haws. It is a mistake to suppose that when William Sutton built the Original Hotel there were no other dwellings in the neighbourhood. The registers and gravestones at St. Cuthbert's show quite as great a proportion of births and deaths in "South Haws" as in any part of the parish. About the year 1709, a fisherman named Peter Hodges built himself a cottage where the junction of Castle Walk and Jackson's Grove now is. It is recorded of Hodges that during the erection of the cottage, he caught enough fish to pay for it. A century later it was occupied by Mr. Timothy Hargreaves, and in it the Misses Johnson, aunts of the late Admiral Barton, lodged whilst South Hill Cottage was being built in 1798. Mr. Hargreaves kept it as the first recorded "lodging-house," until, in 1810, he built the "Mansion House" in Lord Street, which was demolished to make room for the entrance lodge to the Winter Gardens.
- 1710**—November 10. Baptised, Richard, son of "Ralph Sherdley, curate of *North Meols*."
- 1711**—April 14. Baptised, "Rodger, son of Robert Hesketh, Esquire."
- Henry Blundell, Esq., Lord of the Manor of Birkdale, died, aged 51, and was succeeded by his son Robert.
- 1713**—In St. Cuthbert's Churchyard may be seen a gravestone, with a brass tablet bearing this date, on which is inscribed, "Here lyeth the bodie of Thomas Rimmer, mariner, who was captive in Barbary sixteen years and six months, who departed this life the sixth of January, in the sixty-first year of his age, in the Year of our Lord, 1713."

**1714**—The operations of draining Martin Mere continued, with results that apparently pointed to ultimate success.

**1716**—The County rate, “North Meols £2 1s. 8d.”

———Roger Hesketh, Esq., of *North Meols*, together with Robert Hesketh, gent., his son and heir-apparent, and the inhabitants of the Chapelry of Pilling, near Garstang, petitioned the Bishop of Chester for permission to build a new Church at Pilling.

**1717**—April 26th. Buried, Thomas Fleetwood, Esq., of Bank, aged 56. This was the gentleman who first drained Martin Mere. There is a handsome monument to his memory in the Parish Church.

**1719**—John Aughton left £10 to the Grammar School fund. ———December 27. Buried, “Maddam Fleetwood.”

**1720**—June 23. Buried, Rodger Hesketh, Esq. He left £20 to the Grammar School fund. He was succeeded by his son Robert. Value of Rectory, £8 3s. 8d.

**1723**—June 15. Buried, Robert Hesketh, Esq., who was succeeded by his son Rodger, then aged 12 years. He left £20 to the Grammar School fund.

**1725**—“Townships 2. Northmeales and Birkdale. The first is divided into 8 parts or villages, viz. :—Churchtown, Marshside, Higher Blowick, Lower Blowick, New Row, The Hoeshouses, Crossens, The Banks. The Chappell of Meoles “cum omnibus pertinentiis” was given to ye Mon. of Penwortham wch was a cell to Evesham. Value 1725, £160 per annum.” *Bishop Gastrell*.

———Extract from Diocesan Register at Chester: “*North Meales*.—Here is lately built by ye 2 Lords of this Manour, Bold and Hesketh, a very handsome school near ye Church, there being left to ye use of a school by ye late Rectour 40l; by R. Ball (in 1692) and Thos. Blevin (in 1690) 20l. each,

and since by R. Hesketh, Esq., 40*l*\* (in 1720 and 1723); Mrs. Woods 10*l* (in 1720) and John Aughton (in 1719) 10*l*. The money is laid out upon land: ye writings are in ye hands of Rog. Hesketh, Esq. *Certif.* A.N. 1725."

[There are] 3 Churchwardens, 2 of which serve for *N. Meales* and are chosen by ye Lords of ye Manour, ye 3rd is for Birkdale and is chosen by ye Rectour."

**1726**—October 19. Rev. Ralph Loxam, Rector, buried at Penwortham. On December 28th, the Rev. James Whitehead was instituted in his place by Henry Fleetwood, Esq.

**1727**—Mary, relict of Roger Hesketh, Esq., gave £10 to the Grammar School fund.

**1730**—At this date Peter Bold, Esq., M.P. for the County, was one of the Lords of the Manor. At his death in 1761 the male line of the Bold family lapsed.

—————During this year the greater part of the Parish Church was rebuilt. The following is a copy of one of the receipts for the work done:—

" 10th Oct. 1730.

" Then recd. of and from the Churchwardens of North Meols the full and just sum of Twenty-nine pounds, ten shillings and four pence in full of money due for building the said Parish Church side. I say recd. in full of all acctts.

Geo. Moffitt.

Test. Wm. Dicconson."

£29. 10. 4

Over the Church door is an inscription as follows:—

"James Rimer, Robert Ball, Thomas Rimer, Church Wardens; James Whitehead, rector, 1730."

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\* This is evidently an error, for Roger Hesketh who gave £20 died in 1720, so the other £20 must have been left by "Ro. Hesketh" who died in 1723. "Roger" Hesketh, Esq.," in whose hands "ye writings" were, was at this time aged 14 years. (See 1711.)

**1733**—February 16th. Roger Hesketh, Esq., married, at Bispham Church, Margaret, daughter and heiress of Edward Fleetwood, Esq., of Rossall, by whom he had two children, Sarah and Fleetwood, the latter of whom married Frances, third daughter of Peter Bold, Esq., of Bold Hall and *North Meols*.

———June 13th. Buried John Lowe, curate of *North Meols*.

———September 3rd. Rev. James Whitehead, rector, buried. November 20, Rev. Christopher Sudell instituted; Henry Fleetwood, Esq., patron.

**1734**—Extract from Register at Chester Cathedral: "A brief was obtained and twopence gathered 8br. 6, 1734, at Milnrow, for *North Meales* Church, in the county of Lancaster."

**1735**—August 3rd. Died, aged 63, Christopher Sudell, A.M., rector of *North Meols* and of Holy Trinity, Chester; Prebendary of Chester Cathedral and Chaplain to the Earl of Derby. He was buried August 8th in the Chapel of the Stanleys of Cross Hall, in Ormskirk Church, where there is a tablet to his memory. His daughter Jane was the wife of the Hon. Chas. Stanley of Cross Hall. There is not an entry of a baptism, marriage, or burial in *North Meols* parish registers, where this rector officiated.

———December 8th. Rev. Edward Shakespeare appointed rector by Henry Fleetwood, Esq., patron. He was also Vicar of Leyland on the same presentation.

**1737**—"February 19th. Buried Thomas Howard, of Marshside, drowned Feby. ye 15th, in his return from ye Bay with Thomas Johnson, Robert Blundel, and Thomas Ball."—*Parish register*.

———May 25. Buried William Dickonson, "master of the Grammar School."

- 1737**—Extract from parish register, “John Andow, of *Meols*, killed at Hoghwick, by overturning of a cart, May 28th; buried here May 29th.”
- 1738**—Extract from Birkdale Township accounts, “A/c of ye land tax for all the parish is £112 14. 3. Our part for barchdell is £18. 15. 8½d.”
- 1739**—“October 9th. Buried Thomas Ball, of Marshside, very old indeed—105.”—*Parish register*.
- The tower and spire of the Parish Church built this year. The sun dial bears the date.
- 1743**—April 3rd. Buried, “Edward Hamson, mariner, starved to death in ye boat.”
- 1745**—April 6th to 8th. Buried, three men and a woman, “drowned, belonging to the Anne and Mary Sloop, of Emsworth, loaden with Flour and Wheat.”
- July 15. The following is a copy of an order preserved in the “Parish Chest” :—“Lancashire to wit. Whereas the Lords day is often profaned by Disorderly Meetings of several prophane persons and by gaming sports and Tippling on that day, and likewise by several other meanes contrary to the laws in that case made and provided. These are therefore in His Majesties name to charge and require you that from henceforth and so long as you shall continue in your respective offices you give a strict account of all persons within your respective Limitts, who prophane the said day by any unlawfull ways or means whatsoever, and that you make known to us or one of us or some other of His Majesties Justices of the Peace in and for the said County, the name or names of such person or persons who shall offend in the premises within ten days after the offence is committed, that such penalties may be inflicted on him or them as the law in that behalf shall require. Herein fail not at your Perills.

Given under our hands and seals this 15th day of July in the year of Our Lord 1745.

To the Constables, Churchwardens,  
and Overseers of the Poor  
of *Northmeols*.

C. STANLEY.  
WM. HILL."

**1746**—The Lost Farm. Roby, in his *Traditions of Lancashire*, relates that in this year a one-story thatched cottage, situate in Birkdale, was occupied by a man named George Grimes, who was half farmer, half fisherman. The inhabitants of the cottage were Grimes, his wife, his daughter Katherine, and a tall high-cheeked menial of well-proportioned shape, generally known as "Dummy." He had been engaged some twelve months before by Grimes, at the recommendation of a Catholic gentleman resident in the neighbourhood (probably Sir Francis Anderton, Bart., of Lydiate, who at that time was attainted), who described him as one who would make a stout servant of all work, and would serve Grimes honestly and well for small wages. He had, however, one defect: though he understood perfectly every word that was said to him, to make known his own wishes, he had to have recourse to writing. One day Grimes and his assistant left home with the intention of catching a few fish, but on arriving at the shore the boat was missing. After hunting about for a while, the punt was seen returning from sea with a stranger at the helm. On the latter landing, Grimes at once began to vent his indignation at the liberty taken, "Dummy" in the meantime getting the tackle ready for sea. It was rather a stormy day, but the stranger having paid well for the use of the boat, Grimes, who liked money, was propitiated, and, along with his "first mate," launched the vessel and went out to sea a short distance. The storm, however, increased, so they soon pulled in the nets preparatory to returning. In doing so Grimes discovered amongst the



tackle an ornamented silver casket of great weight, which at once aroused his cupidity. He at once hurried home, leaving "Dummy" to follow at will, which he did by another route. Grimes on arriving home stored away in his bed-room the box, which was locked. The storm had by this time risen to a hurricane, and "Dummy" had not returned. During the height of the storm the fisherman and his wife were terrified to hear whispering in their bedroom, to which there was only one door. The blame was at once attached to the casket cast up by the sea, and neither of the old people dare go in the room. Katherine, more strong-minded than her parents, however, searched the room, but returned saying she could find nothing. After awhile, however, "Dummy" made his appearance from this room, but no satisfaction could be got from him. The storm was now accompanied by lightning, and the thatch of the barn took fire. Grimes and his wife left the house to put out the flames, and on their return to the house, "Dummy" and Katherine were missing, and three days passed during which nothing was heard of them. All this time the mysterious whisperings continued, and at the end of the three days Grimes determined to return the unlucky haunted casket to the sea. On opening the chest in which he had deposited the "treasure trove," he found the casket unlocked, empty, and very much lighter than when he put it there. He, however, took it out to sea, and cast it overboard, but when he returned to the shore, he found the waves had again cast it up and apparently would "have none of it." He then took it home again, and buried it in a deep grave. The storms continued, and the place seemed to be haunted; noises were continuously heard, the sand drifted against the house in immense volumes, and no one would venture near the place at night, and in a few weeks Grimes deserted the spot, which has ever since been known as

the "Lost Farm." After awhile, Grimes determined to go in search of his daughter. He had grown a dozen years older in appearance in less than so many weeks, and a Churchtown carter willingly gave him a lift to Preston. Here he saw, being conveyed along the streets, a prisoner charged with being concerned in the late rebellion, none other than the "Dummy," who was in reality the titular Earl of Derwentwater, and had been in hiding after the disastrous defeat of Prince Charlie in 1745. Roby's story is that Grimes and his daughter (whom he found disguised in male clothing) by giving information of an alleged plot to rescue the prisoner on the road to London, got the mayor to send him by boat to a king's ship then off Blackpool. But the boat was manned by sailors in the service of Grimes, and they put the prisoner on board a vessel which was waiting to convey him to Scotland. He was, however, overtaken by the king's ship, re-captured, and executed. The other incidents related by Roby in respect to Lord Derwentwater are undoubtedly true, and there seems no reason why he should not have been in hiding in this neighbourhood, then certainly a hot-bed of recusants. The *Lost Farm* was on the border of Ainsdale.

**1747**—October 27th. Buried, "Jno. Connor, Boatswain of ye Ormond of Liverpool, drowned out of ye Pilot Boat." *Parish Register.*

**1748**—January 1st. Rev. Edward Shakespeare, rector, died at Leyland, where he was buried, January 3rd.

———June 17th. Rev. John Baldwin, M.A., instituted rector; the patrons "for this turn only" being Richard Harper, Jarvis Tapps, and Walter Chetwyght. Mr. Baldwin was a descendant of Colonel Rigby, of Cromwellian fame, in whose family Harrock Hall had been anterior to the fifteenth century. The family continued in the male line until the death of Thomas Rigbye, who, in 1775, devised Harrock

Hall and other estates to his sister Eleanor Rigbye for life ; with remainder to his nephew, John Baldwin, M.A., rector of North Meols, who, in compliance with his uncle's will, assumed the name and arms of Rigbye.

- 1749**—November 27th. Buried, "John Grayson, Captain of ye St. George, a vessel belonging to Liverpool, homeward bound from Guinea and the West Indies ; he was lost upon Burbo, Oct. ye 18th ; the vessel and the whole crew perished with him." *Parish Register*. The following, the first inscription in rhyme in the parish, appears on his grave :—

"Tho' Boreas' blasts and Neptune's waves  
Have tossed me to and fro,  
In spite of both, by God's decree  
I'm harboured here below,  
Where I do now at anchor rest  
With many of our fleet ;  
Yet once again must I set sail  
Our Saviour Christ to meet."

CAPTAIN JNO. GRAYSON,

Died Oct. 18th, 1749,

In the 42nd year of his age.

- 1750**—Birkdale Day School (now St. John's) established by the tenants and their servants, on land given by the Blundell family.

———A Bell presented to St. Cuthbert's Parish Church, by Messrs. John and Henry Hesketh, merchants.

- 1751**—April 3rd. Buried, at Churchtown, "Mr. John Hesketh, of Preston, wine merchant." He was one of the donors of the bell.

- 1752**—The Birkdale township Account book, now in the possession of Mr. Weld-Blundell, has the following entry :—  
"A memorandum written the sixth day of March, in the year of our Lord one thousand seven hundred and fifty-two, what

Ainsdal is to pay at a Ley for there part of Halsall Old Ground: Note in every 16s. 4d. Ainsdal pays 5s. 5½d. of the said 16s. 4d." No explanation is given why this entry should appear in the Birkdale account book. Probably the ratepayers of that township paid the remaining two-thirds of the "16s. 4d."

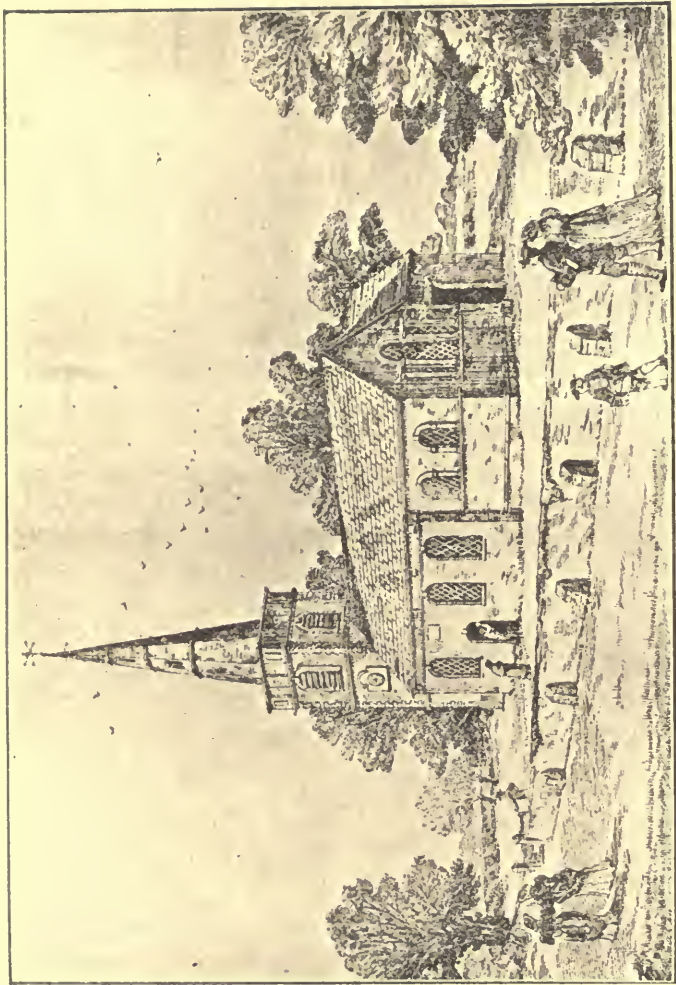
**1752**—Died, Mrs. Margaret Hesketh, of *North Meoles* and Rossall. Mr. Rodger Hesketh subsequently married Sarah, daughter of John Winckley, of Preston.

**1755**—During this year there was a great storm, which did immense damage, and washed away the gates and walls of the "Sluice" erected by Mr. Fleetwood. This casualty occurred three years before the expiration of Mr. Fleetwood's lease (which was for three lives and 21 years) of that portion of the Mere which did not belong to him.

**1761**—Peter Bold, Esq., M.P. for the County, and one of the Lords of the Manor of *North Meols*, died, leaving four daughters, but no sons. He was succeeded in these estates by his eldest daughter Anna Maria (who died unmarried).

**1765-70**—In these two years the Rev. John Wesley visited Lancashire, and stayed in Preston. On one of these occasions he passed through Bretherton and North Meols. When in this neighbourhood he preached from a "Cop" near the junction of Trap Lane and Snuttering Lane (now Cemetery Road), not many yards from where Southbank Road Church now stands. It would probably be in 1770, for in 1864 an old woman, then aged 95, told the writer that she was a child in her mother's arms at the time, and was present on the occasion, pointing out the spot on which Mr. Wesley stood to preach. Very likely it was as a result of this visit that the "Old Class" was established at Churchtown. It exists to this day. The September quarterly meeting of the Manchester district in 1776 was held at Bolton, when *North*





NORTH MEOLS PARISH CHURCH—1739.

*Meols* sent as the quarter's collection £1 6s. 3d., whilst Liverpool only sent £0 11s. 3d.

**1769**—April 27th. Buried at Poulton Church, Fleetwood Hesketh, Esq., aged 31. He was born July 1st, 1738, and married Frances, third daughter of Peter Bold, Esq., M.P., by whom he had issue Bold Fleetwood (born 1762), Robert (born April 18th, 1764), Hannah Marie (born September 11th, 1760), and Frances Margaret, who died in infancy.

**1773**—Died, aged 73, Robert Blundell, Esq., of Ince-Blundell, Lord of the Manor of Birkdale. He was succeeded by his son Henry.

—Copy of a tablet in St. Cuthbert's Parish Church:—  
 “Benefaction to the Poor of *North Meols*. Peter Rymer, late clerk, left to the poor of the said parish the interest of eighty pounds, to be disposed of annually at the discretion of the Churchwardens and Overseers, in clothing such poor people as have never received any relief from the said parish for two years, and that no person shall be entitled to receive any part of the said benefaction above once in three years. The said interest to commence from the 14th August, 1773.”

**1776**—George Lloyd, subsequently a well-known character, under the soubriquet of the “Birkdale Pensioner,” but in 1776, a labourer living in Birkdale, was charged with arson at Upper Blowick, and was committed for trial, being lodged in Preston Gaol until the next sessions, which were held at Wigan. Here he was convicted, and given the option of joining the Manchester Volunteers (Manchester Militia) or going to prison. He took the alternative offered, and went out to Gibraltar with the regiment, but his conviction caused the death of his wife, who knew he was innocent. She died soon after, but it was sixteen years before George got his discharge and returned to the parish, having in the meantime married again. A woman who had known him before his

conviction one day said to him, "George, I have thought a great deal about you while you have been abroad," but would not explain herself any further. In the meantime George was shunned by all respectable people, and even with the help of his pension of £7 per annum, had hard work to live. Over twenty years after his conviction, the woman referred to above, when on her deathbed, sent for the Rev. John Mawdesley, curate of the parish, and confessed to him that she was guilty of the crime for which George Lloyd had suffered. The good old parson had been Lloyd's best friend in the days of his trouble, and George had now the opportunity of showing his gratitude to his pastor. The curate was getting very old and feeble, and soon after lay on a bed of sickness, which threatened to be fatal. Lloyd was in constant attendance, and was never weary of showing his affection, as was instanced by him one night, in 1813, when over 68 years of age, walking to Liverpool to fetch a doctor to the aged curate. When his innocence had been established the pensioner's troubles were over, and he lived comfortably till his death, which occurred September 14th, 1819, when in his 75th year.

**1778**—September 13th. Rev. John Mawdesley, mentioned in the preceding paragraph, appointed curate of North Meols, on the death of Rev. William Stackhouse, who died September 9th, at the Parsonage, Crossens. The will of the last-named was proved at Chester during the same year.

————The efforts of Mr. Fleetwood to drain Martin Mere having only been partially successful, Mr. Thomas Eccleston, of Scarisbrick Hall, this year made another attempt to empty the Mere, and, profiting by the experience of his predecessor, was partially successful. This Mr. Eccleston was the father of the late squire, Charles Scarisbrick, who first adopted the name of Dicconson (from his estates in the township of that name), and afterwards that of Scarisbrick.



- 1782**—October 9th. Henry and John Wright, father and son, fishermen, of Marshside, drowned whilst at work.
- 1783**—A whaling ship wrecked on the coast, from which one lad was saved—Daniel Keen, aged 17. The lad stayed in Hawesside, from where, on October 8th, 1786, he married Susannah Rigby, and became the father of a numerous family, whose descendants in Southport now form a large section of the population.
- 1786**—The sloop *Castle Creevy* wrecked on the coast; the crew saved by local fishermen.
- September. Died, aged 99, Esther Sherlocker. Sixteen years later (April 16th, 1802) her husband was buried, aged 101. Thus their united ages covered two centuries. They were “travellers,” as is proved by the fact that, at both funerals, double “dues” were paid. They were dealers in rabbit-skins. On their gravestone is inscribed:—
- “I lodged have in many a town,  
And travelled many a year;  
But age and death have brought me down  
To my last lodging here.”
- 1788**—The first record of a North Meols weaver. “Will proved, at Chester, of Thomas Rimmer, North Meols, weaver.”
- 1790**—Two sloops wrecked on the coast; three lives saved by local fishermen.
- 1791**—July 16th. Died, aged 80, Rodger Hesketh, Esq., Lord of the Manor of North Meols. To his memory a handsome marble tablet was carved by Nollekens, and placed in St. Cuthbert’s Church, in the nave of which he was buried. The tablet is ornamented with the arms of the Hesketh family, a globe, quadrant, books, &c. It bears a long and fulsome description of the merits of the deceased. He was succeeded by his grandson, Mr. Bold Fleetwood Hesketh.

**1792**—William Sutton, afterwards known as the “Old Duke,” had come from Rossall, as one of the dependants of Mr. B. F. Hesketh. Sutton became landlord of the Black Bull (now the Hesketh Arms) at Churchtown, and this year, by the consent of his landlord, put up a shanty by the mouth of a little stream that emptied itself on the shore near the Birkdale boundary. This he did for the convenience of people who came to Churchtown on “big and little bathing Sundays,” and were carried to the shore in carts and other conveyances. “Little bathing Sunday” was at the time of the fair, then held about Easter, and “Big bathing Sunday” was about the time of Crossens fair. The new “public” was only used during the summer months for some years. It was built of wreckage found on the shore, and stood near the spot occupied by the memorial lamp, at the junction of Duke Street and Lord Street.

—————A sloop wrecked on the coast—a lady, a child, and two sailors drowned. The rest of the crew were saved by the fishermen.

**1793**—There casually met in the Churchtown house of the Old Duke, eight persons, all over sixty years of age. Two of them were alive in 1809, and met Southport’s first historian, Mr. T. K. Glazebrook, in the same hotel. They were William Bond, then aged 99, and Richard Wright, aged 80.

—————October 29th. Died, Rev. John Rigbye (*nee* Baldwin), M.A., Rector of the Parish, aged 83. He was buried at Eccleston (Chorley) on November 2nd (*vide* 1748). On November 21st, the Rev. Gilbert Ford, M.A., was presented to the living by John Ford, Esq., who had purchased the “next presentation.”

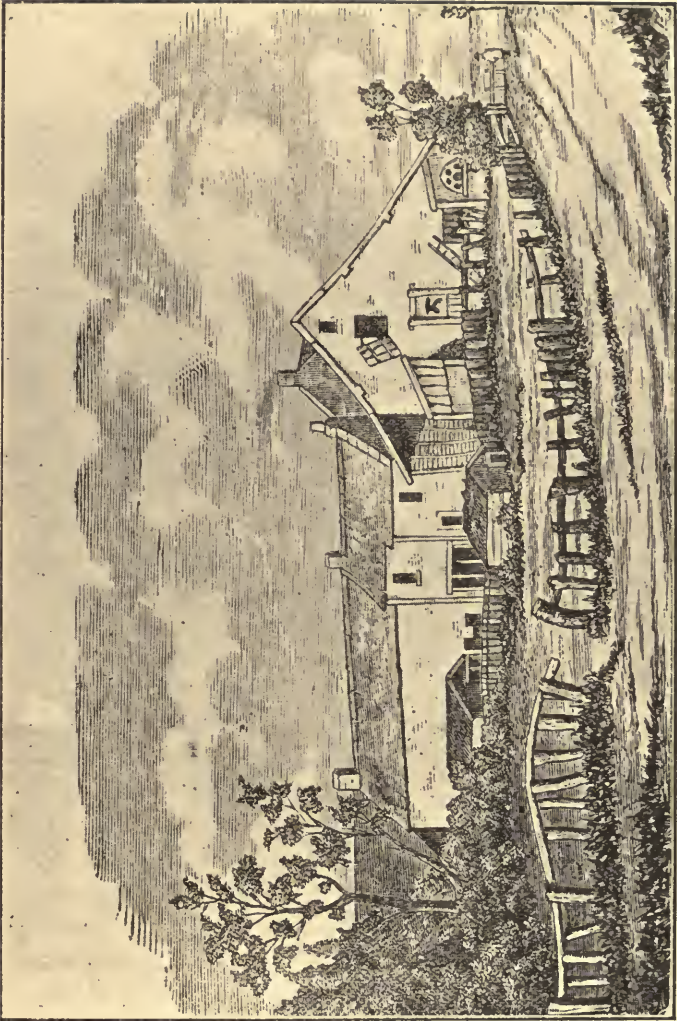
**1796**—A Welsh sloop wrecked on the shore, the whole of the crew being lost.

**1797**—Mr. Bold Fleetwood Hesketh was this year appointed High Sheriff, an event which led to the foundation of the town of Southport. Meols Hall being much more convenient of access to the various Lancashire towns than Rossall, the former became the Sheriff's principal Head Quarters, at which the County families were entertained. As a result, a number of the gentry took leases of land near the coast and erected marine residences. Mrs. Walmsley built Belle Vue, now the residence of Sir George A. Pilkington; Miss Leigh, her Cottage Ornee; Miss Johnson, "South Hill Cottage," the grounds of which are now attached to Belle Vue; Mr. Tennant, "The Hermitage"; Mrs. Money Penny, "The Willows,"; Mrs. Addy, "Green Lawn," and others. Nile Cottages, Dobbs Cottages, and other "company houses" followed. Miss Johnson was the aunt of the late Admiral Ralph Barton, one of the most worthy citizens that Southport ever had. He was born on Christmas Day, 1798, and his aunt planted a tree in the grounds in commemoration of his birth, and had his name inserted in the lease as one of the "three lives" for which leases, or rather "freeholds," were then usually granted. The tree named is still standing, but the cottage was demolished shortly after the death of the Admiral in 1881.

**1798**—Alsop, the first Southport printer, refers to the "Duke's Folly" as "The first house for public accommodation. So small were the beginnings of Southport that this house was, at first, only open on the Sabbath, a day on which many treated themselves with a jaunt to North Meols; afterwards it was occasionally open for a few months in the summer season; the provisions and liquors were procured in small quantities, according to the demand, and Ormskirk was the general market that furnished the supply for the few visitors that were at the 'Folly.' Such was the rise of

Southport. The first residents were:—Mrs. Walmsley, Miss Johnson, Mr. Barton, Miss Leigh, Miss Bromley, Mrs. Money Penny, Mrs. Halsall, Mr. Nevill, Mr. Tennant, Mrs. Addy." This is the brief account given by one who knew the persons named. But in 1798 the "Old Duke," as Sutton was now regularly called, decided to make his place a permanency, and having got a generous lease off his patron, he proceeded to erect a dwelling-house adjoining his "store." This was finished in the Autumn, and a house-warming arranged for the Thursday night after the return from Ormskirk Market. At the old market town the news that day arrived of Nelson's victory of the Nile. The house-warming ceremony was consequently made to do double duty. Dr. Barton, a retired Ormskirk surgeon, presided over the event, and facetiously named the place the South Port hotel, by dashing about him a bottle of wine in the manner of christening a ship. The term "port" had reference to a former bay, of eleven fathoms, which existed at the mouth of the adjoining stream. The hotel having been baptised, the company adjourned to the banks of the stream, which, in honour of Nelson's triumph, was designated "the Nile," hence the various appellations in that neighbourhood. The district rapidly became known as Southport instead of South Haws, though there is much reason for believing that the term "t'poort," still used by the country people, was, even before that time, in common use. ]

**1799**—April 9th. Henry Hodges, aged 20; William Hodges, aged 18; and John Hodges, aged 16 (sons of William and Betty Hodges, of Birkdale), and grandsons of Peter Hodges (previously mentioned), and Peter Barlow, a cousin, were all accidentally drowned returning from fishing. This terrible scene was witnessed by a young sister of the three Hodges; she lived to the age of 82, dying in March, 1874, and



“DUKE'S FOLLY.”



was buried in Christ Church yard.

**1800**—The fishing fleet of the parish this year consisted of thirteen trawl boats.

————November 13th. Died, Mrs. Sarah Hesketh, the widow of Rodger Hesketh. She left £100 to the Grammar School Fund.

**1801**—Population of North Meols, at the Census, 1,790.

**1802**—This year some of the ministers and Congregational Churches of Yorkshire, Lancashire, and Cheshire banded together, and formed an Itinerary Society to supply preachers to destitute places. The first person sent out by this society was a Mr. Honeywood, who laboured for about two years in North Meols, Bretherton, and the neighbouring districts. He was the first "regular" Nonconformist minister in the parish, but in 1804, owing to ill-health, he was obliged to resign his post, and Mr. Geo. Greatbatch was appointed in his stead.

**1803**—April 17th. Died, aged 103, Hannah Johnson, widow, of "South Haws." She was buried at Churchtown, April 19th.

**1804**—The Rev. Gilbert Ford, M.A., had been rector of the parish from 1793, but, like most of his predecessors, he left the work to his curate. The "Parsonage House" was at Crossens in these days, but it was not considered a fit residence for the Rector, as the following copy of the Bishop's license to live out of the parish will show:—

"1804. Northmeols. Henry William, by Divine Permission, Bishop of Chester, to our beloved in Christ, Gilbert Ford, Clerk, Master of Arts, Rector of Northmeols, in the county of Lancaster, and in our Diocese of Chester, greeting.

"Whereas, you have by petition in writing under your hand, represented unto us that the Parsonage House belonging to your said Rectory is entirely unfit for your residence, and that such unfitness is not occasioned by your negligence or default ;

that you reside in the adjoining Parish of Ormskirk (which is as near as circumstances will permit), and discharge a considerable part of the duty of the Parish of Northmeols aforesaid, and employ a curate who is resident in your said Parish, and have petitioned us to grant you our License to reside out of the said parsonage house and Parish of Northmeols aforesaid, pursuant to 'an act passed in the 43rd year of the reign of His Majesty King George the Third,' for the purpose of exempting you from pecuniary Penalties and Forfeitures. And whereas we are fully satisfied of the necessary facts stated in your said Petition, and have duly considered all the circumstances therein set forth.

"THEREFORE, we do by these presents grant you our LICENSE (to continue in force for two years from the date hereof, unless we or any of our successors shall judge it expedient to revoke the same) to reside out of the parsonage house and Parish of Northmeols aforesaid; you continuing to reside at Ormskirk and performing part of the duty of your said Parish, and keeping the said parsonage house with the buildings thereto belonging in good and sufficient repair and condition.

"Given under our hand the 9th day of January, in the year of Our Lord one Thousand Eight hundred and four and of our Consecration the fourth.

"H. CHESTER."

**1805**—The Union Hotel erected by Mr. Gass, a son-in-law of the Old Duke. It occupied the site on which the Prince of Wales Hotel now stands. Two years before this the Old Duke had himself got into financial difficulties, and had let the South Port Hotel to Messrs. Hilton and Leadbetter, of Wigan, for a term of 21 years. It had been re-named by its founder, the "Original Hotel," but the new tenants reverted to the name given it in 1798. Soon after letting it Mr. Sutton



found himself provided with apartments in the debtor's portion of Lancaster Castle, where he made the acquaintance of the grandfather of the late Alderman Robinson, who enjoyed relating the stories told by the Old Duke at that time.

**1805**—August. This year cattle were first sold at Meols fair, which had many years been established as a pleasure resort.

**1806**—On the first of May, 1806, there was held a meeting of vast importance to the little town then forming. Miss Leigh, a large-hearted lady, who had a cottage Ornee, in Nile Square (now Lord Street West), conceived the idea of assisting poor persons in a convalescent state to get the benefit of the sea air and sea bathing. Having explained her idea to Mr. Thomas Ridgway, that gentleman called the meeting in question, at the South Port Hotel, and then and there the Strangers' Charity was founded. For very many years it was the only institution of the kind in the North of England. At first there were no baths or residence for the patients, but they had an allowance of seven shillings per week. The Charity was for the relief of the sick poor, to whose recovery sea air or sea bathing might be conducive.

—The Wesleyan Conference, held this year at Leeds, appointed the Rev. William Brown "Home Missionary for the Meols Country in Lancashire." This was the first appointment of a Methodist preacher to this parish, but for many years the district had been visited by local preachers from other towns. The brothers Richard and James Smetham, of Leigh, afterwards travelling preachers, often visited this neighbourhood, as did Mr. Johnson, of Manchester, and others from Liverpool, all preaching out of doors, or in cottages at Churchtown, Little London, South Haws, and other places. On Mr. Brown being appointed, the Rev. Thomas Taylor, of Liverpool, chairman of the Manchester district, came over and established the mission, appointed

class-leaders, and arranged a regular order of worship. Mr. Brown was prevented, by illness, from filling his appointment, and the Rev. H. S. Hopwood, then in his first year of ministry, came in his place. The parish schoolmaster, John Silcock, in his diary, wrote (commencing with May, 1779), "In process of time a Mr. ———, a Methodist Preacher, come into our Town, and preached at the house where I lived, but he did not come long, for I was persuaded to write him a letter that his doctrine would no more be allowed by the ruling powers in North Meols, so that he came no more; his preaching I liked to hear, but it did not reach my heart, so that I was nothing bettered by it. After this came first one Preacher and then another, of different persuasions, in the bathing season, and gave us an exhortation or sermon while they stayed in town; but he that was most useful during his short stay with us was one William Bamber; the seed which he sowed in time sprang up and brought forth precious fruit. In some time after this the Calvinist preachers introduced themselves, and preached regularly in the township, after which a place was fitted up for them in Church Town, and different preachers of that persuasion visited us. Some of these held forth the doctrine of election and reprobation, which was not relished by some of the more enlightened part of the congregation, in consequence of which, and by the persuasion of some Methodist preachers who happened to visit the town, a division of the congregation took place, and a Methodist missionary, H. S. Hopwood, came and officiated in the chapel. This was in the year 1806." This is the first documentary evidence of Methodism in North Meols now in existence. There were then several preaching places in the parish, one of the oldest of which was Nanny Ball's cottage in Snuttering Lane, near the spot now occupied by Sefton Street Police Station. It was in that lane that John Wesley is said to have preached.

In this same year (1806) the Lancashire County Congregational Union was formed, and its first report was chiefly taken up with an account of the labours of the Rev. George Greatbatch, in North Meols. At the division referred to in the above extract a church was formed of twelve members, and from that time things went on and the church increased, so that in the year 1809 a chapel was built, capable of accommodating 250 worshippers, at a cost of £70. Two cottages, in what is now Botanic Road, had been fitted up in 1804 by a Methodist, and used by the joint congregation, but the first Free Church place of worship, built as such, was that erected for the Independents, and until lately used by them as a school-room. Sugar Hillock Chapel was the first building erected for the Methodists (*vide* 1816).

**1807**—Union Buildings, Lords' Street (demolished in 1874 to make room for the Prince of Wales Hotel), built as "Company Houses."

—————The Ship *Fletcher* wrecked; the whole crew drowned.

—————November 7th. Great storm; the river broke through the embankment from Banks to Marshside, a distance of two and a half miles, and inundated over 1,000 acres of farm land, doing immense damage.

**1808**—This year there were 119 baptisms, 22 marriages, and 53 burials registered at the Parish Church.

**1809**—A Census taken this year showed that the parish contained "327 houses and 2,096 inhabitants; 1,034 males and 1,062 females, of whom 159 were returned as being employed in trade (principally hand-loom weaving), and 508 in agriculture." Of the 327 houses, 38 inhabited by 100 persons were situate in "Southport proper," *i.e.*, in the district between London Street and Birkdale. Of the total inhabitants nearly 10 per cent., *viz.*, 199, were over 60 years of age.

**1808**—February. In one week there died Betty Sutton, aged 95; Ann Such, 93; and Gilbert Rymer, 91. The first-named is believed to have been the mother of the Old Duke.

—————Warm and cold baths first introduced this year; at both hotels.

—————Preaching places had been established for Roman Catholics, Independents, and Methodists. Miss Leigh, herself a Roman Catholic, let all-comers use her drawing-room for religious services.

—————Glazebrook, writing in August, 1809, says: "Sunday was anything but a day of rest. The Shore was crowded with bathers and company from all the neighbouring villages. Many were seen drinking on benches; the inns were full; riot and confusion reigned, and a foreigner would have considered it the celebration of a fair rather than the close of a Christian Sabbath."

—————The subscriptions this year to the "Strangers' Charity" amounted to £78 1s. 6d.

**1809**—July 12th. "Southport North Meoles nine miles from Ormskirk, hitherto scarcely known, promises to become in a few years the most favoured spot of fashionable resort in the bathing season. Situated at some distance from the mouth of the Ribble, its waters are pure and unadulterated; and the mildness of the air, which is here remarkable, is unquestionably very congenial to weak and relaxed habits. A proof of the highly salutary effects cannot be more certainly adduced than from the astonishing longevity of such a number of inhabitants. The beach is perfectly smooth and hard, of immense extent, and without any quicksand, stones, or pools of water, which are often so very disagreeable and sometimes dangerous. The tide flows so high up the bank that it is immaterial whether you go there at spring or ebb tides. To the lovers of botany and natural curiosities, the sandhills and

the shores will furnish an inexhaustible fund of amusement from the great quantity of flowers, plants, and shells with which they abound. As there are thirteen trawl boats, some of which every day go out to sea, fish is very plentiful, and the lovers of good eating may abundantly gratify their appetites with turbot, salmon, soles, oysters, shrimps, and sometimes with the john dory. The dotterel likewise frequents this coast early in the season, and affords great diversion to the sportsman. Exclusive of the trawl boats there is a handsome pleasure-boat, which attends every day to go out to sea with those who are fond of this now fashionable amusement, and which, to many constitutions, is more salutary than bathing. The works of art are here well worth the attentive observation of the philosophic agriculturist. A bank on an inclined plane is now carrying on, under the direction of the indefatigable Mr. Robinson, on the true principles which nature points out as the most secure barrier that man can erect against the encroachments of the sea, through the spirited exertions of the two ancient families of Bold and Hesketh. Several neat houses have been built near to the inn (which command a beautiful view of the sea), for the benefit of those who wish for private lodgings in so delightful and healthful a situation."

The "bank on an inclined plane" mentioned above was the embankment from the "New Inn" to Crossens.

"FASHIONABLE ARRIVALS AT SOUTHPORT, JULY 12, 1809.—  
E. Kearsley, Esq., and lady, Hon. Miss Cary, Miss Radcliff, Rev. — Pigott, Thomas Woodcock, Esq., and lady, — Holme, Esq., Miss Holme, Thomas Blinkhorne, Esq., T. J. Lyon, Esq., Miss Robinson, Mrs. Addy, Mrs. G. Bolton, L. M. Ashford, Esq., Mrs. Lever, E. Lyon, Esq., — White, Esq., Mr. Hawkeshead and lady, Mr. Holland, lady, and family; Mr. Grundy, lady, and family, — Kenworthy, Esq., lady, and

family; Joseph Hutton, Esq., lady, and family; — Chaffers, Esq., and daughter; Mrs. Ellam and family, Mrs. Cheney and daughter, Mrs. Wilding and family, Mrs. Armstrong and family, — Smith, Esq., and lady, Mrs. Fisher and daughter, Mrs. Moore and son, Rev. — Lancaster, Mrs. Shelmerdine, Mrs. Tuer, the Misses Browne, the Misses Bent, Mrs. Guest, Miss Critchley, R. Johnson, Esq., lady, and family, — Hoskins, Esq., lady, and family, Mrs. Blair and family, Mrs. Dale, Miss Charley, Mr. George Green and family, Mr. H. Pownall and daughter, &c."—*Liverpool Courier*.

**1809**—In the course of this year there occurred a terrible case of shipwreck, the brig *Griffin*, of Falmouth, Captain Ball, being totally lost. The captain, with his wife and child, and five members of the crew, were all drowned. Two lives were saved by the local boatmen. During the same winter two other vessels were wrecked on the coast, the crew being saved in the one case, whilst in the other all hands were drowned.

————October 25th. Jubilee of King George III., when the Rector, Rev. Gilbert Ford, M.A., preached a sermon in the Parish Church, which was attended by all the congregations of the village. A collection was made on behalf of the poor of the parish, for much distress prevailed at the time. Over £50 was collected, and it was expended in clothing, bedding, &c., for the distressed families.

————Glazebrook mentions that, at this time, low water mark was two miles distant.

**1810**—Mr. Timothy Hargreaves built the Mansion House, Lords' Street, as a first-class company house. It was for over fifty years used for this purpose, but ultimately it was divided into two shops. When the Winter Gardens were made the Mansion House was demolished, and the present ticket-office erected on the site.

————Died, Miles Barton, godfather of South Port. This

gentleman had been an Ormskirk surgeon, but had resided many years in South Haws. He had purchased the advowson of Hoole Rectory, the church of which Jeremiah Horrox was curate when he discovered the Transit of Venus. On September 13th, 1783, "Roger Barton, a younger son of the patron, was presented to the living, by Miles Barton, surgeon, of North Meales." Roger Barton died in 1799, and Dr. Barton made the next presentation. In 1812 Miles Barton, a son of Roger, became rector on his own presentation, and held the living until 1848. A memorial tablet was put in the church in honour of Dr. Miles Barton, whose Southport home was a cottage on the site of the present "Nile Bank."

**1810**—August 28th. Died, Mr. Henry Blundell, the Squire of Birkdale, aged 86 years. He was succeeded by his son Charles Robert, the last male representative of the family.

—During this year a brig, laden with provisions for the army in Spain, was totally lost on the shore. One of the crew and a Southport boatman, who went to the rescue, were drowned, pilot Jackson and two others having narrow escapes. A Spanish brig, laden with timber for Liverpool, also was lost, three of the crew being drowned. Five lives were saved by local boatmen. In the following year the ship "Minerva," laden with cotton, and a schooner from St. John's, with provisions and oil, were totally wrecked. Both crews were saved by the local fishermen.

**1811**—This year the Methodists first became possessed of a chapel in Southport—absolutely the first place of worship in the new town. In April, Mr. Joseph Dutton, of Yellow House, Eastbank Lane, purchased two cottages, situate where the warehouse adjoining St. Andrew's Churchyard (north boundary) now stands, and these cottages he altered into a chapel, commonly called the "Cathedral," which was the forerunner of all the handsome Methodist edifices now to be seen in the district.

**1811**—At the Census the population of the parish was found to be 2,496, an increase in the decade of over 700.

**1812**—Mr. Samuel Whiteley, a leading citizen of Southport's early days, built his repository. It was in Coronation Walk, at the end of King Street. The latter street went off the map of Southport when the Winter Gardens were built. Mr. and Mrs. Whiteley were general dealers, Mr. W.'s department being that of a wine and spirit merchant. After his death the business was acquired by Messrs. Henry Hayes and Co., who carried it on in the old premises till they were demolished, then removing to their present premises, a few yards distant from the old spot.

—In this year we first find the rate books signed by the magistrates, the signatures being those of "E. Wilbraham-Bootle," "Wm. Hill," and "P. R. Baldwin." "Belmont House" and "West Hill," Lord Street West, and the "Woodlands" (then called "Sea View") were erected the same year.

—The first public collection on behalf of the Strangers' Charity was made at the Duke's Folly, and £9 os. 1d. was collected.

**1813**—Two accounts, for the year 1813, connected with the Parish Church, are interesting reading. The first is a Sunday School account. "Sunday Schools, 1813. 1 year's subscription, paid at Easter last. Dr.—Bold F. Hesketh, Esq., £3 3s.; Mrs. Bold, £3 3s.; Mr. Ford, £2 2s.; collection in church, £2 2s. 6d.; total, £10 10s. 6d. Cr.—Paid master at Easter, £8 8s.; do. Prayer Books, £2 2s. 6d.; Bible, 4s. 6d.; total, £10 15s.



The next is a literal copy of the churchwardens' account for the year:—

The accounts of John Baker, churchwarding for 1813:—

May			
15	To my Journey to Deanscourt.....	2	0
June			
4	Paide same time.....	11	0
July	To two locks for the towns Chest and Setting on	5	4
1	Paid for Lime at Preston and Carting .....	4	11 7
10	To leading fourteen thousand and a half at 8s. per .....	5	16 0
12	To carting sand for the lime at 7s. per .....	14	0
14	Paid to Sparrow heds .....	2	8 11
July	To wisket for the Church .....		10
20	Pd. to the Measn at the settling .....	3	19
	Do. to George Yeats do. ....	3	12 2
24	Pd. to Sevin Gregson for repairing Church geats and board .....	6	6
	For fetching aleven baskets of coal to Church...	14	4
27	To three bottles of wine .....	19	
	Pd. to Jane blundel for the Meason's lodge.....	5	
	Pd. to John Bludell as pr Bill .....	4	5
	Pd. to John Wright cotty for dammage.....	4	
29	Pd. to John Blundel for leading Brick.....	1	8
	Pd. to George Medow for filling sand six days & half .....	19	6
	Pd. to John Wright cotty for do. ....	13	6
	to James Spencer for do. ....	9	
	to Peter Leadbetter for Do. ....	13	0
30	to John Sutch for Do. ....	6	
	to Thomas Johnson for leaden Sand .....	1	4
	to John Baker for Do. ....	1	4
	to John Sutton and James Medow .....	2	

Aug.	To John Rimmer for meashuring the wall 5 to a bell rope .....	6	8
4	to Thos Barton for lime and carting.....	5	11
	to Expense when the bishop was over .....	1	3
8	to peant and peainting the church-geats .....	7	6
	to wire and repairing the window .....	7	10
	to ringers ale for fifth November .....	7	
		<hr/>	
		45	17 5
June			
4	To ringing upon His Magesty's Birthday .....	6	6
	to eale and eating for Mr. Nealor.....	3	
	to the Brickloayers .....	2	
	to Moles .....	5	
	to Rich Jackson for work at the Churchgates...	3	
	to Orchens .....	5	8
Sep.	to Richd. Prescot for the Clock .....	3	9
5	to aleven baskets of coale for the Church.....	14	4
	to the bishop .....	11	
	to John Wright for carting two days .....	12	
Oct.	Do. to one speade day .....	3	
	Do. to a loade of Brick .....	4	
10	to do. for Coverseed .....	4	6
10	to James Rothwell for reparing the Church ...	4	
	to Wm. Barton for leading sand .....	12	
15	to Mr. Mauesley for washing the serpels .....	1	10
	to Steven Gregson for the Communion Table...	4	
	to Richd. Rimmer for peaper .....	1	6
Nov.	to Thos. Halsall for work .....	4	10
5	to Singers ale for Good Friday .....	1	18
	to Richd. Jackson for work .....	3	8
	to Thos. Hunt's wife for washing serpels.....	5	
10	to a tub for the use of the church .....	2	4
	to Rich. Rimmer for copping the registers .....	12	

to Ringing at the defeate of Bonaparty .....	7		
to damage in the Churchfield .....	10		
to the bricklayers lodging .....	5		
to Seven Gregson for reparing the churchgeats	6	6	
To Almanack and tidetable .....	2		
to a lock for Churchgeats .....	1		
			23 14 3
			45 17 5
			69 11 8
Amount of Ley Book .....	54	3	11
Balce due to J. Baker .....	15	7	9

**1813**—In November, Miss Anna Maria Bold, the lady of the manor, died at the age of 82. Only an accident of birth now prevented the resumption of both portions of the manor by the other holder, Mr. Bold Fleetwood Hesketh. Miss Bold was his aunt, but there existed one more life between the titles. Nearly three centuries had elapsed since the manor was divided between two sisters, when the father of Mr. Bold Fleetwood Hesketh married the third daughter of Peter Bold. However, Mrs. Peter Patten, of Warrington, the second daughter of that gentleman, had a family of daughters, and through them, by sale, the property has passed further away than ever from the direct line. Miss A. M. Bold built "Manor House," from which Manor Road takes its name. She also introduced silk weaving (hand-loom) into the parish, an industry which ultimately collapsed through the Cotton Famine, the result of the American Civil War.

**1814**—This year a Mr. Trevitt became the host of the South Port Hotel.

—A smack from Douglas, with herrings, lost on this coast. The crew and passengers were all drowned. This

occurred in the night. One of the passengers was the lieutenant of the *Shannon*, and fought in the celebrated battle under Captain Broke. A large Norwegian vessel, under the command of Captain Nelson, was totally lost in the same storm, but the Southport fishermen rescued the crew.

**1814**—November 2nd. Died, the Rev. John Mawdesley, who had been curate of the parish over 36 years. He was twice married, and left a very numerous family, many of whom have since filled important stations in local public life. It is recorded of him that in the discharge of his parochial duties he walked a greater distance than the circumference of the globe.

**1815**—The shipping disasters this year included the total loss of an Irish packet, the *Curry*. The captain and nine of the crew were rescued, but nine others were drowned, and two died in the boats. An Irish sloop was also lost; the captain and a boy were saved, three of the crew were drowned, and one other died on the back of a fisherman as he was being carried ashore.

———March. The local branch of the British and Foreign Bible Society formed. In March of this year the first collection on its behalf was made at the Parish Church. The sum realised was only small, as was to be expected, but from this small beginning larger things have grown, and at the present day the contributions to this society from North Meols will bear favourable comparison with those of larger places.

———April 10th. Died, aged 70, the celebrated Dr. Brandreth. He it was who named Southport "the Montpellier of England," a term which has been varied into the "Montpellier of the North."

———This summer Louis Phillippe, afterwards King of the French, was a political refugee, visiting at Ince Blundell. The Prince, Mr. Blundell, and a party were one day out

coursing, and having got too far from Ince, determined to stay the night in Southport, putting up at the Union Hotel, then kept by Mr. Gass. This is the earliest record of Royalty visiting our town.

**1815**—On December 4th, the annual rateable value for the payment of county rates, laid by the justices at Preston, was, for North Meols, on a rateable value of £7,220; and for Birkdale, £873.

**1816**—This year was a most disastrous one for shipping, so far as the coast of North Meols was concerned. No less than nine vessels were totally lost, whilst two others narrowly escaped. They were (1) the brig *Albion*, Captain Wilson, for Liverpool, three passengers (father and two daughters) and five of the crew drowned; (2) a brig from Brazil, a priest and 14 of the crew saved, this occurred in the night; (3) the *Sutton*, Captain Bunker, for Dublin, the master, four passengers, and four of the crew drowned—two only saved; (4) the brig *Fletcher*, Captain Fletcher, nine drowned, the captain and three of the crew saved: those who escaped floated ashore on the quarter-deck, which parted from the vessel; (5) the brig *Padstow*, Captain Hanson, crew saved; (6) the brig *Shannon* with wheat, for Liverpool, the crew escaped in their own boats; (7) the brig *St. Petersburg*, with salt, from the city of St. Petersburg, the crew saved, and a subscription made for them; (8) a sloop, laden with coals, crew saved; (9) a sloop, laden with pipe-clay, crew saved; (10) a brig from New Brunswick, timber-laden, the crew left the vessel in their own boats and were lost, the vessel came ashore, was saved, and taken to Liverpool; (11) a brig, from Ireland, with linen. She signalled for a pilot, one went aboard, steered the vessel out of danger, and was rewarded with a little raw pork and cold water.

**1816**—The Marine Fund (the nucleus of the Lifeboat Society) established by the exertions of the Rev. Gilbert Ford, Rector.

————Mr. and Mrs. Clare, of Wigan, became tenants of the South Port Hotel, and again changed its name, calling it the Royal Hotel. This sign it retained until the license was transferred to the house now bearing the name.

————The Wesleyans had hitherto worshipped in the cottages behind Botanic Road, but in this year “Sugar Hillock” Chapel was erected. It was situated at the corner of the present “Sunny Road,” and was the first building erected in this parish as a Methodist place of worship. It was opened in the autumn by the Rev. Thos. Hill, of the Preston Circuit. In 1852 the Wesleyan Reformers obtained possession of it, and continued to use it until the erection of the United Methodist Free Church, High Park.

**1817**—A sloop from Scotland, laden with wool, totally lost in the night time. Two of the crew were lost and three rescued. Another sloop, from Ulverston, struck on the banks, but was got off. Both vessel and crew saved.

————The Rev. Gilbert Ford, M.A., rector, appointed a Justice of the Peace. He was the first resident J.P., excepting certain Lords of the Manor, who occasionally resided in the parish.

**1818**—Wellington Terrace, Lords’ Street, built on a “three lives freehold,” the last of which expired about 1875. The plot of land acquired by the “Old Duke,” when he built his hotel, extended to Upper King Street and Wellington Road.

————This year, on our coast, seven vessels came to grief, viz. :—(1) The brig *Minerva*, laden with oats, for Carnarvon, totally lost, crew saved. (2) The *Isabella*, from America to Liverpool, with cotton, a total wreck; crew escaped in their own boats. (3) A brig from Archangel to Liverpool, laden with grain, got on the Ribble banks, though there was a

Liverpool pilot aboard; the Southport boatmen got her off. (4) A sloop from Scotland, with yarn, got ashore; she was floated off and piloted to Liverpool. (5) An Irish schooner, in ballast, got on the banks, but was rescued. (6) The schooner *New Blessing*, from Liverpool, with molasses, struck on the banks, but was rescued and piloted back to Liverpool. (7) A sloop, from Belfast for Liverpool, with butter, came ashore, but was got off, and piloted to her destination.

**1819**—July. Bold Fleetwood Hesketh, Esq., died, leaving his estates to his brother, Robert Hesketh, Esq., of Wennington Hall. Robert Hesketh, Esq., was born April 18th, 1764, and married, at Lancaster, 11th September, 1790, Maria, eldest daughter of Henry Rawlinson, Esq. She died 3rd July, 1824. There was issue of this marriage six sons and four daughters. The four elder sons died unmarried in their father's lifetime. The eldest surviving son, Peter Hesketh, who afterwards assumed the name of Fleetwood, succeeded to the estates on the death of his father in 1824. The youngest son was the Rev. Charles Hesketh, M.A.

—October. Peter Patten Bold, Esq., one of the Lords of the Manor, died, leaving four daughters but no sons. He was succeeded by his eldest daughter, Mary, who in the year 1823, married his Serene Highness Prince Eustace Sapieha, of Poland.

**1820**—Robert Hesketh, Esq., of North Meols and Rossall, appointed High Sheriff of Lancashire.

—September 7th. A movement in favour of the erection of a new Church for Southport having been inaugurated, a public meeting was held in Barlow's Union Hotel, Robert Holt, Esq., in the chair, to consider the proposal, when it was resolved—(1) "That for the purpose of increasing the fund for the endowment of the church, books be opened at the two hotels, and the company resorting to

Southport be respectfully solicited to contribute to so important and desirable a measure, and that such other application be made as may be judged expedient for the furtherance of the same object ;" (2) " That the formation of sub-committees be promoted, in order to co-operate with the general committee, in the towns of Manchester, Liverpool, Warrington, Wigan, Preston, Chorley, Bolton, Bury, etc., and that the respective banks in the above towns be requested to receive contributions in behalf of the committee."

**1820**—This year Belmont Castle was built by Mr. Robert Holt, then the leading citizen. It was situate in Lord Street West, on the border of Birkdale. From it are named Castle Walk, Belmont Street, etc. It was demolished in 1890 to make way for " Castle Mount," etc.

—November 29th. " On Wednesday, the 29th November, the inhabitants and visitants of this increasing and much frequented watering place, indulged themselves in a grand gala, to celebrate the triumph of their illustrious Queen over the foul and disloyal attempts of her enemies. In the morning white flags were displayed from all the surrounding hills in sight of the town ; and at noon an assemblage, consisting of the principal part of the inhabitants, decorated with white favours, arranged in order of procession, commenced their march from the grounds of Belmont Castle, the seat of Robert Holt, Esq., on a signal given by a discharge from six field-pieces. A large banner waved from the principal turret, inscribed ' May the peace of Old England never be disturbed by foreign interference.' They were preceded by a most excellent band of music. A numerous display of appropriate devices and mottoes was exhibited on the occasion. The inhabitants vied with each other in the zeal and splendour of their decorations ; the cavalcade was increased by the arrivals from the neighbouring villages, and was everywhere received



with the most enthusiastic approbation. On arriving in the main street, 'God Save the Queen' was sung by the whole concourse assembled. An excellent effigy of the infamous Majocchi, mounted on an ass, with a large green flag, preceded by six butchers, with bright axes, and a man in uniform, brought up the rear of the procession. A gallows was erected on the green, and Majocchi being exalted from his steed, was consumed by an immense bonfire, the contribution of the surrounding populace. At five o'clock a most respectable company sat down to the conviviality of a true Old English dinner, the chair being most ably occupied by Robert Holt, Esq. An elegant figure of Her Majesty, which had been carried at the head of the procession, was placed in the centre of the table. A numerous list of constitutional toasts and songs constituted the hilarity of the meeting. A Royal salute from the height was the signal for an illumination, which had a most beautiful effect, Belmont Castle being conspicuous for the brilliancy of its appearance. The evening concluded with a ball at the hotel and dances in various parts of the town."—

*Liverpool Mercury.*

**1821**—March 2nd. "In a small dissenting congregation at North Meols, in this county, there are ten poor widows whose united ages amount to upwards of 820, averaging 82 years each."—*Liverpool Mercury.*

—April. The Census returns for North Meols show a population of 2,763 souls; 548 families in 604 houses.

—April 3rd. A very high tide, which flooded the lower parts of the parish, particularly breaking over the "sea cops" at the north end, and doing much damage at Banks. Mr. Whiteley, whose repository was flooded, the same year commenced making the embankment which became the forerunner of our present Promenade. The repository was in Coronation Walk, opposite the end of what is now West Street, and nearer

the shore, behind his business premises, Mr. Whiteley had built his residence. To prevent the encroachments of the sea, that gentleman built an embankment similar to that now opposite the Recreation Grounds in Rotten Row. It extended from Coronation Walk towards Birkdale, and formed a protection for Beach House and the other property then newly erected in King Street, and which was in 1873 demolished on the formation of the Winter Gardens.

**1821**—May. The “Hesketh Arms” (afterwards re-named “Scarbrick Arms”) built by Mr. Thomas Mawdesley on a “three-lives” lease, the last of which expired May 28th, 1880, on the death of Joseph Mawdesley.

—————July 19th. Southport exhibited a great scene of festivity and hospitality on the occasion of the Coronation of King George IV. A procession was formed, and the inhabitants, with about 300 fishermen from the neighbouring villages, headed by an excellent band of music, colours, &c., paraded the town till about noon, when they sat down to an excellent dinner on the green of the Union Hotel. The head of one table was taken by Mr. Robert Holt, and a second was presided over by Captain William Ball. The invalids of the Strangers’ Charity were waited upon by the nieces of Sir Robert Peel and other ladies of distinction. Dancing afterwards took place on the green, and at night Mr. Holt provided a grand display of fireworks. Coronation Walk was named in commemoration.

—————November 2nd. The *Liverpool Mercury* of this date said:—“The resort of company to Southport this summer has been great beyond all former example. Lodgings in the month of August were not to be procured on any terms. This inconvenience, however, will in part be remedied the ensuing summer, many new houses being to be added in the line from the Union Hotel to the New Church. A temporary theatre,

built of wood, capacious and extremely commodious, has added much to the attraction of the place; it is but justice to the Mayor\* (Mr. Wilson) to state that his first attempt has been crowned with complete success; he has given general satisfaction, and has gained many friends. Robert Holt, Esq., of Belmont Castle, the indefatigable patron of Southport, has patronised the establishment in an eminent degree. This gentleman, in conjunction with several others of his own rank, presented an amateur performance on two successive nights last week; on both occasions the comedy of the Honeymoon was performed to a crowded and fashionable audience, and the display of talent and professional knowledge exhibited surprised and delighted all present. Mr. Holt, in the course of the evening, gave the song of the 'Old Commodore' in excellent style, and was rapturously encored. We understand that at the commencement of the season next summer these gentlemen purpose performing one night for the benefit of the North Meols Strangers' Fund."—*Liverpool Mercury*.

**1821**—November 29th (Thursday). Christ Church consecrated by the Bishop of Chester. The sermon was preached by the Rev. Gilbert Ford, M.A., J.P., rector. Afterwards a "sumptuous dinner" was served at the Union Hotel; the toasts drunk were "The King," "Church and State," "The Lord Bishop," "Robert Hesketh, Esq., the patron of the Church," "Miss Bold, and a speedy recovery of her health," "Rev. William Docker," "Mr. Wilson," "Mr. Cookson," "Mr. Newsham," "Mr. Whiteley," and "Mr. Horton." On the following Sunday (December 2nd) the incumbent (Rev. W. Docker) preached from Psalm xcvi., 6. In the course of his remarks, the rev. gentleman announced that in consequence of the liberal donations of Robert

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\*Evidently a typographical error for "Manager," Mr. Wilson being the Licensee.

Hesketh, Esq., Miss Bold, Adam Lodge, Esq., William Fox, Esq., and other friends, they had been able to open the church without any assistance from the legislative grant, or from the Church Building Society in London. A tablet afterwards fixed in the church showed that Robert Hesketh, Esq., gave 100 guineas; Miss Bold, 100 guineas; Mrs. P. Patten-Bold, £25; Rev. Gilbert Ford, Adam Lodge, Esq., and William Fox, Esq., each £20. The patronage was vested in Mr. Hesketh, in consequence of his advancing a sum of money towards the endowment and undertaking to improve the living hereafter. The height of the tower to the battlements was fifty-three feet, and the pinnacles four feet higher; total, fifty-seven feet.

**1821**—December 2nd. The first baptism in Christ Church; John, son of Thomas and Ellen Hodge.

————December. A great storm, in which the ship *Crescent*, Captain Wilson, from Liverpool to the Clyde, with cotton, was wrecked off Southport; crew saved. The brig *Lascelles*, laden with cotton, was totally wrecked, with a Liverpool pilot aboard, and fifteen of the crew drowned. A small brig, also laden with cotton, came ashore, but was got off again.

**1822**—The Rate Book first signed by a resident magistrate—the Rev. Gilbert Ford, M.A., Rector.

————February 4th. A theatrical license granted to Mr. Wilson, at Kirkdale Sessions, for a large room adjoining the Original Hotel.

————May 1st. First funeral in Christ Church yard; James Edmond, aged 54.

————May 23rd. A deplorable accident occurred that day, Colonel John Gerard, of Windle Hall, father of the first Lord Gerard of Bryn; the Rev. Francis Crathorne, a Roman Catholic priest and physician of Garswood; Mr. Adamson, of

Ashton-in-the-Willows, and his son Roger, with John Jackson, a boatman, embarked for a sail in a pleasure boat, and nothing more was seen of them until the next day, when the boat was found drifting at the mercy of the waves, untenanted. The body of Mr. Crathorne was found on the sands on the following Sunday morning, as were those of Mr. Roger Adamson and John Jackson; that of Mr. Adamson, senr., was found on May 27th, at Lytham, and on Saturday, June 1st, the remains of Colonel Gerard were found on Cockerham Sands. The last known act of Mr. Adamson, who, at this time, was tenant of "Belle Vue," was to forward £5 to the Irish Famine Fund then opened in Liverpool.

**1822**—May 24th. The editor of the *Mercury* was evidently poking fun at a correspondent when the following appeared in his columns on the 24th May:—"CHURCHTOWN.—JUVENIS who dates from Northmeols, appears greatly scandalised that at the recent fair or feast, which he calls 'Aster Dauval,' the host, being unable to furnish a sufficient number of seats for the revellers, borrowed some forms out of the Parish Church. Our correspondent should not be so severe, remembering the true saying, 'All work and no play, &c.,' but no doubt some of the orthodox will consider it a shocking profanity of the *forms of the Church.*"

—June 4th. The *Liverpool Kaleidoscope*, a monthly journal of those days, said:—"Southport is rapidly advancing to rival any bathing place in the kingdom; but it is feared the late fatal accident will throw a gloom over the pleasure of sailing for some time. There has been from ten to twenty houses built every summer for several years together; there are three good inns, one new church, one Methodist, and one Calvinistic chapel. A theatre is contracted for, to be built by the 20th June. There is a druggist's shop, a tailor and draper's, about twenty grocery and bread shops, two or three surgeons, a

physician, hairdresser, and watchmaker; three repositories or stores, bowling-greens and billiard-table, a public bath and dispensary—the latter has been built this spring, by subscription, for the benefit of the poor. There is a large assembly-room attached to the dispensary; there are two boarding schools and two day schools. William Sutton, the enterprising innkeeper, of Churchtown, built the first bathing house or hut about 30 years ago. He generally goes by the name of Duke Sutton; the hut was laughed at, and called the Duke's Folly; however, Sutton has lived to see his hut rise into a town, and visited by some of the best families in the kingdom; he is now about 70 years old, as active and straight as many young lads of 17. Southport lies nine miles north-west of Ormskirk; the Manchester and Liverpool packets pass daily within six miles, and are met at Burscough [? Scarisbrick] Bridge by coaches, cars, and carts. The place was so throng last summer that haylofts were let off at a shilling a head as sleeping rooms, without any bedclothes except horsecloths or straw."

**1822**—June 6th. Dr. Bancks, a Wigan physician who frequently visited Southport, was this day returning home, when he was thrown from his horse and killed.

—December 3rd. A dreadful night storm. A writer of that date says:—"The hurricane was so tremendous that the inhabitants of this pleasing marine village were put in bodily fear; considerable damage was done to the buildings, and an immense quantity of wild birds, such as sea crows, snipes, and other aquatic birds, were washed upon the beach dead." The casualties to shipping during this year were as follows:—The brig *William* came ashore, but was got off safely; this vessel had been a pirate ship, but had been captured, and the crew executed at Malta. The brig *Wallace Edkins*, laden with timber for Whitehaven, totally lost; crew saved by their

own boats. The brig *Whitehall*, with flour from Plymouth to Liverpool, totally lost; four of the crew saved, two lost, one by the mismanagement of his oar.

**1823**—The “Strangers’ Charity” erected in Lords’ Street, near Old Bath Street. It was a plain low building of brick, with hot and cold baths (hence the name of the adjoining street), surgery, and apartments for the committee. It cost £468. The principal room measured 50 by 18 feet.

————Panton Place, Green Lawn, Woodbine Cottage, and other houses erected in Lords’ Street, all of which were demolished to make way for the Winter Gardens.

————The brig *Rosa*, with flour, from the South of England, totally lost, the crew perishing in the night. A brigantine, the *Morning Star*, Mr. Taylor, owner, from Africa to Liverpool, with gold dust and ivory, stranded on the banks. She was got off and piloted to Liverpool, afterwards safely reaching her port.

————December 18th. Eastbank Street Congregational Church opened, the Rev. Dr. Raffles, of Liverpool, and Mr. Steele, of Wigan, preaching the opening sermons. For some years the Rev. G. Greatbatch had held meetings, during the season, in the large room of the Original Hotel. Afterwards a wooden structure, about six yards by five, and covered with oilcloth, was put up in the sandhills, on the spot now occupied by the platform of Lord Street Station. It was badly built, and in wet weather the congregation had to put up their umbrellas. One day Mr. Peter Hesketh was passing with his father’s steward, Mr. Linaker, when the congregation were leaving. On ascertaining the facts, Mr. Robert Hesketh sent the steward to tell the friends that they could have a piece of land on which to build. Great joy was felt, for many times had they applied and failed. The spot in Eastbank Lane was selected, and given by Mr. Hesketh. During the winter

Mr. Greatbatch went to Manchester and collected £200, in Liverpool he got over £100, and in Southport more than £50, whilst the farmers carted the bricks and other building materials free of charge. In less than twelve months a building costing £700 was erected and paid for. The foundation stone was laid, by a gentleman residing in Everton, on July 6th, 1823, so that the building operations occupied little more than five months.

**1824**—March. Robert Hesketh, Esq., died, leaving the estates to his son, Peter Hesketh, Esq. Peter Hesketh, born 10th August, 1801, succeeded his father, and assumed the additional surname of Fleetwood in 1831. In 1826 (June 8th) he married Eliza Debonnaire, daughter of Sir Theophilus John Metcalf, of Fernhill, Bucks, and had issue a son and several daughters, all of whom died young. Mr. Hesketh was one of the first members for Preston, under the Reform Act of 1832, and was created a baronet in 1838, in recognition of his efforts to found the town and port of Fleetwood. He retired from the representation of Preston 1847.

—————During March of this year, the Rev. William Docker, curate-in-charge of Christ Church, took a census of his own district, which showed the population to be:—Southport, 656; Birkdale, 439; Snuttering Lane, 86; Hawes Side, 210; Little London, 118; near ditto, 64; Trap Lane, 133; total, 1,706. In the remainder of the parish were 2,214; gross total, 3,920. The rateable value of the parish was this year assessed at £7,220.

—————April 2nd. On the expiration of the twenty-one years' lease of Messrs. Hilton and Leadbetter, the license of the Duke's Folly was transferred to Mr. Thompson, a son-in-law of the "Old Duke."



**1824**—Richard Aughton, “King of the Cocklers,” died, aged 99. He was so expert at his business that he earned, and for many years bore, the above title. He lived at Marshside, on a small farm of his own.

—August 13th. The Rev. Robert Newton, president of the Wesleyan Conference, preached the opening sermon in Eastbank Street Wesleyan Chapel, when a collection was made on behalf of the Strangers’ Charity. At the Conference held in Leeds a few days before, the Rev. James Catts had been appointed to Ormskirk Circuit, but he appears from the deeds of the chapel to have lived at Southport.

The site on which the new chapel was built belonged to Mr. Peter Hesketh (afterwards Sir P. H. Fleetwood, Bart.), who gave a lease dated December 14th, 1824, which is endorsed, “Lease of a piece of ground and a chapel erected thereon, situate in Southport, for three lives, renewable for ever, with a proviso for Mr. Hesketh to determine the lease as within mentioned.” The lease itself said that “Peter Hesketh, Esq., of Rossall, in the county of Lancaster, on the one part, and James Catts, minister of the society or sect called Methodists on the other part,” had agreed to lease “all that part or parcel of land on the east side of East Bank-lane, in Southport, within North Meols aforesaid, containing in length to the front twenty-five yards, and running in depth backwards forty yards or thereabouts . . . and also all that erection or building lately built upon the said piece or parcel of land hereby granted or demised or upon some part thereof, and now used as a chapel or place of religious worship by the said society or sect called Methodists. . . .”

A schedule to the lease provided that, on the failure of any of the three lives, another one could be substituted on the payment of five guineas to Mr. Hesketh. Thus it was made into a perpetual lease, but there was the “proviso” mentioned

in the endowment. It was to the effect that if it ever became necessary to take down the chapel for street improvements, Mr. Hesketh would provide another piece of land and a chapel, which should not be of less value than the one surrendered.

**1824**—October 10th. The Rev. G. Greatbatch having left Churchtown for Southport, the Independent congregation at Churchtown forwarded an unanimous call to the Rev. William Alexander, of Leigh, offering him a salary of £45, which they promised to try to make up to £50. It was not till May in the following year that Mr. Alexander accepted the call.

————December 24th. The Princess Sapieha died at Rome, childless. Her North Meols estates then fell to Dorothea, second daughter of Peter Patten Bold, Esq., who on May 23rd, 1820, had married Mr. Henry Hoghton, who, by Royal License, assumed the additional surname of Bold before that of Hoghton. He afterwards succeeded to the Hoghton baronetcy and estates, becoming Sir Henry Bold-Hoghton.

————The shipping disasters on this coast during the year were as follows:—The brig *James Fitzpatrick* and a sloop were totally lost; crews saved by local fishermen. Sir John Tobin's brigantine, *Lady Combermere*, with a Liverpool pilot aboard, came ashore; she was rescued by pilot Jackson and taken to Lytham; a fresh pilot having been sent, a steamer tugged the brigantine to Liverpool.

**1825**—January 24th. The Rev. James Catts, and the other parties to the deeds *re* the Wesleyan Chapel, signed the declaration that they had got peaceable and quiet enjoyment according to the lease. The "Cathedral" was then deserted, and on the 5th July following Mr. Dutton sold it. It afterwards was used as a barn, and latterly as a donkey-stable, until demolished on the erection of St. Andrew's buildings, about 1886.

**1825**—March. For some time previous to this date attempts had been made to form a local Medical Aid Society. On March 26th a public meeting was held at the South Port Hotel, “for the purpose of considering the propriety of establishing a local dispensary for the benefit of the poor of North Meols and vicinity.” Several resolutions were passed and a committee appointed, and on May 23rd the dispensary was opened, on the premises of the Strangers’ Charity. Thus commenced the institution that has developed into the Southport Infirmary. The first medical officers were Dr. Anderson and Mr. Longton.

———April 10th. The Royal Hotel, or “Duke’s Folly,” taken by Mr. John Halfey.

———April 29th. A national day school, “for the education of the children of the poor in the principles of the Established Church,” opened in connection with Christ Church. At a meeting held in connection with the movement, it was stated that “in the township of Birkdale and the district of South Haws, in which Southport is situated, there are more than 200 children in need of cheap or gratuitous education.”

———July 5th. An Act of Parliament obtained by the Lords of the Manor, Mr. P. Hesketh and Mr. Henry Bold-Hoghton, providing for the exchange of lands, the making of Lords’ Street, and settling the orthography of the parish as *North Meols*. The Act is known as 6th George. IV., cap. 42, intituled, “An Act for confirming certain partitions and exchanges made by Anna Maria Bold, Peter Patten Bold, and Mary Princess Sapieha, deceased, with Bold Fleetwood Hesketh and Robert Hesketh, Esquires, deceased, and a partition agreed upon by Henry Bold Hoghton, Esquire, and Dorothea, his wife, with Peter Hesketh, Esquire, of lands and tenements in the parish of North Meols, in the County Palatine of Lancaster.” The preamble recites extracts from

the will of Peter Bold, dated December, 1757, after which come deeds dated March 1st and 2nd, 1814 (by which Peter Patten Bold made and confirmed certain grants "in the manor or lordship, or reputed manor or lordship of Meales, otherwise North Meols, otherwise North Meolse, and in Martin Meer." Next is recited the will of Peter Patten Bold, dated March 15th, 1814, and then come a number of agreements entered into by the parties named in the title to the Bill, after which follow the wills of Bold Fleetwood Hesketh, dated May 21st, 1810, and Robert Hesketh, dated April 23rd, 1821. The preamble alone of this Act would occupy five newspaper columns, reciting various exchanges that had been made by the several lords of the manor, the Act of Parliament being obtained to absolve the landowners from any risks they might have exposed themselves to by breaches of the conditions of the wills of their predecessors. There are five schedules to the Act, in which are named the various exchanges made, the result of the negotiations being that each owner became possessed of a few well-defined large plots of land instead of the whole being intermixed in numberless small holdings. According to the schedules, the total annual value at that time was £999 5s. 4d., of which Mr. Hesketh took £512 19s. 7d., and Mr. Bold-Hoghton £486 5s. 9d. The "waste lands" of each gentleman were valued at £51 18s. 2d. per annum, but the "Southport" ground rents only brought in £14 14s. 4d. to Mr. Hesketh, and £13 14s. 5d. to Mr. Bold Hoghton.

**1825**—The ninth annual report of the Marine Fund Committee, issued this year, says:—"We congratulate the public that the prosperity of this local institution has increased, and that every year continues to afford the most decided proofs of its utility. Since our last statement three vessels have been effectually assisted in a state of distress, and conveyed into a

situation of safety.—G. Ford, Rector of North Meols; Wm. Gerard Walmsley, Esq., Treasurer.” Mr. Glazebrook, in giving an account of the fund, says, “the object of this charity is to reward the inhabitants of this parish who save or attempt to save lives and property in cases of shipwreck, and give assistance to vessels in distress. About twelve or fourteen years since a few persons at Southport formed the plan of having a lifeboat. One was built by subscription, but proved to be totally unfit for the purpose. There was no crew appointed, nor any fund to reward them. A house was erected for the boat, and she was used as a pleasure boat in the summer months. Under these circumstances Mr. Ford, whose anxiety does him great honour, recommended the disposal of the boat and boathouse and the establishment of a fund, the interest of which would be sufficient to defray the claims that might be made. The subscribers consented, and the Rector’s charitable suggestions were carried into effect. In the first two years the subscriptions were large; with these added to the amount received at the sale of the property, the present fund has been created, and the interest has hitherto been adequate, generally, to the expenses of the year.”

**1826**—Southport now had 215 houses, with over 600 inhabitants. According to Glazebrook, there were at this time only eight trawl boats, five belonging to Southport and three to Marshside. Low water mark was one mile away.

—The Rev. Gilbert Ford up to this time had no residence in the parish. The Parsonage House, at Crossens, still remained in a dilapidated state, the Tithebarn being the best portion of the premises. The Rector, therefore, during the summer of 1826, erected the Rectory (now known as the “Rookery”) in Row Lane, opposite to Meols Cop Road (now Norwood Avenue, &c.), which was made at the same time. “Meols Cop,” the boundary of the road, extended from Fine

Jane's Brook into Row Lane, at its junction with Churchgate.  
**1826**—The number of scholars on the books of Christ Church Day School was this year returned at 141—73 boys and 68 girls.

————November 22nd. Died, Miss Leigh. This lady was one of the earliest of the founders of Southport. In 1806 she originated the idea of the "Strangers' Charity" (now the Convalescent Hospital). To her and Mr. T. Ridgway must be given the whole credit of the establishment of that institution. Miss Leigh, though herself a Roman Catholic, was most generous in her sympathies, and allowed all denominations to use her drawing room for Divine services, when needful.

**1827**—July 3rd. Died, aged 90, Thomas Wright, one of Glazebrook's "three honest fishermen." In his "Guide to Southport," written in 1826, Mr. T. K. Glazebrook wrote:—"Three fishermen in this neighbourhood, whose names are Thomas Wright, Richard Wright, and William Johnson, have been partners upwards of fifty years, and have not had a dispute during the whole time, though not one of them could write. Thomas Wright was born in the same year and on the same day as his late Majesty, consequently he is 88 years of age. His wife died a short time ago at the advanced age of 92, leaving children, grand-children, and great grand-children, to the number of 110." It is further recorded of these partners, that for 27 years they invariably called at the "Golden Ball," an inn in Longton, both on their road to, and return from Preston market. The landlord rose at three o'clock every Wednesday and Saturday morning, and these "three piscatorians" made it a constant practice to call and smoke their pipes, meanwhile each drinking one glass of gin. No sooner were the ashes knocked out of the pipes and the bowls recharged for the road, than they journeyed off together.

Their expenses were thus eighteenpence, and Wilkins, the landlord, calculated that he received from these three always welcome, though sober, guests £199 16s.

**1827**—July 16th. A Mr. Dawson, a visitor from Manchester, on this day, at the Hesketh Arms, entertained all the cockle gatherers under 15 years of age. Forty of these youngsters sat down to a sumptuous feed of roast beef and plum pudding.

—————This year the Rev. Richard Pope, an aged Benedictine, established a Roman Catholic Mission at the north end of Lords' Street. He had a congregation of about 40 persons.

**1828**—January. Died, aged 86, "Old Fiddler Harry." The "Old Duke" was a famous fiddler, and had for his chief rival Henry Rimmer, commonly called "Old Fiddler Harry." This celebrity was a well-known Birkdale character, who, when a young man, had built himself a mud and thatch cottage where Bickerton Road now stands, and not, as has often been stated, at the "Ash Tree" public-house. One of the favourite excursions of the early visitors to Southport, was to Old Harry's farm, where they often danced on the green to the strains of Harry's fiddle, his favourite tunes being "Buttered Peas" and "Lads Thrashing Barley," two popular melodies of the times.

—————The revenue of the Strangers' Charity for this year amounted to £414 18s. 6d.

—————During an autumn storm the ship *Lady Montgomery* and crew were totally lost. Another vessel, the *Douglas*, of Douglas, was in difficulties, but the ship and portion of the cargo was saved by local boatmen.

**1829**—John Sawyer appointed postmaster and letter carrier. The notice in his shop window, which was in Lords' Street, opposite the present Market Street, in 1830 read "Letters, newspapers, etc., are delivered immediately on arrival, and on each of which an additional penny is charged." Though he

did not retain the postmastership long, John Sawyer was letter carrier for 40 years, and during the whole of that time his salary never exceeded twelve shillings per week. He increased his income by keeping a hairdresser's shop, where a good business was done, the special attraction being his daughters, who were expert users of the lather-brush and razor.

**1829**—January. A spirited correspondence took place in the columns of the *Liverpool Mercury*, between "Fairplay" of Scarisbrick, who accused Sandgrounders of drunkenness, rioting, etc., and "Elihu" of Southport, who retorted that the blackguardism was on the part of Scarisbrick residents returning home. The editor acted the part of the peacemaker.

—April 27th. It was announced that a building to contain a ballroom and newsroom was to be immediately erected. "The building will be a neat edifice of two stories, with a handsome portico in front. The upper part will contain a ballroom twenty yards long by eight in width, and the newsroom will be placed on the ground-floor. The building will also contain apartments for a 'Master,' who will reside on the premises and keep them in order, etc. The whole of the bricks have been contributed by Peter Hesketh, Esq., of Rossall Hall, and Henry Bold-Hoghton, Esq., the Lords of the Manor of Southport. The proprietorship is divided into shares of £25 each—nearly the whole of which have been taken by gentlemen resident in Manchester, Liverpool, Bolton, Wigan, etc."

—November 13th. The magistrates at the Licensing Sessions at Ormskirk, took away the license of the Hesketh (afterwards Scarisbrick) Arms, held by William Dobson, on the ground of disorderly conduct; viz., fiddling, dancing, and football on Sunday evenings. On appeal the license was restored, and serious allegations were made against Mr. Ralph Peters, a resident magistrate, who was accused of attempting



to deprive a respectable man of his living. Mr. Peters replied denying that he had made any allegations against Dobson, but that he had made a general report of the Sunday doings in Southport. He threatened the *Mercury*, with a libel action, but the editor withdrew all allegations.

**1829**—December Mr. Robert Holt, of Belmont Castle, an indefatigable patron of Southport, died at his Bispham residence, and was buried at Blackrod.

—————The ship *Eliza Jane* and her cargo lost—the crew saved by Southport fishermen.

**1830**—February 3rd. An advertisement, signed by the Revs. W. Alexander and G. Greatbatch, appeared in the *Liverpool Mercury*, appealing to the rich on behalf of the poor of North Meols.

—————March. Mr. Peter Hesketh, J.P., D.L., appointed High Sheriff of Lancashire.

—————May. Died, aged 95, Helen Sutton; she was a daughter of the aged pair (*vide* 1786) named Sherlocker, whose united ages amounted to two centuries.

—————August 13th. "This favourite place of resort is now very full of company, and the bathing-ground is in uncommonly fine condition. No fewer than 170 persons arrived in the village on one afternoon last week."—*Mercury*.

—————October. The assembly-room (Exchange Buildings) opened by a public ball.

—————October 27th. The foundation stone of Churchtown Independent Chapel laid by the Rev. George Greatbatch. It was erected from the designs and under the superintendence of Bartin Haigh, Esq., a Liverpool merchant, who built Brunswick Villa, Manchester Road, as his own residence. Mr. Haigh also subscribed handsomely to the building fund.

—————October. Southport Burial Society, a friendly society in connection with Christ Church, established.

**1830**—November. It was announced this month that all the sittings in every place of worship in the town were filled, and more pews were asked for.

—November. Southport Coursing Meetings established.

**1831**—The Census returns showed the population of the parish to be:—Males, 2,486; females, 2,646. Inhabited houses, 875; families, 913; houses building, 7; houses uninhabited, 50; families employed in agriculture, 235; in trade, manufactures, &c., 422; all other families, 256; males over 21 years, 1,150.

—May. Mr. Peter Hesketh, of Rossall and North Meols, assumed by letters patent the additional name of Fleetwood.

—May 30th. A public dinner at the Original Hotel, and great rejoicing, to celebrate the King's Birthday.

—July 21st. Churchtown Congregational Chapel opened. Rev. Dr. Raffles, of Liverpool, preached in the morning from 2 Cor., iv., 5; the evening preacher being the Rev. Dr. McAll, of Manchester; the Revs. George Greatbatch (former pastor) and John Toothill (Rainford) also took part in the services. The chapel cost £950, the whole of which was raised before the end of the year, by the exertions of the Rev. W. Alexander.

—September. Regattas established, Mr. Peter Hesketh Fleetwood giving a purse annually. Result of sailing match, 1831:—First prize (£5), "Albion," Captain R. Ball; second (£3), "Britannia," Mr. R. Rimmer; third (£1), "Jane," Captain W. Ball; fourth, "Mary Ann," Mr. P. Hodge.

—Christ Church Tower completed—60 feet high. The church was this year enlarged by adding two galleries, making seating accommodation for 700. Alsop writes:—"The pulpit is rather fanciful, suspended over the Altar or Communion Table, the reading desk being on the left hand and

the Clerk's desk on the right. The King's Arms adorns the front gallery."

**1831**—August 17th. The "Rothesay Castle," a large ship, wrecked on the Welsh Coast, near Beaumaris. A large number of the bodies were washed on to this coast, some being buried at Sefton, but the larger number at Christ Church and St. Cuthbert's.

—————September 8th. Great rejoicings over the Coronation of William the Fourth and Queen Adelaide. Services in all the churches, dinners, &c., in all the hotels, Old English sports on the shore, treats for the children, the aged, and the poor, &c.

**1832**—July 13th. "This very salubrious watering place is now unusually full of company." The editor of the *Mercury* was a constant visitor to Southport, and he originated a subscription to provide a clock for Christ Church Tower. It had been "hanging fire" for two years or more, but on this date Mr. John Smith added to the above "par":—"The subscription towards erecting a public clock has just received a new impulse which has raised its amount to something more than a hundred guineas." The next month between £13 and £14 more was placed to the account in Barned's bank, and, in October, Mr. Smith wrote:—"We are gratified to find that the subscription for the Southport clock gets on pretty briskly. Mr. Garside, of Ormskirk, who is ever forward to promote every good work, has transmitted us thirty-one pounds ten shillings, being a second deposit towards this most useful object, &c. We understand that great praise is due to Captain W. Ball for his exertion to promote the subscription." Ultimately the balance required was obtained at a lecture given by Mr. Smith.

**1832**—August. Mr. Joseph John Gurney, of Norwich, visiting the Lancashire Societies of Friends, came to Southport, and during his stay preached in the Wesleyan Chapel.

———This year the Southport branch of the London Missionary Society contributed £32 to the parent society. The Southport Wesleyans sent up to London £22 3s. 9d. as their missionary collection.

———August 31st. “Last week a fight took place at Churchtown, near Southport, between a man (or rather a being in the form of a man) called the Moss Lion, but henceforth to be called the Moss Tiger, aged about 54, with an old man from Black Moor, near Rufford, aged 74. It appears that the old man got the tiger down; but in that position he nearly bit the old man’s nose off and through both his cheeks, making him look a most horrible figure. What are the clergy and magistrates doing in that neighbourhood not to put down so monstrous a practice?”—*Liverpool Mercury*.

———The “Bold Arms Hotel,” which had been in course of erection several years, was completed by Mr. Thomas Mawdesley. Mr. John Halfey, of the Original Hotel, got the license, which he held for over forty years.

———“November 21st was observed at Southport, and in the whole of the parish of North Meols, as a day of Thanksgiving to Almighty God for His mercy in preserving that neighbourhood from that fatal disease [cholera] which has visited so many parts of the United Kingdom. The Parish Church, the Church at Southport, and all other places of public worship were open for Divine service. There was a large attendance at each of the places. The shops were all closed, and the stillness which marked the whole vicinity gave a pleasing indication that a pious feeling was generally prevalent.”—*Liverpool Mercury*.

**1833**—May. The public clock placed in Christ Church Tower. The balance of the fund required was raised by means of a lecture given by Mr. John Smith, one of the editors of the *Liverpool Mercury*.

————Several fishermen were this year drowned through the upsetting of their boat off the Marshside Coast. A public subscription was made for the relatives, and the Rev. William Alexander adopted one of the fatherless girls.

————December 31st. The highest tide of the nineteenth century—23 feet 11½ inches old measurement (equal to 32 feet 7½ inches present measurement).

**1834**—During the spring of this year Peter Hesketh, Esq., projected the making of a promenade or sea fence, with a footpath and carriage drive. It commenced at the end of Nevill Street, and extended about 400 yards towards Coronation Walk. This having been made, Sir Henry Bold-Hoghton soon afterwards leased the adjoining portion as far as Coronation Walk to a Mr. Hill.

————The annual value of North Meols Rectory given as £844.

————November. A terrible storm, during which the tide burst through the embankments from Marshside to Banks, doing immense damage. The grounds of Bankfield House (adjoining Crossens Station) were flooded to a considerable depth.

**1835**—January 19th. This day the first recorded election meeting in Southport was held in the Assembly rooms. The candidates were the Right Hon. Lord Francis Egerton and the Hon. Richard Bootle Wilbraham (father of the first Earl of Lathom). The report implies that on the previous Saturday

the rival candidates, Lord Molyneux and Mr. G. W. Wood, had addressed the electors, but there is no account of that meeting to be found. Extensive preparations had been made to receive Lord Egerton and Mr. Wilbraham with conspicuous honour, for we are told in a "broadsheet" report of the meeting, issued from an Ormskirk printing-office, that "It having been announced several days previously that the two popular candidates for the representation of Southern Lancashire would this day honour Southport with their presence, the various inhabitants of that salubrious bathing place were on the alert at an early hour in the morning, and seemed to vie with each other in their efforts to receive their distinguished visitors with a *coup de grace* commensurate with the pleasing event. Several new beautiful silk flags were gratuitously furnished by parties enthusiastic in the cause, and the whole village presented a most lively, animated, and gratifying scene, the effect of all which was most materially heightened by the presence of a host of respectably dressed women and farmers, headed by the stewards to the Lords of the Manor, Mr. Maddocks and Mr. Linaker, who willingly came forward to avouch their determination to support the candidates of Constitutional Reform." We are further told that a procession was formed at the Bold Arms Hotel, and that headed by a band of music it proceeded, with its flags, banners, &c., to escort the candidates to the Assembly Rooms, where Mr. Ralph Peters took the chair, and addresses were given by Lord Egerton and Mr. Wilbraham. Afterwards his Lordship was "heckled" by a Mr. Rushton, a "putter-out," of Churchtown, in a manner quite familiar to recent candidates for Parliamentary honours. The result of the election was in favour of these supporters of Sir Robert Peel, the final state of the poll being:—Egerton, 5,620; Wilbraham, 4,729; Molyneux, 4,629; Wood, 4,294.

**1835**—June. The Rev. Charles Hesketh, M.A., appointed rector in succession to the Rev. Gilbert Ford, M.A., J.P., D.L., deceased. The Rev. Charles Hesketh was the youngest son of Robert Hesketh, Esq., and was born at Wennington Hall, near Lancaster, March 15th, 1804. He was baptised at Melling Church, in which parish Wennington is situated. He was ordained in 1828, and on July 24th that year he was instituted vicar of Poulton-le-Fylde on the cessation of the Rev. Nathaniel Hinde. In 1831 he was appointed perpetual curate of Bispham, and went to live at Bispham Lodge, employing a curate at Poulton. In accordance with his father's will he, on the death of Rector Ford, succeeded to the Rectory of North Meols (all three livings being in the gift of his brother, Peter Hesketh Fleetwood, Esq.). He resigned Poulton on coming to North Meols, and the following year gave up Bispham.

—————This year Sir George Head, in making his "Home tour of the manufacturing districts of England," visited Southport, and devoted a whole chapter in his book to his views and experience of the town. He says:—"The town consists of one very wide, straight street, in length a full mile, and parallel with the sea. . . . The houses are chiefly dwelling or lodging houses, among them very few shops, and all unequal in size, with plenty of space preserved to allow a small railed lawn or garden to each. The pavement consists of large stones, and on each side, for the advantage of pedestrians, or rather, that of shoemakers, the side-paths are constructed of smaller ones more acute than I ever remember to have walked upon—except in a stable." Our author, who stayed at the "Bold Arms," "the first house in the town" that he reached, coming by stage coach, describes in an entertaining manner the bathing regulations, the adventures of a

boating party, a picnic on donkeys to the "Ash Tree," a regatta, and some Old English sports that took place during his visit.

**1835**—"The pastimes of the parish in 1835 consisted of bull-baits at Christmas in North Meols [Churchtown] and Crossens; of a village entertainment in April called "Dorval," when the rustics enjoyed themselves with dancing, drinking, and other sports, and when pies containing figs were eaten; and at Birkdale there was a "Rushbearing" on the Monday fortnight after North Meols fair."—*Baines*.

**1836**—March 23rd. The Rev. William Alexander, writing to his son, said:—"A new and surprising revolution has taken place in this parish. The new rector and his curate are doing just what they ought to do; they preach three or four times on the Sabbath, and in houses, schools, and barns during the week. I have heard him three times in the school on Thursday evenings. He preaches the Gospel; his language is good, but plain and simple, so that all may understand. Being brother to the Lord of the Manor, who is member for Preston, of whom many farmers here hold their farms, his influence is very great. The church, I am told, is filled."

—————May 7th. The first printing office in Southport was 65, Lords' Street, at a shop then kept by Mr. William Alsop, afterwards occupied by Messrs. Garside, and, in its last days, by Mr. George Ball. From here, in 1831, was issued *Alsop's* "Guide to Southport." Here, on May 7th, 1836, was published Southport's first newspaper, the *Southport Record*. Only a small sheet, as may be supposed, it was issued each Saturday during the season, price twopence. It appears to have lived only three seasons, the last number of which we have any knowledge being dated July, 1838.



**1836**—July. "List of various coaches carrying passengers to and from Southport:—

To what Place.	Name and Owner of Coach.	From what Inn.
Liverpool ... ..	Bretherton's Nimrod ... ..	Hesketh Arms Hotel
St. Helen's ... ..	Fidler's Regulator ... ..	The Union Hotel ...
Scarisbrick Bridge...	Salthouse's Bridge Coach ...	Hesketh Arms Hotel
Scarisbrick Bridge...	Halfey's Bridge Coach ...	Bold Arms Hotel ...
Preston ... ..	Gane's Doctor... ..	Hesketh Arms Hotel
Manchester ... ..	Howarth & Co.'s Pilot ... ..	Hesketh Arms ...
St. Helens ... ..	Bretherton's Umpire ... ..	Hesketh Arms ...
Newton ... ..	Bretherton's Patent Safety ...	Hesketh Arms ...
St. Helens ... ..	Fidler's Light Post Coaches ...	Union Hotel ...
St. Helens ... ..	Fidler's Coaches ... ..	Union Hotel ...
Bury and Heywood..	James Hamley's ... ..	Hesketh Arms Hotel

The following list shows the places of worship and the pastors:—

Church.	Name of the Minister.
Parish Church, at Churchtown .....	Rev. C. Hesketh, A.M., Rector.
Christ Church, in Southport	Rev. W. Docker.*
Independent Chapel, Churchtown	Rev. W. Alexander.
Independent Chapel, Southport	Rev. G. Greatbatch.
Wesleyan Methodist, Churchtown	Various, subject to a change.
Wesleyan Methodist, Southport	Ditto.
Catholics, Southport	Rev. J. Pope.
Society of Friends, Southport	
Primitive Methodist, Churchtown	Various.

\* In the evening, at Southport Church, the services are conducted by the Rev. C. Hesketh, A.M., and the Rev. R. Walker, curate of Churchtown, alternately." The Rev. W. Docker took morning and afternoon services.

### SOUTHPORT POST-OFFICE REGULATIONS.

MR. ELLIS WIGNALL, THE POST MASTER.

*Office, next to Jolley & Boothroyd's, Drapers.*

Letters and newspapers arrive in Southport every morning at half-past eleven o'clock, and are delivered at the Hotels, Boarding Houses, and at the houses of the Inhabitants generally; or may be had on application at the Office Window in a quarter to an hour after the arrival of the mail. The

mail is punctually despatched at Half-past Two o'clock in the afternoon. There is an additional charge of One penny upon all Letters and Papers received in Southport.

**1837**—Holy Trinity Church and St. John's Church, Crossens, with their respective vicarages, built this year, from the same plans, which had been drawn by Mrs. Hesketh. Writing on March 4th, the Rev. William Alexander said:—"A new church is built at Crossens, and they are preparing bricks for another at Southport. On Sabbath and week-day there is preaching at fourteen places in the parish; I have always approved of what I have heard the rector preach; I wish all our young ministers were as simple and plain. With such a rector and such curates as he employs, so near to us, you will not be surprised to hear that my congregation does not increase. We are thankful that we have about kept up our number." The Crossens congregation had been meeting in the old Tithebarn, near the sluice. The embryo congregation of Holy Trinity had its home in Hall's Chapel (see 1848), and was mostly composed of the inhabitants of Haws-side, Lime-kiln Brow, and Little London. The Rev. Jonathan Jackson was appointed vicar of Holy Trinity, and the Rev. J. Power, rector of Crossens.

—March. Died, aged 86, Rev. Father Richard Pope. For ten years he had conducted his mission in great poverty. He had built a small church in Lords' Street, and amidst great privation had kept together his congregation. At his death his entire furniture sold for eight pounds. For some months the mission was closed; then priests came each week-end and said Mass on the Sundays.

—The original Baths Company was formed in this year, when Sir Henry Bold-Hoghton, Bart., leased the whole of the land from Nevill Street to Seabank Road to the promoters. Already the embankment was made opposite Waterloo

Terrace, and Claremont House was in course of erection for a private hotel. A toll-gate was established by the proprietors, and continued in existence over twenty years. On the 1st September, Peter Hesketh Fleetwood, Esq., who had leased or sold much of his portion of the land, with considerable ceremony fixed a memorial stone in the wall of the embankment, opposite where the Royal Hotel was afterwards erected. There it remained, until the Promenade was extended to Duke Street, when the alterations necessitated its removal, and it was refixed opposite Marlborough Terrace. With the making of the Marine Park it was again disturbed, and now officiates as a piece of rockery stone.

**1837**—October 27th. Died, aged 76, Charles Robt. Blundell, Esq., of Ince-Blundell, Lord of the Manor of Birkdale. Owing to this gentleman being a confirmed bachelor during the lifetime of his father, the latter “suffered fine and recovery,” in order that he might leave a considerable portion of his property as he thought fit, and accordingly left large estates to his daughters. Mr. C. R. Blundell entered actions against his sisters, and made strenuous efforts to regain the alienated estates, but failed. In consequence, he decided to leave the Ince-Blundell and Birkdale estates to a distant branch of the family, which he did by his will, made in 1834 (*vide* 1847). Wishing to perform an act of kindness to his dependants, he selected sixteen of his principal tenants, to whom he granted the privilege of holding their farms for twenty-one years at half-rent. This made a difference of £2,000 a year in the rent-roll, and proved a doubtful kindness to the tenants. Mr. Thomas Weld, the heir, in accordance with the will, took possession of the estates, and had to defend a series of lawsuits, culminating in that of 1847 (which see).

**1838**—Claremont House opened as a private hotel by Mr. Michael Charlton. Mr. Richard Wright the same year built

the Houghton Arms Hotel, but it did not get a license for several years.

**1838**—June 28th. Great rejoicings in connection with the Coronation of Queen Victoria. At the same time Her Majesty conferred a baronetcy on Sir Peter Hesketh Fleetwood, M.P. for Preston, and Lord of the Manor of North Meols.

————August 19th. “Our rector and his curates are indefatigable in preaching and visiting; I pray they may do much good.”—*Rev. W. Alexander* in a letter to his son.

————November 20th. The deposits in the Southport Savings Bank announced as exceeding £1,100, although the bank had only been established that year.

————December 8th. Copy of a notice issued by the parish authorities:—

NOTICE.—At a Meeting held in the National School, in CHURCHTOWN, on the Eighth Day of December, 1838, to adopt Measures for the destruction of Rats, and other Vermin, throughout the Township of North Meols, *It was then and there Resolved*—“That WILLIAM RYDING, WILLIAM GREGSON, JAMES GREGSON, of Marsh-Side, and RICHARD HUNT, be and are hereby appointed to pay for the Destruction and Killing of the same; and any Person or Persons found cutting or injuring any Platt, Coppice, or Fence, in the furtherance of such object, will be prosecuted with the utmost severity of the Law, and will not be paid for any Mole, Rats, or other Vermin, so destroyed; neither will they be paid for any Vermin that are killed on the Sabbath Day.”

(Signed)

WM. RYDING,  
Chairman.”

**1839**—January 7th. Terrible storm and high tide, which did an immense amount of damage.

**1839**—February 14th. The following valedictory address, as a sample of the election literature of the time, speaks for itself:—

To the Ratepayers of the Township of North Meols.

In retiring from the office of Guardian of the Poor for this Township, I wish to return you my sincere acknowledgements for the confidence you thought proper to repose in me, by electing me as one of your Guardians; and further to assure you that during the period of more than 2 years that I have served that office, it has been my unremitting study to exert my influence on behalf of the suffering and destitute Poor, as well as to guard the Rate Payers from every improper encroachment upon their Funds, in as liberal and as just a manner as my information and observation enabled me to do, and in full concurrence with the Board of Guardians of the Ormskirk Union. Notwithstanding all these efforts of mine, joined to those of my brother Guardian, I am sorry to observe a Bill posted on the walls, conveying a loose insinuation that only £20 per annum should be charged for the Assistant Overseer, whereas £45 has been charged. This is a poor and pitiful return for my exertions for the Township, and one that I cannot (wishing to follow my agricultural operations in peace) for a moment submit to; inasmuch as the Assistant Overseer's salary of £45 per annum was allowed by the General Board of Guardians, in the presence of S. Lees, Esq., and Mr. William Ball, of Southport, myself, and many Guardians of other townships, and also by and with the previous consent of the principal Rate Payers of this Township; whilst the said sum of £45 per annum includes the salary of the Township's Clerk as well as other incidental expenses.

Feeling conscious that I have done my duty, without any remuneration except what the parishioners may offer as a present (and there are little hopes when such bad feelings are

fomented), I therefore decline the office, wishing you may select future officers who will be able to give you satisfaction; although, in justice to the impartial and unremitting attention of my colleague in office, Mr. W. Ball, of Southport, I cannot but strenuously recommend that you should re-elect him as a Guardian of the Poor for the ensuing year, as the general interests of the parish would appear to require the aid of one whose previous practical knowledge must be serviceable.

I am, &c., respectfully your's,

THOMAS BAKER.

Row Lane, North Meols, 14th February, 1839.

For very many years Mr. Baker was churchwarden at the Parish Church. There is a tablet to his memory in St. Cuthbert's.

**1839**—May 2nd. The Victoria Baths, erected at a cost of £6,000, opened. About this time the Promenade was completed between Nevill Street and Coronation Walk.

—August. The Rev. James Newsham arrived as Pastor of the Roman Catholic congregation. For about a year the Rev. Vincent Eyre had been doing duty. Canon Frith had also helped in the work a previous six months whilst in Southport for the benefit of his health.

—November 5th. The "Loyal Fleetwood" Lodge of Oddfellows founded.

**1840**—First Church Bazaar held in Southport—on behalf of Holy Trinity Church.

—Southport Branch of the Church Missionary Society founded.

—April. There was an election of Assistant Overseer. One of the candidates, a schoolmaster, who drew the map of Southport in 1830, issued the following "election address":—

Gentlemen,—As the late Assistant Surveyor of the Highways of this township has not given general satisfaction to

the ratepayers, particularly of Southport, I beg leave to offer myself as a candidate for the situation for your consideration. If it should so happen that I meet with your approbation, no exertion on my part shall be wanting to give satisfaction to all.—I am, gentlemen, your obedient servant,

J. WALKER.

Southport, 9th April, 1840.

To the Board of Directors of the Highways for the  
Township of North Meols.

**1840**—May 26th. Died at Churchtown, aged 88, Mr. William Sutton, the “Old Duke.” He had been overwhelmed by the work of his own hands. The village of his own creation was becoming a town of importance; a thing beyond his own conception, and he had long retired into private life, earning his living as a gravestone cutter and stonemason; as long as he was able. Three days later he was buried in St. Cuthbert’s Churchyard, where yet may be seen many excellent specimens of his handicraft; a large number of them being distinguishable by the “skull and crossbones”; a favourite device of his.

—————July 22nd. The foundation stone of St. Marie’s R.C. Church, Seabank Road, laid. The contract was for £1,500, of which all but £60 was subscribed before the opening.

—————December 7th. Died, Lady Bold-Hoghton, Lady of the Manor of North Meols. The local estates fell to her eldest son (see 1843), Mr. Charles Hoghton.

**1841**—The Roman Catholics of Southport had long had a Mission in Southport. Their church was in Lords’ Street, the block of property afterwards altered into houses, between Union Street and Crown House. Land had been secured in Seabank Road, and St. Marie’s Church was built from designs

by the elder Pugin. A stained glass window, the gift of the Earl of Shrewsbury, was placed over the altar. The Church was dedicated by Bishop Briggs on May 20th; the Rev. James Newsham first rector.

**1841**—April. Census: Population of the Parish of North Meols, 8,331.

**1842**—April 15th to 21st. Postal statistics. There were, during the week, posted at Southport, 1,369 letters, 95 newspapers, and 22 books, total 1,486. (*Vide* each succeeding ten years).

—Victoria Hotel built. It then consisted of the one wing, nearest the Pier. Mr. John Salthouse was the first proprietor, and he retained it about 20 years. He was succeeded by Mr. B. Nightingale, who sold it to the present Company, all the additions having been made by the latter.

—About this time the boats on wheels, afterwards known as "Flying Dutchmen," first made their appearance. The name was perpetuated from the cognomen of one of the first craft used here. There were two of them, known respectively as the "Ariel" and the "Flying Dutchman," but soon after their establishment one of them ran into some bathing vans, and a child was killed. In consequence, their use was, for some years, discontinued.

—The magistrates suspended the license of the "Duke's Folly" owing to the dilapidated state of the premises.

—Owing to an accident which had befallen him the Rev. James Newsham retired from the ministry of St. Marie's, and was succeeded by Rev. James Pemberton, who built the Presbytery.

—In the return for this year the tithe commutation is given at £800. "Tithe owner, the Rector. Glebe area, 15 acres, 3 roods, 20 poles. *Tax et valor* 1291-94, no return; ditto Henry VIII., £8 3s. 4d."



**1842**—August. There was intense distress amidst the labouring population. The Rev. William Alexander, writing to his son, said, "Never, I presume, were two such months known in North Meols as the last two have been. Except the farmers all are weavers.\* Almost all of them have been idle during that time; many are idle now; and if winter overtakes them in this state, I know not what will become of many families."

**1843**—The Bold-Hoghton portion of North Meols, purchased by Charles Scarisbrick, Esq., of Scarisbrick Hall, for £132,000. This sale was made at the instigation of Sir Henry Bold-Hoghton, who had mortgaged his patrimonial estates for £90,000, and who had also other debts which took the balance of the purchase money of North Meols. Some time after, the young heir found out how he had been "sold," for the estates were being again mortgaged. In consequence he entered an action against his father, whose family lawyer had acted for the son, the baronet engaging another solicitor for the time being. The young man claimed a first mortgage to the extent of his expenditure on the estate, but the father replied that the son was of age, and a free agent in the transaction. However, the Court held that the son was likely to have faith in his father and the family lawyer, and gave him a first claim to the extent of the mortgage he had paid off, viz., £90,000. On the death of his father, Sir Charles, by Royal Letters Patent, reassumed the ancient name of De Hoghton, one of the first batch of baronets created by James I. in 1611.

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\* Handloom weaving was introduced into the parish by a man named Hooton, from Patricroft, in the latter part of the eighteenth century. We have not been able to ascertain the exact date, but it was in the time of Miss Anna Maria Bold, who was a lady of the manor from 1761 to 1813. The first weaver of whom we know was "Thomas Rimmer, of North Meols, weaver," whose will was proved in 1788.

**1843**—February 21st. The Rev. W. Alexander attained the age of eighty, when a social tea meeting, with a public meeting afterwards, was held in the chapel at Churchtown. One of the inscriptions on the walls was from 2 Samuel, xix., 35, "I am this day four score years old." An address from the deacons and congregation was read by Mr. Pierpoint. Mr. Gregson, another deacon, then presented Mr. Alexander with a purse of fifty sovereigns, together with a snuff-box from the little girls in the Sunday school. Mr. Greatbatch presented Mr. Alexander with a copy of the works of Andrew Fuller, which had been sent by Mr. Brooks, of Norwich.

—————March. The local authorities of the day issued the following notices:—

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that a Public Meeting of the Ratepayers of the Township of North Meols will be held in the Vestry of the Parish Church, on Saturday, March 25th, 1843, at 11 o'clock in the Forenoon, for the purpose of Nominating a Surveyor or Surveyors of the Highways for the said Township, for the ensuing year.

EDWARD THORNTON, Clerk to the Board.

March 18th, 1843.

—————

We, the Churchwardens of the Parish of North Meols, having received a Requisition requesting us to call a PUBLIC MEETING of the Ratepayers, for the purpose of laying a Rate to remunerate the Assessors of Taxes, and the Guardians of the Poor for the trouble and expense incurred in their several duties.

We therefore do hereby give notice that a Public Meeting will be held in the Vestry of the Parish Church of North Meols, on Saturday next, March 25th, 1843, at Eleven o'clock

in the Forenoon, to lay a Rate of one halfpenny or one penny in the pound, for this purpose.

HENRY LINAKER BRADLEY, }  
JOHN WRIGHT, } Churchwardens.

North Meols, March 20th, 1843.

**1843**—September. The Congregational Chapel, Eastbank Lane, opened after re-building, by Rev. John Thornton and Rev. W. G. Milne.

**1844**—April 17th. Died, aged 86, Ann, widow of Robert Rimmer; April 20th, aged 84, Ellen, wife of John Baker; April 21st, aged 84, William Johnson, all of North Meols. They were all natives who got their living from fishing. They had lived all their lives within a mile of each other.

—————May 4th. Postal Notice. “Visitors are reminded that the mail arrives at Southport at Eleven o’clock in the forenoon, and the Deliveries take place immediately on the letters being sorted. The box is closed at a quarter before Three o’clock, and the Mail is dispatched at a quarter-past Three. Parties requiring Money Orders should pay the amount thereof to the Postmaster some time previous to the closing of the box, say half-past two o’clock, in order to ensure its being obtained from the Office at Ormskirk on the following day.” Mr. Ellis Wignall, Postmaster.

—————May 4th. The first number of the *Southport Visiter*, published by Mr. Robert Johnson, whose office was on the site now occupied by Mr. Tidswell, wine and spirit merchant, Lord Street. The price was threepence, including the “stamp,” and for about eight years it was published weekly, on Saturdays, from May to October. The first number contained a list of about 200 visitors, an account of a sudden death, two County Court cases (heard at Preston), an “Appeal to Strangers” against cruelty to donkeys, a

paragraph on behalf of the "Strangers' Charity," and a list of churches and chapels, with the names of ministers and the hours of service.

**1844**—May 4th. Died, aged 43, the Hon. Richard Bootle-Wilbraham, M.P. for South Lancashire, the son of the first Lord Skelmersdale, and father of the first Earl of Lathom. For the Parliamentary vacancy there were two candidates, Mr. William Brown, of Liverpool, the Free Trade candidate, and Mr. Entwistle, Protectionist. On May 23rd, from the balcony of the Victoria Hotel, Mr. Brown addressed the populace, of whom some 600 attended. Mr. S. Lees, M.P., presided, the principal speaker being Mr. Cobden, M.P. Mr. Entwistle was elected by a majority of 598 votes.

————August 15th. A vessel in distress was noticed off Birkdale, and the lifeboat went out to its assistance. Arriving there it was found to be the barque *Pearl*, but there was no trace of the crew. The vessel became a total wreck.

————September 7th. Amongst the visitors at this date staying at Claremont House, then a private hotel kept by Mr. M. Charlton, were Lord Skelmersdale; his grandson, Hon. E. Bootle-Wilbraham (afterwards first Earl of Lathom); the Right Hon. Lord Stanley (afterwards 15th Earl of Derby); John Wilson-Patten, Esq., M.P. (afterwards Lord Winmarleigh); the Hon. Mrs. Bootle-Wilbraham, of Blyth, and family; the Hon. Mrs. Arthur Lascelles and family; the Hon. Mrs. E. Bootle-Wilbraham, of Lathom; the Hon. Miss Arden, and other members of the nobility.

————September 9th. Sam Lover, the Irish author, gave a concert in the Assembly Rooms.

————September 16th. A case was tried at the Preston County Court, in which the plaintiff, William Gregson, miller, of Churchtown, sued William Singleton and Thomas Stone, policemen, for abuse and false imprisonment, on the evening

of the second day of the South Lancashire Election, viz., May 28th. Briefly the circumstances were as follows: the plaintiff, on the night in question, purchased a quantity of lozenges and distributed them among a number of young people, and they, at Gregson's request, gave three cheers for "Brown and Free Trade," when the plaintiff was taken into custody on the charge of being riotous and disorderly. It was given in evidence that one of the officers struck the plaintiff and unnecessarily abused him. A verdict was given for the plaintiff, damages £9 19s. 11d.

**1844**—September 19th. The Southport and Ormskirk Building Society founded.

———Two railways, one from Southport to Euxton Junction and one to Ormskirk, were this year projected. The House of Commons Committee and the Board of Trade both held it advisable that more direct communication with Liverpool and Manchester should be provided, so the schemes were withdrawn.

**1845**—In the spring of this year the Southport Choral Society was formed.

———March. Rev. John Hill appointed to St. Marie's, Father Pemberton having retired through ill health.

———April 27th. The Rev. William Alexander, now aged 82 years, preached his farewell sermon as pastor of Churchtown Independent Chapel, after exactly 20 years' connection with that congregation. The Rector (Rev. Charles Hesketh), with whom he was very friendly, begged him to retain his house (owned by the Rector) at a nominal rent of 10s. a year; but Mr. Alexander replied that he could not be comfortable there, "for," said he, "my mouth must be shut, for were another minister to come here I could not preach in the neighbourhood, because it might draw some from the chapel,

which I should be sorry to do." He did, however, stay until March 1850, the rector refusing to take more rent than a mere acknowledgment.

**1845**—As a result of the previous year's applications, this year saw no less than six railway schemes projected for Southport. The title of the first one reads as a curious coincidence with later days. They were the "West Lancashire, or Liverpool, Southport, and Preston Junction Railway," Thomas Weld-Blundell, Esq., chairman; "Manchester and Wigan Railway, with extension to Southport," the Hon. Captain Carnegie, R.N., M.P., chairman; the "West Lancashire and North Union Railway," Thomas Barnes, Esq., chairman; "Manchester, Preston, Wigan, and Southport Railway," James Lees, Esq., chairman; and the "Southport and Rainford Junction Railway," Thomas Kershaw, Esq., of Ormskirk, interim secretary. These were all advertised, but only three reached Parliament, viz., the grand Cross Railway (Liverpool, Southport, and Preston, and Manchester and Southport), the West Lancashire Coast Line, and the Liverpool, Ormskirk, and Preston Railway, with a branch to Southport. The latter passed without the Southport branch. The other two were rejected for non-compliance with standing orders.

———September 23rd. At a public meeting held in the Assembly Rooms it was resolved "that it is desirable that Southport should be a separate and distinct township for the management of its local affairs; and, to carry into effect that object, that an application be made in the next session of Parliament for an Act to obtain the necessary powers." Thirty gentlemen were appointed a committee to obtain the Act.

———September 29th. A great fire occurred at Claremont House, Promenade. There being no fire engine in Southport,

a mounted messenger was despatched to Ormskirk, and arrived there in 23 minutes. In an hour and forty minutes from the despatch of the messenger, the engines from Ormskirk had arrived, and were at work. Damage was done by the fire and water to the extent of £2,700.

**1845**—Sir Peter Hesketh-Fleetwood, Bart., M.P., was now busy trying to establish the town of Fleetwood, and with this object sold his North Meols estate. The greater portion was bought by his brother, the Rector (Rev. Charles Hesketh, M.A.), Mr. Charles Scarisbrick buying the remainder. The latter, in November, sold to the Victoria Baths Company the freehold of the Promenade from Nevill Street to Seabank Road.

**1846**—March. The last balance-sheet of the Parish Surveyors of Highways, prior to the advent of the Improvement Commissioners, is worth preserving. It is also interesting to note how the township was divided in those days:—

An abstract of the accounts of the Assistant Surveyors to the Board for the repair of the highways, for the Township of North Meols, for the year ending 25th March, 1846.

H. L. BRADLEY, in account for all the roads west of Bankfield House, to the boundaries of Birkdale and Scarisbrick.

Dr.	£	s.	d.
To cash received from the Treasurer .....	550	0	0
„ for waste stone .....	0	15	6
„ for one half of the side stones in Manchester Road .....	6	9	6
	<hr/>		
	£557	5	0
	<hr/>		

Cr.	£	s.	d.
By balance from last year's accounts .....	1	4	4
By cash paid for Day Labour .....	68	12	10
"    Contract Work .....	78	2	8
"    Materials .....	172	14	0
"    Team Work .....	125	2	4
"    Tradesmen's Bills .....	76	13	10
"    Incidental Expenses .....	3	17	6
"    H. L. Bradley, one year's Salary	15	0	0
"    one-half of Collector's Salary ...	9	0	0
"    Treasurer's Salary .....	5	0	0
By balance due to the Township .....	1	17	6
	<hr/>		
	£557	5	0

RICHARD SUTTON, in account for all the roads east of Bankfield House, to the boundaries of Hesketh-with-Beaconsall and Tarleton.

Dr.	£	s.	d.
To cash received from the Treasurer .....	235	0	0
To Balance due to Richard Sutton .....	0	12	3
	<hr/>		
	£235	12	3

H. L. Bradley's Account brought forward.....	557	5	0
Richard Sutton's do. do. ....	235	0	0
	<hr/>		
	£792	5	0

Cr.	£	s.	d.
By Balance from last year's accounts .....	18	17	0
By cash paid for Day Labour .....	29	11	3
"    Contract Work .....	39	13	5½



By cash paid for Materials.....	74	8	10½
„ Team Work .....	40	8	2
„ Tradesmen's Bills .....	3	9	8
„ Incidental Expenses .....	2	3	10
„ one-half of Collector's Salary ...	9	0	0
„ Richard Sutton, one year's salary .....	10	0	0
„ Clerk to the Board's Salary.....	8	0	0
			£235 12 3

H. L. Bradley's Account brought forward.....	555	7	6
Richard Sutton's do. do. ....	235	12	3
Balance due to the Township .....	1	5	3
			£792 5 0

RICHARD WRIGHT, }  
BENNETT SMITH, } Auditors.

Southport, March 21, 1846.

**1846**—June 18th. The first Southport Improvement Act received the Royal assent. It cost £1,500. Under its powers the streets were first lighted, on November 7th, by 34 naphtha lamps, and during the following year £2,000 was expended in improving Lords' Street. Rates were laid in September at 1s. 6d. in the £ on a rateable value of £11,000 according to a new assessment, the district having previously been rated at £8,000. Mr. W. Wales was the first chairman. Twenty-three persons were named in the Act as the first Commissioners, viz., the Revs. C. Hesketh, W. Docker, J. Jackson, G. Greatbatch, and J. Hill; Messrs. W. Wales, James Longton, M.D., Richard Wright (agent), Richard Wright (builder), William Ball (captain), William Jolley,

Bennett Smith (captain), Singleton Cooper, Samuel Whiteley, William Linaker, William Gregson, Thomas Hulme, Richard Lewis, Charles Clough (surgeon), William Walker, James Mawdesley, Richard Ball (brewer), and William Tyrer. Sir Peter Hesketh-Fleetwood had a claim of £11,816 9s. 1d. against the town, "Money expended by him before the passing of the Act, in forming the several streets of the town, building the sea-wall (Promenade), cost of gas lamps, and the expenses of procuring the Act." On this sum the Commissioners paid annual interest to the amount of £237 15s. 2d. Anxious to bring into force the most beneficial provisions of the Improvement Act, the Commissioners determined to have a proper and commodious Market and Market House, as soon as a convenient site could be obtained. Mr. James Mawdesley, a draper, of Pendleton Place, acquired the Assembly Rooms, and turning the lower storey into a shop he kept the upper portion as the "Exchange News Room." He then laid out the back premises as a bowling green. When the Commissioners found a difficulty regarding a market site, Mr. Mawdesley came to the rescue, and offered his colleagues the Bowling Green for the purpose. The Commissioners agreed to lease the land, and instructions were given to Mr. Thomas Withnell to draw the plans.

**1846**—July 5th. A new organ opened at Christ Church.

—July 17th. Three Marshside fishermen, Richard and Gilbert Wright (father and son) and Thomas Bond, drowned, through a sudden gust of wind upsetting their boat.

—August 8th. Terrible thunderstorm, during which "Belle Vue" was struck by lightning. A servant, in the act of closing a window, had her hand scorched by the electric fluid.

—September. Holy Trinity Church Clothing Club established.

**1846**—September 8th. At the Annual Sports this year horse races were substituted for boat races.

**1847**—April. At the Kirkdale Quarter Sessions, two boys, named William Huyton, aged 16, and Thomas Rafferty, aged 13, were convicted of housebreaking at Southport, and were each sentenced to *fifteen years' transportation*.

———April 21st. Died, at Southport, Rev. James Oswald Talbot, formerly Benedictine priest at Ormskirk.

———May 4th. Died, at Churchtown, aged 92 years, Ellen Hooton, widow. She stated, on her deathbed, that she was leaving descendants exactly the same in number as those of Jacob who accompanied the patriarch into Egypt.

———May. A public clock, the gift of T. T. Taylor, Esq., fixed in the tower of Holy Trinity Church.

———The Rev. George Greatbatch having resigned the pastorate of Eastbank Lane Church, after forty years' service, the Rev. John Egarr Millson was "called" as his successor.

———June 2nd. The Local Dispensary had practically lapsed, and on this date a meeting was held to revive the interest in the society. The Rev. Charles Hesketh, M.A., was elected President; Thomas Hulme, Esq., Treasurer; Robert Johnson, Esq., Secretary. Messrs. Garside, Walker, and Kershaw were appointed dispensers, in turns of six months each. The medical officers were Messrs. Matthias, Docker (Monday and Thursday), Lee (Tuesday and Friday), and Barron (Wednesday and Saturday).

———June 26th. A case came before the Lord Chancellor, in which the plaintiffs were Lord Camoys and Elizabeth Tempest, widow; the defendants being Thomas Weld-Blundell and others. It was an appeal against the decision of the Vice-Chancellor, affirmed by Lord Lyndhurst. The facts of the case were that Charles Robert Blundell, by his will made in the year 1834, gave large estates in Lancashire

to John Gladstone and others, in trust for the second son of Edward Weld, of Lulworth Castle, for life, and after his decease upon trust for the first and every other son of the said second son of Edward Weld severally, successively, &c., and for default of such issue upon trust for the third and every other son or sons (except the eldest) of the said Edward Weld, with remainder to the younger brothers of the said Edward Weld and their issue, with remainder to the second and every other son and sons (except the eldest) of Lady Stourton, wife of Lord Stourton, and one of the sisters of the said Edward Weld. At the date of the will there was no such person as "Edward Weld," of Lulworth. There had been a Thomas Weld, who, having joined the Church of Rome, had been made a Cardinal, and his brother, Joseph Weld, had become the possessor of Lulworth Castle. There had been an Edward born between these persons, but he had died a bachelor in 1796. Mr. Joseph Weld had three sons, the eldest of which sons was baptised Edward Joseph, the second was named Thomas, and the third Joseph. Thomas, the second son of Joseph Weld, of Lulworth Castle, claimed the estate, as all the description in the will answered to him except the name, which he alleged to have been a mistake. The judges decided that the whole will must be considered together, and that on the face of that instrument there appeared enough to explain the ambiguity as to the name of the second son, and to show that the decision of the court below was correct. The verdict was accordingly for Mr. Weld-Blundell.

**1847**—July 2nd. The first Bill for a Southport Railway received the Royal Assent. The West Lancashire (Coast Line) Railway Bill had been withdrawn in favour of the Liverpool, Crosby, and Southport Railway Bill, which was

passed as stated. The Manchester, Wigan, and Southport line was authorised on the 22nd of the same month.

**1847**—August 15th. Hoghton Street Chapel, which had been built in place of that at Wesley Street, opened by the Rev. E. Walker, chairman of the Liverpool District. The foundation stone had been laid on March 17th by Dr. Peter Wood, and the building erected, at a cost of £1,400, by Mr. R. Wright, from designs by Mr. Thomas Withnell. The Rev. Dr. Newton preached on September 14th, when the collections on behalf of the building fund amounted to £128 11s. 1½d.

—————September. Some Lords' Street tradesmen, led by Mr. Frank Robinson, editor of the *Visiter*, made a determined effort to get the thoroughfare re-named "Broadway," and in September memorialised the Commissioners on the subject. The Commissioners declined to make the change, but the "s" fell into disuse gradually.

—————During this year an ineffectual attempt to get a "repeal of the Union" with Ormskirk was made in respect to County Court, Government Tax, Appeal Courts, &c.

**1848**—January 1st. On this day a meeting of the shareholders of the Liverpool, Crosby, and Southport Railway was held in the Clarendon Rooms, Liverpool, William Blundell, Esq., chairman of the directors, in the chair. It was resolved to at once commence making the line between Waterloo and Southport, and on March 24th the first sod was cut. This portion of the line was completed in June, and on the 21st of July the Government inspection and formal opening took place. On July 31st trains began to run, the Southport Station being at Eastbank Street. From Waterloo passengers were taken on to Liverpool by coach. The present gatehouse at Portland Street is the original Station House. Messrs. Holme and M'Cormick were the contractors for the line.

**1848**—February. The erection of the first Market House for Southport was commenced. Up to this period there had been no regular market, but various casual hawkers and hucksters—native and gipsy—had been in the habit of pitching stalls, at irregular intervals, in the grounds of the Union Hotel. By June a neat and substantial structure had been erected, the total cost, including the weighing machines and other extras, being £840. The plot of land was eighty-six feet by eighty-two, and its four sides were divided into twenty-eight covered stalls, which were occupied, eight by butchers, nine by fruiterers, poulterers, and fish dealers, four by greengrocers, three by bakers, and four for butter, cheese, and eggs, with an office for the market-looker. On each side was an elevated covered passage four feet wide, and in the centre of the remaining space was a covered shed thirty-six feet long, and fifteen feet wide, for baskets, &c., together with a large pump and trough.

—————The Improvement Commissioners had made their first business the improvement of Lord Street, and had already spent over £2,000 on this object.

—————August 5th. Churchtown Rechabite Tent formed.

—————August 31st. “Weld-Blundell Estates Bill” passed. Under its powers, in the following month, Mr. Weld-Blundell offered the land in Birkdale, on long leases, renewable, at reasonable rates. Some time elapsed, however, before operations were commenced. Plans were drawn, and the land between the railway and the beach, hitherto known as “Andows Hills,” was termed “Birkdale Park.”

—————August 31st. The *Ocean Monarch* burnt at sea. Fourteen bodies were washed ashore at Southport and Birkdale. They were conveyed to the Original Hotel, and afterwards interred in Christ Church yard.

**1848**—September. The population of Birkdale was ascertained to be between 600 and 700.

———Rev. W. G. Nevatt ordained minister of Churchtown Independent Church.

———December 4th. Died, Mr. Bartin Haigh. Mr. Haigh was a Liverpool merchant who, having chosen Southport as a residence, built Brunswick Villa, Manchester Road, where he resided many years. In 1830 he assisted liberally in building Churchtown Independent Chapel, and some years later he built "Hall's Chapel," in what is now Hall Street, for the Rev. Mr. Hall, a clergyman of the National Church who, having adopted Calvinistic doctrines, had sold his living and retired to Southport. Mr. Haigh had endeavoured to persuade the Rev. George Greatbatch to allow Mr. Hall to join him in the pastorate of Eastbank Lane Chapel, and made offers of financial help, but Mr. Greatbatch declined for conscientious reasons. Mr. Hall's congregation was always small, and in a few years dwindled to the least of numbers. This was in spite of great endeavours on the part of Mr. Haigh, who, in disgust, retired again to Liverpool, where he died. He left an annuity of £50 to the Rev. W. Alexander, to whom he had been a devoted friend for over forty years. Two paintings of Hall's Chapel are in the Atkinson Art Gallery.

**1849**—April 2nd. The Liverpool, Ormskirk, and Preston Railway opened. Coaches ran between Southport and Ormskirk in connection with the trains.

———May 27th. Independent Chapel, Eastbank Street, re-opened after enlargement.

———July 9th. Rev. William Docker, first incumbent of Christ Church, died, aged 60. The rev. gentleman had been connected with the town nearly thirty-five years, and had taken a prominent part in establishing it.

**1849**—August 3rd. Foundation stone of a Primitive Methodist Chapel at Banks laid by Mr. Lowe, on land given by Charles Scarisbrick, Esq.

———October 16th. The meetings of the Improvement Commissioners first thrown open to the members of the Press.

———November 4th. The Rev. Benjamin Strettel Clarke, B.A. (late of Thorp Hesley, near Rotherham), “read himself in” as incumbent of Christ Church, in succession to Rev. W. Docker.

———November 10th. Southport first lighted with hydrocarbon gas. The Commissioners adopted Mr. Stephen White’s patent, the works being completed at a cost of less than £3,500.

———November 14th. The fishing boat *New Ann* run down at sea. The crew of three men and a boy were all drowned. Two of the men left families, on whose behalf a subscription was raised.

**1850**—March 23rd. The ship *Howard*, of and for Liverpool from Mobile, wrecked on the “Angry Brow.” The crew of twenty-three men rescued by the Southport Lifeboat. The figure-head of this vessel was a “Golden Lion.” It was fixed over a shop window in Chapel Street, and remained there over forty-five years, but it has now disappeared.

———May 17th. The Lancashire Hussars, 150 strong, paid their first visit to Southport, under the command of Major Sir John Gerard, Bart.

———August 22nd. At the half-yearly meeting of the Liverpool, Crosby, and Southport Railway, it was stated that the half-year’s receipts amounted to £4,935 19s. 2d., and the expenses to £2,716 18s. 6d., leaving a surplus of £2,219 6s. 8d.



**1850**—July 16th. Terrible thunderstorm, during which two young men were killed at Churchtown, and several other persons injured. Considerable damage was done to property in Churchtown and Crossens.

—————August 8th. Mr. Weld-Blundell, having now got peaceable possession of his property, encouraged building on the “Birkdale Park” estate. On August 8th the first stones were laid of Lulworth House, Mr. John Aughton being the builder. Houses then began to spring up with great rapidity in Aughton, Gloucester, Lulworth, and Westcliffe Roads.

—————October 1st. The Liverpool, Crosby, and Southport Railway completed to Sandhills, and trains run direct to Liverpool. Up to this date passengers were conveyed by ’bus between Waterloo and Liverpool. A service of trains was also established between Southport and Manchester *via* Sandhills.

—————Window tax to the amount of £911 10s. 4d. was paid in Southport this year. The remainder of the parish paid £44 14s. 7d.; nearly half of the latter sum was paid by two persons.

**1851**—January 15th. The fishing boat *Joseph and Mary* wrecked. Richard Alty and Peter Rimmer drowned.

—————March. Wesleyan Reform Agitation. This disturbance had at length borne fruit in the district. In March of this year Mr. Hugh Hodge (class leader), Mr. Oliver Holden, and nearly the whole of the members of the “Old Class,” over thirty in all, expelled the Wesleyan Methodist Connexion, as supporters of Messrs. Everett, Dunn, &c.

—————April. Christ Church re-opened after alterations, which had cost £1,000. The preachers were Rev. Canon Hugh Stowell and Rev. W. Pollock.

**1851**—April. Census. Number of inhabited houses in Southport, 878; rest of the parish (including Birkdale), 717; total 1,595. Inhabitants: Southport, male 1,937, female 2,829; rest of parish, male 2,001, female 1,925; total, 8,692. There were 455 between the ages of 60 and 70; 132 between 80 and 90, and six over 90. Two, aged over 90, died the week preceding the Census.

————June. Charles Scarisbrick, Esq., returned 15 per cent. to his tenants paying over £20 per year farm rental.

————July 25th. Mr. C. E. Driffield elected coroner for the West Derby Hundred.

————August 4th. Oddfellows' Anniversary. A procession was formed, the members walking to Aughton Road, Birkdale, to inspect some houses in course of erection, the funds for them being advanced by the society.

————August 10th. The steamer *Prince Arthur*, of Preston, wrecked near Ainsdale; vessel destroyed, two firemen lost.

————August 22nd. Chapel Street Railway Station opened, and Eastbank Street Bridge completed. The Railway Company paid their first dividend (2½ per cent.) out of the profits, for the half-year ending June 30th.

————August 31st. The Rev. W. Alexander, now aged 89 years, preached his last sermon in Eastbank Street Congregational Church, taking his text from 1 Peter i. 19., "The precious blood of Christ."

————September 6th. The Improvement Commissioners bought Springfield Cottage and grounds for £840, as a site for the Town Hall.

**1852**—January 5th. Southport Young Men's Christian Association founded. President, the Rector (Rev. Charles Hesketh, M.A.); vice-presidents, all the local ministers of all denominations; treasurer, Mr. James Kershaw; secretaries, Revs. W. Mocatta and G. Greatbatch.

**1852**—January 12th. The Manchester, Wigan, and Southport Railway Company, having made their line to Wigan, had introduced a Bill into Parliament asking for powers to abandon the Wigan to Southport branch. On the above date a public meeting was held to protest against the proposed abandonment. It was resolved to apply for a *mandamus* to compel the making of the line. The Bill was withdrawn, but no progress made with the work. In August the *mandamus* was obtained in the Court of Queen's Bench. Mr. Samuel Boothroyd was the main mover in the matter, this being the first public work of a gentleman destined to be Chairman of the Improvement Commissioners, and four times Mayor of Southport.

————February. A branch of Lawe and Sidgreaves' (Preston) Bank opened in Southport—the first bank in the town.

————March. Mr. Thomas Weld-Blundell, of Ince-Blundell, chosen High Sheriff.

————April. The gas first made from cannel, resin gas having previously been in use.

————April 15th to 21st. Postal Statistics: Despatched from the Southport Post Office during the week—letters, 4,705; newspapers, 129; books, 47. [*Vide* 1842 and each succeeding ten years.]

————April. A committee formed to promote a Pier for Southport.

————May 4th. The foundation stone of the new Strangers' Charity, Seabank Road, laid by James Darwell, Esq.; architect, Mr. Thomas Withnell; builder, Mr. T. Stanley.

————June 11th. "Flying Dutchman" re-established on the shore.

**1852**—July 20th. Foundation stone of the Town Hall laid by the Rev. Jonathan Jackson, M.A., J.P., vicar of Holy Trinity, the Chairman of the Improvement Commissioners. Mr. Thomas Withnell was the architect, and Mr. Thomas Stanley the builder. The contract price was £2,249. Mr. Charles Scarisbrick had granted a lease of the land for 999 years at £3 per annum. The occasion was treated as a "red-letter day" in the history of the town, there being processions of Sunday Schools, Friendly Societies, &c., concluding with a banquet at the Victoria Hotel.

————August 17th. Holy Trinity Church re-opened, after enlargement and improvement, by the Rev. Canon Hugh McNeile, D.D.

————September. The Rev. J. Lee, B.A., called to the ministry of Churchtown Independent Chapel, on the resignation of the Rev. W. G. Nevatt.

————September 9th. St. Marie's Catholic Church re-opened, after alterations and enlargements. Mass was celebrated by Bishop Brown, of Liverpool, and the sermon preached by Rev. Canon (afterwards Bishop) Goss, of St. Edmund's College, Liverpool.

————September 19th. A terrible thunderstorm, during which Miss Seed's house in Seabank Road was struck, and a gentleman visitor rendered insensible.

————October. Railway Hotel opened by Mr. Josiah Mather. The magistrates at Ormskirk had refused to grant a license, so that one held at the "Blue Anchor," Tithebarn Road, was transferred to the new hotel.

————Christmas Day. Terrific hurricane, which did immense damage in the town. One of the houses in Sutlej Terrace, Promenade, was unroofed, several buildings in the town and in Birkdale had their gable ends blown in. The Promenade slope opposite the Baths was destroyed, the

“Cop” at Banks washed away, much damage done to the fishing fleet, several boats being destroyed. The Spanish vessel *St. Catherina*, from Havana to Liverpool with sugar, was wrecked on the Horsebank. The crew were saved by the Southport lifeboat.

**1853**—April 23rd. The old Strangers’ Charity and Dispensary, Lord Street, opened as a chapel by the Wesleyan Reformers [now the United Methodist Free Church].

———June 1st. The Town Hall occupied by the Commissioners, Magistrates, Police, &c., without any formal ceremony.

———June 13th. The Lancashire Hussars visited Southport a second time. Captain F. S. Gerard was in command, Sir John being ill.

———September 13th. Peter Wood, Esq., M.D., elected Chairman of the Improvement Commissioners.

———September 14th. Mr. Singleton Cooper died, aged 61. This gentleman was one of the first churchwardens of Holy Trinity Church, and retained the office until his death. He was also one of the Improvement Commissioners “named in the Act,” and filled many other public offices. He had been a soldier, and fought at the Battle of Waterloo. He built all the property in Manchester Road distinguished by the prefix of “Singleton.”

———September. Southport became a separate Wesleyan Circuit, having previously been joined to Ormskirk.

———November. The Southport Waterworks Company formed to bring water from Scarisbrick Windmill to Southport. The capital was limited to £12,000, and the area to the townships of North Meols, Birkdale, and Scarisbrick. Nearly the whole of the shares were taken up at Bury.

**1854**—January 5th. The first “Teetotal Dinner” in Southport, given by Mr. Walter Smith to his employees engaged in making the Manchester and Southport Railway. The *Visiter*,

in reporting the meeting, prophesied that Mr. Smith would become "a conspicuous character in the history of North Meols."

**1854**—February 6th. A tea service presented by friends to Mr. John Aughton, who was described as "the founder of Birkdale," on his leaving this neighbourhood to undertake some large works in America.

————February 23rd. Drs. Peter Wood and William Mort appointed the first physicians to the Strangers' Charity, Seabank Road.

————February 28th. Died, Sir John Gerard, major-commandant of the Lancashire Hussars, aged 50. He was succeeded by his brother, Sir Robert Tolver (afterwards Lord) Gerard.

————March 13th. A public meeting of the ratepayers called to consider the advisability of adopting the Public Health Act, passed a resolution in the negative.

————March 23rd. Died in Union Street, aged 83, John Hurst. He had been a sick member on the books of the Ormskirk Catholic Sick and Burial Society since September, 1808, receiving 7s. per week for the first year and 3s. 6d. per week afterwards—over £420. He was the first person to keep a livery stable in Southport; in Upper King Street.

————March. The license attached to the Original Hotel—the "Duke's Folly," which bore many names in its day—transferred to the Royal Hotel, Promenade, which had been erected by Mr. Livesey, of Scarisbrick, from plans drawn by Mr. Thomas Withnell. This was the license originally granted to the "South Port Hotel." Mr. Thomas Parker was the first tenant.

————April 17th. Mr. John B. Gough, the great temperance orator, addressed a public meeting in the Town Hall.

**1854**—April 19th. Died at Fair Lawn, Richard Saunders, Esq., of Wennington Hall, father of Mrs. Hesketh.

—April 25th. Foundation stone of new schools in connection with Christ Church, laid by the Rev. B. S. Clarke, M.A. The schools were opened in the following September.

—October. The license of the Royal Hotel having been transferred to the hotel now bearing that name, the “Duke’s Folly” was this month demolished. A stone tablet was found at the back of the house (and was afterwards placed in the memorial lamp near the same spot) bearing the following inscription:—

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD  
 ——— 1792 ———  
 THIS HOUSE WAS BUILT  
 IN MEMORY OF D. W. SUTTON,  
 of *North Meols* who was the  
 first Founder & Executor of  
*South-Port* which was call'd his  
 Folly for Many Years and it proves  
 that his Forefight was his Wifdom  
 which should be remembered with  
 Gratitude by the *LORDS* of this  
 Manor and the Inhabitants of this  
 ~~~~~ PLACE ALSO ~~~~~

This tablet bore strong evidence of being the “Old Duke’s” own cutting—he being the principal gravestone cutter of his day. The lettering and style of this stone were very similar to his own known work.

—November. Over £1,000 subscribed to the Patriotic Fund, for the relief of the widows and orphans of the Crimean heroes, by the inhabitants of Southport and district.

- 1855**—January 9th. Festivities at Churchtown to commemorate the coming of age of Mr. (afterwards Colonel) Edward Fleetwood Hesketh, only son of the Rector and Lord of the Manor.
- January 18th. Died, Mr. Thomas Kirkland Glazebrook, the first historian (1809 and 1826) of Southport, aged 74 years.
- January 23rd. Died, aged 92 years, the Rev. William Alexander, for over 60 years an active Congregational minister.
- February. Severe frost; the Bog Hole frozen over, and the foreshore covered with a sheet of ice.
- April 9th. The Southport and Manchester Railway opened, with a junction at Burscough to the Liverpool, Ormskirk, and Preston line. The next day the first accident happened on the new line, an engine getting off the rails at New Lane Station. From this date the Ormskirk and Southport coaches were discontinued.
- June 15th. The "Lodge of Unity," No. 613, the first lodge of Freemasons in the town, dedicated by Bro. Perrin, P.G.S.W. of West Lancashire.
- July 9th. Died, aged 78, the Rev. John Bumstead, Wesleyan minister, in the 51st year of his ministry.
- September 26th. A new organ, which had cost £300, opened at the Wesleyan Chapel, Hoghton Street.
- November. A stained glass window put in Holy Trinity Church to the memory of Mrs. Mary Ann Gaskell.
- December 9th. Died at Birkdale, the Rev. James Newsham, Roman Catholic priest, under whose rectorship St. Marie's Church, Seabank Road, was built.
- December 11th. Mr. Samuel Newsham, solicitor and deputy magistrates' clerk, died suddenly, aged 57.



**1856**—March. From the opening of the railway to Burscough from Southport, there had been strong competition for the Liverpool traffic. The Lancashire and Yorkshire Railway Company (working the Liverpool, Crosby, and Southport line) and the East Lancashire Railway Company (working the Ormskirk line) had several times reduced the fares, until they got down to sixpence single and ninepence return journey. In March they came to an agreement whereby the fares were fixed at—single tickets, 1s. 6d.; return, 2s. 6d. The East Lancashire Station was in London Street; the buildings opposite Scarisbrick Street.

—————May 1st. Jubilee celebration in connection with the Strangers' Charity. The proceedings commenced with divine service in Christ Church, where the Rev. Dr. McNeile preached from Philippians ii., 5. A luncheon followed at the new hospital, the patients having a special "menu," and the proceedings closed with a sermon by the Rector. The collections that day realised £926 2s. 6d. for the charity.

—————May 24th. Public trial, on the Birkdale sands, of the "Whitworth" great gun. The target was fixed at Formby Point.

—————May 29th. Peace rejoicings at the close of the Crimean War. Procession of the inhabitants, tea parties, grand illuminations, with fireworks on the shore. Mr. W. Linaker, at Churchtown, entertained thirteen old women whose united ages amounted to 910 years.

—————June 14th. A fishing boat, at Marshside, the property of John Wright (Manty) and his son, with all its tackle, nets, &c., destroyed by fire.

—————July 1st. A severe frost in Southport, which did great damage to immense quantities of potatoes.

- 1856**—July 2nd to 5th. Bazaar held in the Town Hall, in aid of a proposed (St. James's) church for Birkdale. The proceeds amounted to £636 18s. 10½d.
- August 6th. Miss Debonaire Fleetwood Hesketh, daughter of Rev. Charles Hesketh, married at Churchtown to Mr. William McInroy, of Lude, Blair Athol.
- September 13th. The foundation stone of St. James' Church, Birkdale, laid by the Rev. Charles Hesketh, M.A., rector. Mr. Alfred Rimmer, architect; Mr. Richard Wright, builder; Rev. Benjamin Swift, LL.B., vicar-designate.
- October 9th. The Ormskirk and Southport Agricultural Society inaugurated at Ormskirk. Mr. Robert Mawdsley proposed the necessary resolution, which was seconded by Mr. James Hunt, of Southport. Mr. Mawdsley was appointed secretary, a post he retained for thirty years.
- December 18th. Died, Mr. Josiah Mather, first owner of the Railway Hotel, and one of the Improvement Commissioners.
- 1857**—January 1st. Sixty-seven poor persons over 60 years of age entertained in Christ Church Schools. Five were over 80, and eight other octogenarians who had been invited were absent from infirmity.
- January 9th. The smack *Mary Ann*, of Runcorn, wrecked on the Horsebank. Crew of three rescued by the Marshside boats.
- January 20th. Holy Trinity new Day and Sunday schools opened. Mr. John Aughton, builder; cost £2,000.
- February 23rd. The Rev. W. A. Mocatta, curate of Christ Church, presented to the perpetual curacy of Bispham (Fylde) by the Rev. Charles Hesketh, patron. Mr. Mocatta (brother-in-law of his vicar) had been connected with Christ Church for seven years, and on leaving was the recipient of an unusually large number of presentations.

- 1857**—March 11th. Jubilee meeting of Churchtown Congregational Church, at which the first pastor, Rev. George Greatbatch, was present.
- March 15th. Great storm, in which three vessels came ashore. The *Melbourne*, a fine iron ship, was one of the three. Whilst she was in distress eight of the crew left her in their own boats, and were drowned.
- April. A labourer, William Abram, draining on Hesketh Moss, found a number of ancient coins embedded three feet deep in the soil. One was of the reign of Vespasian (about A.D. 40), another of Trajan (A.D. 107).
- May 16th. Considerable consternation caused in the town by the closing of Lawe and Co.'s (Preston) Bank. Mr. Lawe, the sole proprietor, had died suddenly and left no directions for the continuance of the business.
- June 26th. Foundation stone of a new Market in Chapel Street laid by Dr. Peter Wood, Chairman of the Improvement Commissioners. Blackwell and Son, Manchester, architects; Mr. William Heyward, builder.
- July. A new window, of stained glass, placed in St. John's Church, Crossens; the gift of James Hardy Wrigley, Esq., J.P., D.L.
- July 14th. St. James' Church, Birkdale, consecrated by the Bishop of Chester. His Lordship preached in the morning and the Rev. Canon Hugh Stowell in the evening. The church and parsonage cost £3,368.
- August 28th. Portrait of Dr. James Longton, 37 years Surgeon to the Strangers' Charity, presented to that institution by 75 friends.
- October 5th. Mr. John A. Robinson appointed actuary to the North Meols Savings Bank.

**1857**—October 7th. Day of humiliation, in respect of the Indian Mutiny, observed in all the places of worship in the parish.

———October 8th. Died, aged 42, Mr. James Darwell, of Beach Priory, treasurer to the Strangers' Charity, and a leading spirit in all works of benevolence.

———October 19th. Inspector Richard Jervis, of the County Constabulary, appointed to the Southport Sub-district.

———November 12th. The Temperance Hall, London Street, opened by a tea meeting. It occupied 880 square yards of land, and cost £697 16s. 9½d. Architect, Mr. William Hodge; builder, Mr. John Aughton.

———December 2nd. Bescar Lane Station destroyed by fire.

———December 2nd. Mr. E. F. Hesketh called to the Bar of the Inner Temple.

———December 23rd. Chapel Street Market, which had been erected by the Improvement Commissioners on glebe land belonging to Christ Church, opened. This was leasehold, and the Commissioners were desirous of obtaining the freehold. Ecclesiastical law, however, prevented a sale, but the difficulty was got over by the purchase of a plot of land in Wellington Road (Delhi Terrace), Lord Street, and Upper King Street, which was exchanged for the Market site.

**1858**—February 2nd. Lord Panmure, Secretary at War, having offered to the town a gun captured from the Russians in the Crimea, on the condition that a gun-carriage be provided on which to mount it, the Improvement Commissioners decided to have an iron carriage, at a cost of £16. It arrived in June, and on the 29th of that month a public holiday was held; a procession paraded the streets, and was

followed by a luncheon. The gun—an 18-pounder—was fixed in front of the Town Hall, and was fired several times by Captains Barton, R.N., William Ball, and Rockcliffe. It is now in Hesketh Park.

**1858**—February. Great distress prevailed amongst the handloom weavers of Churchtown. A subscription list was opened for their relief, and about £150 collected on their behalf. A Masonic Ball was held on February 5th, and the proceeds (£21) given to the distressed weavers' fund. From this time the weaving industry declined in Churchtown. Before it could revive from the depression of 1858, the American Civil War broke out, and afterwards weaving entirely disappeared from Churchtown.

—March 1st. The Southport and St. Helens Railway opened.

—March 15th. Died, Peter Ball, aged 58. "Peter the Bellman" had held office, and been a conspicuous character in the town, for over thirty years. His poverty, however, was so abject that a subscription had to be raised to bury him.

—April 7th. Dr. James Longton died suddenly, aged 61. He was a native of Ainsdale, and had practised in Southport over forty years, commencing his professional career in Churchtown in 1816, being the first resident medical man that the town could boast. He was named in the Improvement Act, 1846, as one of the first Commissioners, and was for many years surgeon to the Local Dispensary and the Strangers' Charity. The inscription on his portrait in the latter institution states that he held office for 37 years. At his funeral all the places of business in the town were closed. He was buried at Formby.

—July 25th. The schooner *Mineral*, of Dalton-in-Furness, wrecked on Ted's Bank. The captain (John Latham) and crew rescued by the Southport Lifeboat.

**1858**—August 1st. Died, aged 43, Mr. William Mawdsley, founder of the Southport Temperance Society and Band of Hope. The drinking fountain in London Square was erected by temperance friends in memory of Mr. Mawdsley.

———August 17th. The first Agricultural Show held on the Railway Company's land in London Street. Over £260 was taken at the gates.

———The "Southport Hymn Book," which had been compiled by the local clergy, first used in all the North Meols Churches.

———August. Mr. Fawcett Smith obtained a license, and opened the Assembly Rooms of the Scarisbrick Arms as a theatre.

———August. The village wooden pump at Churchtown replaced by an iron one, the gift of Richard Pendlebury, Esq., of Radcliffe, the "Under Sheriff" for the year.

———September 15th to 18th. Bazaar held in the Town Hall on behalf of the Parochial National Schools, Churchtown, and the enlargement of the Parish Church. The proceeds amounted to £543 10s. 1½d.

———September 28th. Dr. Henry Blumberg admitted a member of the Royal College of Physicians; the first foreign M.D. ever admitted to that College.

———November 17th. Died, the Rev. John Phillips, Wesleyan minister, aged 88. He had been in the ministry 65 years, having been appointed a preacher by the Rev. John Wesley himself.

———November. Henry Clarke, Esq., of Lark Hill, gave to the town several drinking fountains. The first was fixed in the wall of Holy Trinity Churchyard, another at the Market in Chapel Street, and a third opposite the Union Hotel, in Lord Street.

**1858**—November 19th. The Improvement Commissioners (unsuccessfully) memorialised the Lord Chancellor in favour of a separate County Court for Southport. The Court was held at Ormskirk only until 1875.

————November. In one week there died four persons aged respectively 85, 88, 88, and 97 years. Total, 358 years, or an average of 89½.

————December 12th. Lord Skelmersdale (afterwards first Earl of Lathom) attained his majority. He had succeeded his grandfather, the first Baron Skelmersdale, in April, 1853. On his coming of age there were great rejoicings throughout the neighbourhood.

————December 14th. Died, aged 58, Mr. Richard Wright, of Hoghton Street. This gentleman was one of the Commissioners "named in the Act," and was the builder of many of the chief public and business places in the town.

————December 22nd. Heavy W.S.W. gale, which did serious damage to the Promenade wall. The tide rose several feet higher than the normal measurement.

**1859**—January 24th. Very high tide, which made serious havoc on the Promenade, between Nevill Street and Seabank Road.

————February 3rd. Died, aged 43, George Robertson, Esq., of the Grange, Row Lane, son-in-law of the Rev. Charles Hesketh.

————February. Mr. Edward Jump received several presents on leaving Southport to become Scripture reader at St. Jude's, Liverpool. Mr. Jump, a native of Southport, was a teacher and active worker in connection with Christ Church Sunday Schools, and was a young man of much promise. The Hon. and Rev. Dr. Waldegrave, Bishop of Carlisle, afterwards heard of Mr. Jump's work in Liverpool, and sent for him to visit Carlisle. In Liverpool he had studied much,

along with the curate of the parish, from whom he had learned the classical languages. On reaching Carlisle the Lord Bishop asked him a number of questions, and ultimately surprised Mr. Jump by offering to ordain him. It was a difficult offer to accept, but was made possible by his friends, and the Bishop not only ordained him, but gave him a living, and was his friend and patron as long as his Lordship lived. Mr. Jump, prior to his death in 1901, was, for many years, Vicar of St. Paul's, Bolton.

**1859**—March 17th. At a public meeting, presided over by Dr. Peter Wood, J.P., Chairman of the Improvement Commissioners, it was decided to form a company, and at once proceed with the erection of a Pier. The capital was fixed at £8,000.

—————March 31st. The price of gas reduced to 5s. 10d. per 1,000 feet.

—————April. General Election. On the 14th, Messrs. Egerton and Legh, Conservative candidates, and on the 25th Messrs. Cheetham and Heywood, Liberal candidates, addressed the electors of Southport. The returns for the Southport Polling District gave the local results:—Egerton, 288; Legh, 276; Heywood, 109; Cheetham, 105.

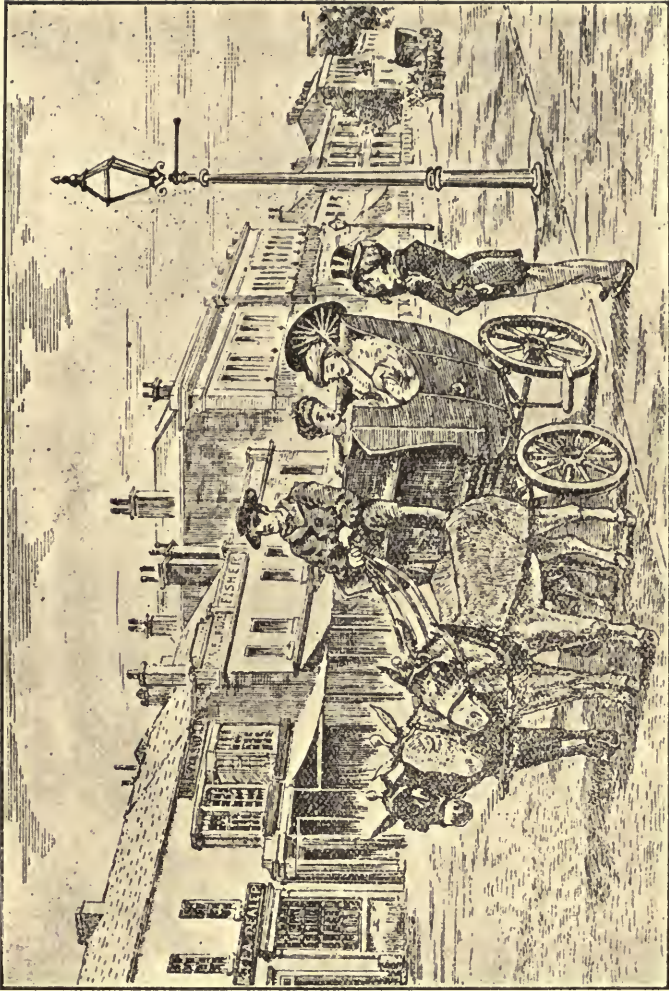
—————June 7th. Heavy thunderstorm. Rainfall for the day, 1 7-10 inches.

—————June 9th. The new schools at St. Cuthbert's opened.

—————June 24th. Died, aged 77, Ralph Greenhough, Esq., J.P., of Belle Vue, the senior magistrate of the district.

—————The Southport Rifle Volunteer Corps founded. The first officers were:—Captain, William McInroy, Esq.; Lieutenant, Dr. G. B. Barron; Ensign, Mr. John A. Robinson. It was designated the 13th L.R.V. (now the 3rd V.B.K.L.R.).





LORD STREET, 1859.



- 1859**—August 14th. First pile of the Southport Pier driven. A large crowd witnessed the operation.
- September 9th. “Eccles’ Farm,” Snuttering Lane, destroyed by fire.
- September. Rev. Thomas J. Clarke appointed curate of Christ Church.
- October 26th. Severe storm, which did great damage to the new Congregational Schools, Chapel Street, then in course of erection. This was the storm in which the *Royal Charter* was wrecked off the coast of Wales. Amongst the passengers who lost their lives in that vessel were Mr. William Kirkbride, of Southport, aged 37, and his two sons, William, aged 10, and James, aged 8 years. The foremast of the vessel came ashore at Southport, and was “salved” by Bibby, the lifeboatman. It was sawn up and used for rafters in the new “Eccles’ Farm.”
- October 27th. Foundation stone of Mornington Road Wesleyan Church laid by Dr. Peter Wood, J.P.
- 1860**—The greatest storm for seventeen years. Two houses in Duke Street and one in Back Lord Street (*i.e.*, Stanley Street) razed to the ground, and much other damage done.
- February. The “Duke’s Monument,” the big lamp in Duke Street, erected to the memory of William Sutton by the Commissioners.
- February. A drinking fountain, to the memory of Anne, wife of the Rev. B. Swift, LL.B., and daughter of Mr. J. H. Wrigley, erected in Lulworth Road, adjoining St. James’s Churchyard. It bore a Latin inscription, but being made of red sandstone, quickly crumbled away. It was replaced by a slate slab bearing an English translation of the original inscription.

- 1860**—February 26th. The new Congregational Schools, Chapel Street, opened.
- March 3rd. Died, aged 59, Mr. Thomas Withnell, architect of nearly all the buildings then in the town.
- March 8th. At a public meeting, held in Holy Trinity Schoolroom, it was decided to form a Sanatorium for children between the ages of four and thirteen years. Dr. Blumberg was the promoter.
- April 12th. The first “Evangelical Conference” held in Southport Town Hall. Nearly two hundred clergymen met under the presidency of the Rev. Charles Hesketh. The Conferences have been held annually since.
- April 19th. Miss Hesketh, eldest daughter of the Rev. C. Hesketh, rector, married to John Bibby, Esq., of Liverpool. Great rejoicings at Churchtown and neighbourhood.
- May 6th. Died, Charles Scarisbrick, Esq., aged 59 years. The remains of the Squire were buried on May 12th at the Roman Catholic Church, Bescar Lane. He had left most eccentric directions as to the mode in which his funeral was to be conducted. The coffin was to be taken in a “direct line” to the place of burial, and, in consequence, it was necessary to cut down hedges, cover up ditches, cross a meadow, a wheat field, a potato field, and pass through a garden into the chapel yard. He died possessed of an estate estimated to be worth nearly three millions, the entailed property passing to his sister, Lady Hunloke.
- May 15th. The Liverpool District Meeting held in the Wesleyan Chapel, Hoghton Street—the first time the meeting was held in Southport.
- June 6th. Married in the open air at Churchtown, on the site of St. Cuthbert’s Church, by the Rev. Charles Hesketh, Mr. Thomas Rigbye, of Croston, to Miss Jane

Blundell, of Churchtown. At this time the church had been pulled down (except the spire and one corner of the church—to the doorway) for re-building and enlargement, so the debris was cleared away from the altar that the wedding might take place.

**1860**—July. Christ Church again enlarged, giving 500 additional seats. A stained glass window was at the same time put in, to the memory of Mr. Richard Wright.

———July. The “Whitworth gun” tried on the Birkdale shore, in the presence of a large number of professional and scientific persons.

———August 2nd. The Southport Pier opened. The length was 1,200 yards. At the shore end it was 13 feet, and at the sea end 22 feet, from the level of the sands to the girders, with an additional three feet to the flooring. Mr. James Brunlees was the engineer; Messrs. W. and J. Galloway, of Manchester, being the contractors. To ensure the stability of the undertaking, the capital of the company had been increased from £8,000 to £10,000, the contract price being £8,700. The opening was made the occasion of a grand gala, with procession, banquet, illuminations, fireworks, ball, &c. It was the first of Southport’s many limited liability companies. At the opening ceremony the Chairman of the Company (Dr. Barron) said “the Pier had mainly originated with Mr. Boothroyd, who, with indomitable energy and perseverance, had steadily pursued his object, and brought it into shape.” Prior to the erection of the Pier, there was, opposite the Nevill Street Bridge, a circular reservoir, which, being filled by the tide, always contained sea water for the baths. The water was pumped up through pipes, which ran under the Promenade through a small tunnel. Just to the northward of the reservoir was a long and low wooden jetty or pier. This old jetty was built by the fishermen as a means

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of taking the trippers to the pleasure boats when the tide was not high enough for them to come up to the dry sand by the Promenade. A penny or halfpenny used to be charged to anyone not going by the boats for the privilege of walking upon its slippery planks. Many visitors who at low tide wished to go to low water on foot used the structure, as there was generally a muddy expanse of wet shore to be passed before the dry sand was reached. During the winter gales and high tides large portions of the jetty were generally carried away. At a point opposite Seabank Road from low water there ran a gutter known as "The Hollow," which made a sort of harbour for the shrimpers and shore boats. It is now silted up. The old jetty was ultimately buried in the drift sand, and is now under the North Lake.

**1860**—August 15th. The Ormskirk and Southport Agricultural Show held in Southport for the second time. Over 7,000 persons attended.

———August 26th. Two vessels wrecked on this coast, the *Hope*, of Dublin, with a crew of three, and the *Britannia*, of Preston, with two men. Both vessels totally lost; the crews saved by local fishermen.

———September 11th and 12th. The first annual contest of the Southport Rifle Association. At this time the local Volunteers had a rifle range on the North shore—the firing butts being near the Strangers' Charity, and the targets in the direction of the New Inn. One of the competitors at this contest (William Fisher, junr., of Kirkham) was drowned by the upsetting of a boat as he was returning to Lytham. A fortnight later the "Great Newton Review Rifle Contest" took place on the same range.

———October 6th. A silver bugle, presented to the 13th L.R.V., by Miss Bridson, on behalf of her father, Thomas Ridgway Bridson, Esq., of Mornington House.

**1860**—October 7th. Letters patent granted to Lady Hunloke, “widow of Sir Thomas Windsor Hunloke, Bart., deceased, and eldest daughter of Thomas Eccleston, late of Scarisbrick, Esq., and sister and co-heir of Charles Scarisbrick, formerly Charles Eccleston, and afterwards Charles Diccinson, late of Scarisbrick, Esq, both also deceased, to take, use, and bear the surname and arms of Scarisbrick only.”

—————December 29th. Terrific snowstorm. A train from Southport to Liverpool snowed up quarter of a mile beyond Birkdale Station. The engine was uncoupled and forced its way about a mile, and then returned for the carriages, but could not get within ten yards of the train it had left a few minutes earlier. Information was conveyed to the Southport Station-master (Mr. Williams), and he dispatched another engine, but that was brought to a standstill a few yards beyond Eastbank Street bridge. A train with two engines arrived from Liverpool, and one of these engines was sent to the help of the blockaded train, but it could not get within fifteen yards of its predecessor; so a fourth engine was sent, and it ran off the rails just outside the station. The passengers, forty in number, were afterwards got out of the train, and attempts made to find them accommodation in the neighbourhood. A cottager near the scene of the blockade was applied to, and an offer made to supply coals from the engine, but he refused to give any help, remarking “I have got my feet wet and they must get theirs.” The Park Hotel was next tried, and Mr. Marchbank, the proprietor, did all he could for the benighted passengers, but the water-pipes were frozen and the beds were damp, so that only temporary shelter was available here. It was found impossible for vehicles from Southport to get to Birkdale, so the unfortunate passengers had to make their way as best they could into Southport, where they were accommodated at the Scarisbrick Arms and Railway

Hotels until the next (Sunday) afternoon. On the Sunday morning a large gang of men was set to work to clear the line, and by four o'clock—after a delay of 21 hours—a train was despatched to Liverpool. In those days (and for many years afterwards) the mails were brought from Liverpool every morning by a mail-cart. On the Sunday morning (Dec. 30) the driver left Liverpool as usual, but on arriving at Aintree his vehicle got fast in the snow, and the horse could move it neither one way or the other. He obtained help, and, turning round, returned to Liverpool. He was afterwards sent, with the bags, by train via Ormskirk, arriving at Southport five hours late. That afternoon a rapid thaw set in, and caused the service at Christ Church to be suspended, the dissolving mass of snow leaking through the double roof of the church.

**1861**—January. A baptismal font presented to Christ Church, in memory of Mr. Richard Wright, by his widow and children.

————January 26th. A prize fight interrupted by the police. "Joe Goss, the champion light-weight," and two others arrested and brought before the Southport magistrates, who bound them over to keep the peace.

————February 13th. Mr. Robert Woodford Kettle appointed Postmaster of Southport.

————March. A third stained glass window erected in Christ Church. It was given to the memory of Mr. Edward Fletcher, by his widow.

————March. A Baptist congregation had been formed, and services held in the Town Hall. This month the pastorate was accepted by the Rev. Alexander McLaren Stalker.

————April. The census showed the total population of North Meols at 15,947. In Southport the number enumerated was 10,097.



- 1861**—April 12th. St. Paul's Iron Church opened by the Rev. Dr. Baylee. The Rev. T. J. Clarke, vicar-designate.
- April. A stained glass window put into St. James's Church, in memory of Mr. James Darwell, by his family. He was the first warden of the church.
- May. Annual visit of the Lancashire Hussars, when the D Troop (Ormskirk) first assembled, under Captain the Right Hon. Lord Skelmersdale, Lieutenant W. S. E. Standish (7th Hussars—Indian Mutiny), Cornet C. W. Bell (15th Hussars), and Sergeant-Major Nunneley (17th Lancers—Crimea; Balaclava).
- June 3rd. The last record of a man being ordered to be put in the stocks (at Churchtown)—six hours for drunkenness. The stone posts of the stocks may still be seen against St. Cuthbert's Churchyard wall.
- June 5th. Mornington Road Wesleyan Church opened by the Rev. W. Arthur. The building is 110 feet long inside, 45 feet wide in the nave, and 70 feet in the transept. There are sittings for 1200 persons. The pulpit, of Dantzic oak, a most beautiful work of art, was the gift of Lawrence Heyworth, Esq. The architects were Messrs. Hayley and Son, of Manchester; the contractors Messrs. Statham and Sons, Pendleton. Messrs. Boothroyd supplied the necessary cushions and carpets. The collections at the opening services realised £160 19s. 7d. Hoghton Street Chapel was sold to the Baptists for £2,000.
- June 5th. Lady Scarisbrick made a triumphal journey from Ormskirk to Scarisbrick Hall on taking possession of the estate.
- June 13th. St. Cuthbert's Parish Church opened after re-building. In May, 1860, the church was closed, and (except the tower and spire, and a small portion of the south wall) taken down. In re-building the church was enlarged,

giving 300 additional seats, total 900. The alterations cost £1,500. A stained-glass window, erected over the communion table by Mr. W. Wailes, of Newcastle, cost £100. It represents St. Paul preaching at Athens, and a brass plate at the foot of the window bears the following inscription:—

“The Parish Church of North Meols having been partially rebuilt and considerably enlarged, in the year MDCCCLX, the chancel window and pulpit are erected as a tribute of respect to the present rector, the Rev. Charles Hesketh, M.A., who for xxv. years has endeared himself to his parishioners by his courtesy as a man, his intelligence as a pastor, and his faithfulness as a preacher of the Gospel. June, MDCCCLXI.”

Over the church door is an inscription: “This Church was enlarged 1860, Charles Hesketh, Rector; Thomas Baker, Meols Hall; Geoffrey Rimmer, Moss Lane; Robert Marshall, Birkdale, Churchwardens. Richard Wright and Sons, Southport, Builders.” The re-opening services were conducted by the Rev. Canon Hugh Stowell, of Christ Church, Salford.

**1861**—July 4th. The first number of the “*Southport Independent*,” published by Mr. F. M. Jones. It was at first intended to publish this newspaper a fortnight earlier, but the proprietor, a thorough Radical, delayed the first issue until “Independence Day.” Though the paper lived 20 years it had a precarious existence throughout; it developed ultimately into the *Liverpool and Southport Daily News*.

—————July 7th. Opening of a second Wesleyan Chapel in Southport. It was situate in Boundary Street, the district then being known as “Ecclesfield.” It was erected, from designs by Mr. Kissack, as a school-chapel, and was opened on this date by the Rev. John Brash, then stationed at Ormskirk. It is now used as a mission-room, in connection with the Free Breakfast (Sunday) Mission.

**1861**—July 13th The First Lancashire Light Horse Volunteers (Manchester) visited Southport for the first time. The troop wore the uniform of the Dragoon Guards. Their visit extended over a week.

—————July 19th. The drinking fountain and barometer on the Promenade presented by Mr. John Fernley, of Clairville, Birkdale.

—————July 22nd. The Second Lancashire Light Horse Volunteers (Liverpool) paid their first visit to Southport. It was originally intended that both troops should be here together, but there was some hitch through jealousy. This corps wore Lancer uniform.

—————August 6th. John Cheetham, Esq., addressed the electors as a Liberal candidate for the third seat for South Lancashire. Six days later Mr. Charles Turner made his address as Conservative candidate. On the 19th Mr. Turner was returned by a majority of 816. In the Southport Polling district the figures were: Turner 208, Cheetham 160.

—————August. The Rev. John Harvard first minister appointed to Mornington Road Wesleyan Church.

—————September 9th. The *Jessie Knowles* lifeboat launched; she was the first lifeboat stationed on this coast by the Royal National Lifeboat Institution. On the occasion of the launching a procession was formed, which paraded the streets prior to the ceremony taking place. It was headed by Lord Skelmersdale and the Rector (Rev. Chas. Hesketh, M.A.). A gale was blowing at the time, and there was a 19 feet (present way of measuring 27ft. 8in.) tide, into which the boat was launched, having previously been christened the *Jessie Knowles*, by Miss Lizzie Knowles, daughter of James Knowles, Esq., of Eagley Bank, Bolton, the donor of the boat. It may be mentioned that "Jessie" was the baby sister of the lady who performed the christening ceremony. As the boat

left her carriage a bottle of wine was dashed at her prow, and amidst cries of "Success to the Jessie Knowles" the boat shot into the raging billows, from which she afterwards saved so many valuable lives.

**1861**—September 26th. The foundation stone of West End Congregational Church laid by James Sidebottom, Esq., of Manchester.

—————October 9th. The foundation stone of the Hydro-pathic Hospital, School Street, laid by Mr. W. C. Brocklehurst, J.P., of Macclesfield.

—————October 22nd. The Mechanics' Institute, or Athenæum, founded at the Temperance Hall, London Street.

—————November 6th. First meeting of the Southport Burial Board.

—————November 10th. The old Strangers' Charity, Lord Street, had been practically rebuilt as the United Methodist Free Church, at a cost of £1,000; to seat 500. Architect, Mr. T. Mellor; builders, Messrs. Heyward Bros. It was this day re-opened by the Rev. S. S. Barton.

—————November 20th. Foundation stone of Mornington Road Wesleyan Sunday Schools laid by Mr. J. Fishwick Stead.

—————December 10th. The Rev. W. Jowett instituted minister of Churchtown Congregational Church.

—————December 11th. Captain McInroy and Lieutenant Dr. Barron resigned their commissions in the 13th L.R.V. Captain E. F. Hesketh (6th Lancashire Militia) gazetted captain; Ensign Robinson, lieutenant; and Sergeant-Major Higgin, Ensign.

**1862**—January 24th. A gold watch and guard presented to Police-inspector (now Superintendent) Jervis, by the inhabitants, on his being removed to Ormskirk, from Southport.

- 1862**—March 5th. Houghton Street Chapel opened by the Rev. Alex. McLaren, for the Baptist Congregation, which had hitherto worshipped in the Town Hall. The Rev. A. M. Stalker, first pastor.
- March 18th. Foundation stone of St. Paul's Schools laid by the Vicar-elect, Rev. T. J. Clarke, M.A.
- April 15th to 21st. Postal statistics: Number of letters despatched from Southport, 13,395; newspapers, 1,224; books, 188. (See 1842 and each succeeding ten years).
- April 24th to 26th. Three days' bazaar on behalf of the Children's Sanatorium, then being established, in Hawkshead Street.
- April and May. Bricklayers' strike. On April 30th several men were sent to prison, for three months, for intimidation; an appeal was lodged, but the magistrates refused to go to Kirkdale Prison to take the bail of the men. A "show cause rule" was applied for in the Court of Queen's Bench, but the justices still refused to go to Kirkdale, and, ultimately, the prisoners were brought to Southport on May 19th, under a writ of *habeas corpus*, and released on bail. The Quarter Sessions were held on July 15th, when the charges were withdrawn, the strike having terminated.
- April 29th. The "Albert Edward" Lodge of the Ancient Order of Foresters opened at the Scarisbrick Arms Hotel.
- May 2nd. The foundation stone of St. Paul's Church laid by Lord Skelmersdale. The architects were Speakman and Charlesworth, of Manchester; builders, Ellis and Hinchcliffe, Manchester; their contract being for £4,390. The whole of the land was given by the Rector, Rev. Charles Hesketh, M.A.

**1862**—June 1st. Mornington Road Wesleyan Schools opened.  
Cost £1,500.

—————June 26th. The stone front of Christ Church, including tower and spire, the gift of Mr. William Atkinson, J.P., finished. A large crowd witnessed and cheered the fixing of the last stone and the vane. "Chanticleer" did not, however, stay there long; in a storm, soon after, he flew from his elevated position, and was never refixed.

—————June 28th. The foundation stone of the "Fisherman's Chapel," Hawkshead Street, the first place of worship erected by the Independent Methodists of Southport, laid by Dr. Goodman. It was opened on September 21st by Mr. Barlow, of Manchester.

—————July 15th. Miss Lucy Heald Wood, eldest daughter of Dr. Peter Wood, J.P., married at Mornington Road Church to Mr. James S. Sutcliffe, of Bacup.

—————July 19th. The brig *Commodore* (Captain Johnson), of South Shields, wrecked on the Horsebank. This was the first casualty attended by the *Jessie Knowles* lifeboat. On arriving at the vessel, the lifeboatmen found the crew had left in their own boats. She was of 221 tons burthen, laden with grain. At the consequent Board of Trade Inquiry Captain Johnson was found guilty of negligence.

—————July. Died Sir Henry Bold-Hoghton, a former Lord of the Manor of North Meols.

—————July 26th. The Pier shareholders decided to form a tramway and also to lengthen the Pier.

—————August 9th. Foundation stone of a Primitive Methodist Chapel laid in London Street, by Mr. Jonas Segar. Architect, Mr. W. Hodge; builder, Mr. W. Illingworth

—————August 13th. The Ormskirk and Southport Agricultural Show held in London Street, where Derby Road now is.

**1862**—August 15th. Mr. C. E. Driffield fined £10, by Mr. Baron Wilde, for bad writing. Some depositions sent to the Court were illegible, and the learned judge treated it as contempt of court.

—October 2nd. The Post Office, which had hitherto been situate in Lord Street, opposite the Town Hall, removed to Chapel Street, where Mr. Kettle, the postmaster, had erected a suitable building.

—October 18th. The "Nile" fire engine established—the first proper engine and brigade that the town had.

—October 20th. Terrible gale, during which a large vessel, the *Ann E. Hooper*, 1,145 tons, Captain William Hooper, of Baltimore, for Liverpool, with wheat, flour, etc., was wrecked on the Horsebank. The *Jessie Knowles*, under Captain Rockliffe, was launched, but, owing to the terrific sea, it was a long time before she reached the vessel. The Lytham lifeboat, which had been towed out by a steamer, arrived at the wreck just before the *Jessie Knowles*, and took off twelve of the crew and the pilot. The Southport lifeboat brought away the captain and three others of the crew, which had numbered twenty in all. Two had been washed overboard in the storm, and two had lost their lives in attempting to launch the lifeboat. The *Ann E. Hooper* immediately broke up, and a portion of the vessel was dashed against the Pier, carrying away one of the pillars supporting that structure. About 1,500 barrels of flour were washed ashore and saved, but quite as many came on to the beach damaged, and though many poor people were desirous of saving some of the dry flour in the centre of the barrels, the wreck officers prevented them, and it was all washed away to sea again. The result was that a great quantity of the articles saved were smuggled and buried at both ends of the town. Tobacco, bacon, and clockworks might have been found in all quarters.

The tobacco was consumed, but the bacon mostly went bad, through being buried in the sand whilst wet. Twenty-five years after clockworks could have been found in the thatch of old cottages in Birkdale. During the same storm the *Quasi Rosa*, an Italian vessel of oak, 294 tons, was washed ashore on Birkdale Beach, keel uppermost. Her crew were never heard of. She had been commanded by Captain Michele Tixi, and had a crew of thirteen. She was bound from Ardrossan to Genoa, with coals. She broke into five pieces. Much damage was done to the Promenade and to the sea-wall of the Strangers' Charity, by the rough sea.

**1862**—October 21st. The Rev. Benj. Swift, LL.B., vicar of St. James', Birkdale, married to Miss Georgina Darwin, daughter of Sir Francis S. Darwin, of Beardsall.

—————October 23rd. London Street Primitive Methodist Chapel opened by the Rev. Charles Garrett.

—————December 26th. The barque *Brazils*, 500 tons, with timber, from Bangor, Maine, U.S.A., to Fleetwood, wrecked on the Salthouse Bank. The crew escaped in their own boats.

**1863**—January 19th. Terrible storm and high tides, one of the worst ever known on this coast. At this period there were long lawns in front of what is now known as Winter Gardens Terrace, then called the New Promenade. All the walls, embankments, and pailings were washed away completely, the folding doors of the lifeboat house were burst in by the waves, several bathing machines were totally wrecked, 100 yards of the Promenade opposite Waterloo Terrace seriously injured, a huge gap made in the Promenade opposite Bold Street, the whole of the embankment front and palings of the Strangers' Charity washed away, a new sea-wall and house partly built at the junction of Leicester Street and Adelaide Street (now Avondale Road), demolished by the waves. A number of fishing vessels suffered severely. At Banks the sea



“cop” gave way, and the village was flooded as far as the Primitive Methodist Chapel, which was surrounded by water. The wind reached a velocity of 58 miles per hour, the anemometer indicating a pressure of 36 1-10th lbs. to the square foot.

**1863**—January 24th. Died, aged 67, Thomas Ridgway, Bridson, Esq., J.P. On the occasion of his funeral, which was a public one, the whole of the places of business on the route of the procession were closed. For many years prior to his death he had taken a prominent part in the affairs of the town, and during the last eight years he resided permanently at Mornington House.

—————March 10th. Great rejoicings in Southport and neighbourhood, in celebration of the wedding of the Prince of Wales. There was a procession of Sunday scholars and others to the number of over 5,000, which, headed by the 13th L.R.V., paraded the town, when Alexandra, Queen’s, and Albert Roads were named. Amongst the events of the day were, a treat to the old people, rural sports, boat races, rifle contest, fireworks and bonfire, illuminations, etc., and a large number of weddings.

—————April 17th. The graveyards of Christ Church, Holy Trinity Church, Chapel Street Independent Chapel, and St. Marie’s Roman Catholic Church, closed as public burial grounds.

—————May 7th. The first Pier tramway opened—down the centre of the narrow roadway.

—————May 19th. The Royal Museum, Portland Street, opened by Mr. William Newby, by whom it had been built. It had a varied career. From a museum it was converted into a music hall, next it was known as the Bijou Theatre, then it became a skating rink, subsequently the offices and

works of the *Southport Daily News*, and was afterwards the headquarters of the Royal Naval Artillery Volunteers. Now it is used as a furniture remover's storeroom.

**1863**—May 20th. The foundation stone of Trinity Wesleyan Church laid by John Fernley, Esq., of Birkdale, who defrayed the entire cost (£10,000) of its erection. Messrs. Starkey and Cuffley, of Manchester, were the architects.

—————May 21st. On the motion of Mr. Walter Smith, seconded by Mr. Hewitt, the Improvement Commissioners resolved "That it is desirable to apply for a new Act of Parliament to extend the district, and for other purposes, and to petition for a Charter of Incorporation."

—————May 26th. The one thousandth number of the *Southport Visiter* published.

—————June 18th. The Local Government Act came in force at Birkdale, under an order dated May 30th. The first election took place in July, when nine members were elected.

—————July 1st. The first "Fish Market" opened in Chapel Street. It occupied the back portion of the yard adjoining the general Market. After some years it was enlarged by taking in the remainder of the Market-yard and being brought forward to the level of the street.

—————July 9th. Master Sam Hurst Boothroyd, aged 12, drowned whilst bathing on the Shore.

—————July 9th. Recognition service at West End Congregational Church, to receive the Rev. John Chater, formerly of Douglas, as first pastor of the church.

—————July 13th. Seven thousand Orangemen visited Southport, and paraded the streets in procession. The *Visiter* next day said "We have not the slightest objection to the observance of days and seasons in commemoration of great events in our national history. But we must, and do, protest against our beautiful well-ordered town being invaded by so riotous

a company as yesterday occupied our thoroughfares, firing pistols, brandishing swords, spears, halberds, and other war-like instruments, especially as it unfortunately appears necessary to the majority to get intoxicated, and endanger the peace and safety of the population."

**1863**—August 30th. Wesleyan services and Sunday school first established at Blowick, in a room over the workshop of Mr. Edward Bridge, wheelwright, at the corner of Butts' Lane.

———September 3rd. The foundation stone of Trinity Wesleyan Schools, Talbot Street, laid by Mr. James Heald, of Didsbury.

———September 5th. Serious fire at "Birklands," Westcliffe Road, then in course of erection for Mr. W. Welsby by Mr. George Culshaw. Damage, £500.

———September 7th. Mr. Cyrus Walter Johnson elected Clerk to Birkdale Local Board, and Mr. W. Welsby, Law Clerk.

———September 20th. The barque *St. Lawrence* in distress in the Channel. Twelve of the crew and the captain's wife and child rescued by the *Jessie Knowles*. The vessel afterwards drifted on to Lytham shore.

———October 4th. Died, aged 103, Ellen Lowe, widow. She was the daughter of William and Peggy Marsden, of Standish, Wigan. She was baptised in Standish Church, June 1st, 1760. For more than 63 years she had been the faithful and attached servant of Mrs. Tennant, of Manchester Road, in whose service she died. She was buried in Holy Trinity Churchyard.

———October 6th. A severe shock of earthquake felt at Southport.

———October 31st. Great gale. The barque *Tamworth*, 621 tons, of Skein, Norway; Captain Hanson, with a crew of 17 all told, from Liverpool to Havannah, with coal, salt,

and ironmongery, wrecked on the Trunk Hill Bank. The crew were rescued by the *Jessie Knowles*. During the following year (June 23rd) the King of Sweden and Norway sent to Captain Rockcliffe, the "silver medal of civic achievements," and to each other member of the lifeboat crew £2.

**1863**—December 3rd. Married, at Mornington Road Wesleyan Church, Miss Maria E. Wood, daughter of Dr. Peter Wood, J.P., to Mr. Edward Holden, of Shipley.

—December 4th. The *David White Clinton*, of New York, wrecked off Formby. Eight of the crew saved by the *Jessie Knowles*.

—December 5th. The shareholders of the Pier Company decided to widen that structure and to place the tramway at the side.

—December 28th. A great town's meeting, at which it was decided to apply for a Charter of Incorporation.

**1864**—February. "Victoria" Lodge (5203 M.U.), Independent Order of Oddfellows, founded.

—March 5th. Died, aged 84, Rev. George Greatbatch. On March 9th he was buried at Chapel Street Churchyard, the funeral being a public one. He had been resident in the parish 58 years, and for 57 years was the hon. secretary of the Strangers' Charity, the name of which, shortly before his death, had been changed to "Convalescent Hospital and Sea-Bathing Infirmary."

—April 14th. The congregation of Hoghton Street Baptist Church presented a timepiece to the pastor, Rev. A. M. Stalker.

—April 14th. St. Paul's Church consecrated by the Bishop of Chester; Rev. Thomas J. Clarke, M.A., instituted first vicar.

- 1864**—April 20th. The Improvement Commissioners, reversing their previous policy, opposed the application for a Charter of Incorporation.
- May 27th. The flat *Sarah*, of Liverpool, wrecked on the Trunk Hill Bank; the crew saved by a fishing smack.
- June 23rd. The Talbot Street Wesleyan Day and Sunday Schools opened.
- July 5th. A “Boulevard Committee” appointed by the Commissioners. The credit of promoting the boulevards must be given to Mr. Charles Barrow, a dentist then practising in the town.
- August 1st. Foundation stone of the Methodist New Connexion Church, Manchester Road, laid by Councillor Abraham Pilling, of Bolton. Architect, Mr. C. Hill, of Leeds; builders, Messrs. Jones and Holden; cost, £600. It was opened on November 17th by the Rev. R. Henshaw, President of the Connexion.
- August. Inspector Jervis, of the County Police, transferred to Bacup, and appointed superintendent.
- August 2nd. The Pier had been extended to low water mark—the present terminus—but at a lower level, and much more narrow in width than the original structure. It was opened this day.
- August 17th. The Ormskirk and Southport Agricultural Show held in Portland Street, on land adjoining the railway.
- September 15th. Trinity Wesleyan Church, Duke Street, opened by the Rev. Dr. Osborn. The Rev. Francis W. Greeves appointed first resident minister. The Rev. W. B. Pope had been appointed superintendent minister, at Mornington Road, *vice* Rev. John Harvard.

**1864**—September 28th. Peal of six bells, in Christ Church Tower, inaugurated. A three days' bazaar, held in the Town Hall, realised over £300, and an equal sum was given in subscriptions. There was a balance of over a hundred pounds left towards two more bells, but nearly twenty years elapsed ere they were hung.

————October 20th. The sloop *Liver* wrecked, in a gale, on the Mad Wharf. The crew of three were rescued by the lifeboat.

————November. The Commissioners promoted a New Improvement Act, "to extend the limits of the district, to widen existing streets, make new streets and boulevards, acquire lands in Lord Street and other places, divide the town into wards, make a public park, and for other purposes."

————November 18th. The *Chimara*, 204 tons, of Liverpool, from Sierra Leone for Liverpool, with a mixed cargo, wrecked on the Horsebank. The crew of eleven, with three passengers, all lost except one sailor (a negro) saved by a Marshside fishing boat.

————November 28th to December 2nd. A five days' inquiry re the proposed incorporation, before Captain Donnelly, R.E.

————December 6th. The Rev. Charles Hesketh, Rector, one of the Lords of the Manor, offered to the town 30 acres of sandhills with which to form a public park.

**1865**—April 9th. Friends' Meeting House, Portland Street, opened. Prior to this the Quakers had met in a building behind Lord Street, afterwards used by the Y.M.C.A., nearly opposite the present St. George's Church.

————April 17th. The Rev. B. S. Clarke, M.A., vicar of Christ Church, presented with a purse containing £130, with which to purchase vestments on taking his degrees as B.D. and D.D., at Dublin, on July 5th.

- 1865**—May 16th to 20th. Bazaar on behalf of St. Paul's Church, which, with donations, realised £1,000.
- May 18th. The ancient Parish of North Meols divided into ecclesiastical districts.
- June 23rd. "Southport Improvement Act, 1865" passed.
- July. General Election, in which the Right Hon. W. E. Gladstone was one of the candidates, having become "unmuzzled" at Oxford. The result of the polling at Southport was: Egerton 264, Legh 253, Gladstone 252, Turner 247, Heywood 230, and Thompson 230. Final declaration of the poll for South Lancashire: Egerton 9,171, Turner 8,806, Gladstone 8,786, Legh 8,476, Thompson 7,703, Heywood 7,653.
- July 18th. Second Government Inquiry *re* the proposed incorporation, before Captain Donnelly, R.E.
- August 1st. Fatal accident on the Pier. Mrs. Frances Bateman, a widow, and her brother-in-law, Mr. John Anderton, were riding in one of the tramcars, when it left the line. The lady was thrown from her seat and dashed through the railings, receiving such injuries that she died within twenty-four hours. Mr. Anderton was also seriously injured. Mrs. Bateman's representatives sued the Pier Company and recovered £400, and £250 was, at the same time, awarded to Mr. Anderton.
- August 9th. West End Congregational Schools opened.
- August 18th and 19th. The "Regatta" revived—regarded as a holiday.
- August 25th. The centre block of the Victoria Hotel completed. Architect, Mr. Mangnall, of Manchester; con-

tractor, Mr. Abel Riding. The hotel had some time before passed into the possession of the Victoria Hotel Company, Limited.

**1865**—September 7th. The new Improvement Act had divided the town into three wards, each with nine members. There was a contest only in one—Central Ward, where thirteen candidates were nominated, three of them being “bogus,” only polling two votes each. The tenth genuine candidate, Mr. Isaac Wain, was defeated by one vote only.

————September 18th. The Rev. Edwin Walker, of Aire-dale College, accepted a call as assistant to the Rev. J. E. Millson, Congregational minister.

————October 15th. Foundation stone of St. Joseph’s Roman Catholic Church, Albert Road, Birkdale, laid by Dr. Goss, Bishop of Liverpool, on land given by T. Weld-Blundell, Esq. The architect was Pugin, junr.; builder, Mr. Livesey, Scarisbrick. Cost £3,000.

————November 25th. Railway collision at Wigan, in which Mr. George Wilkinson, of Southport, was killed.

————November 27th. Blowick Wesleyan School-Chapel opened by the Rev. W. B. Pope. Architect, Mr. C. O. Ellison, Liverpool; builder, Mr. W. Wilkinson.

————December 16th. Southport Cemetery completed, having cost £4,000. The Church portion consecrated by the Bishop of Chester. Contents, 37,024 square yards.

**1866**—January 10th. The Queen’s Hotel, Promenade, opened by Mr. Ballard, of Liverpool.

————January. Unitarian Congregation formed in the Town Hall; Rev. E. S. Howse, B.A., pastor.

————February 28th. Humiliation Day on account of the Cattle Plague. Services in all the places of worship. At



Christ Church, £27 was collected for the Convalescent Hospital, in respect to which the Rev. Dr. Clarke was made a life governor.

**1866**—March 13th. St. Paul's School-Church, Ecclesfield, opened by the Rev. W. A. Mocatta.

———March. The report of Captain Donnelly, R.E., *re* Incorporation published. It was in favour of the petition as regarded Southport, and unfavourable as to Birkdale.

———March 22nd. Foundation stone of a Primitive Methodist Chapel, at Crossens, laid by Mr. Thomas Milnes.

———March 26th. A curious bronze medal found in Birkdale. It bore the effigy of Henry II., and the dates of his reign—1154-1189.

———March 30th. Foundation stone of a new Congregational Church laid by Mr. Geo. Hadfield, M.P. The church founded in 1823, and several times rebuilt, had faced into Eastbank Street. Now it was decided to build with the front to Chapel Street.

———April 12th. Died, aged 64, Sir Peter Hesketh Fleetwood, Bart., formerly Lord of the Manor, and one of the principal "makers of Southport."

———May 1st. The grant of a Charter of Incorporation announced.

———July 5th. Foundation stone of a new church, "St. Stephen's-in-the-Banks," laid by Mrs. W. Hawkshead Talbot.

———July 30th. The Manchester and Salford Bank, Lord Street, opened. Prior to the building of it, business had been carried on in the Town Hall.

———August 11th. Died, aged 82, the Rev. William Coultas. He was in the ministry 56 years, the first seven of which he spent as a missionary in the West Indies. He was

stationed in various parts of England from 1817 to 1850 [Southport 1844-7], when he became a supernumerary and settled in Southport. It was mainly through his exertions that Hoghton Street Church was erected.

**1866**—September 6th to 8th. Grand cricket match in Southport, Eleven of All England v. Twenty-two of Southport and district. The eleven won by 36 runs.

—————September. Four days' bazaar on behalf of the new Church at Banks, held in the Town Hall. Result, £991 15s. 9d.

—————October 1st. Southport Petty Sessional Police Division first formed.

—————November 3rd. The Palace Hotel, Birkdale, opened. A banquet was given to the shareholders, and in the evening there was a great display of fireworks. The hotel was designed by Messrs. Cuffley, Horton, and Bridgeford, of Manchester, the contractors being Messrs. Bordon, Edwards, and Foster. The furnishing was executed by Messrs. Garnett and Son, of Warrington, and Messrs. Boothroyd, Son, and Rimmer, Southport. The first manager was Mr. Edward Bisserot.

—————November 5th. The Improvement Commissioners resolved "that application be made to Parliament for an Act to enable the Commissioners to execute works and purchase land necessary to bring a supply of water to the town from Ormskirk or the immediate neighbourhood thereof."

—————November 18th. Mr. Bowker, Government tax-collector, absconded. On his books being examined, he was found to be £879 4s. 1d. in default. A warrant was issued, and on November 21st he was arrested and taken to Lancaster Castle. In addition to the tax money, for which the firm (Airey and Bowker) were responsible, he also left his partner liabilities exceeding £2,000.

**1867**—February 22nd. The Waterloo Cup won by "Lobelia," the property of Mr. W. J. Legh. She was nominated by Mr. E. W. Stocker, host of the Scarisbrick Arms. On news of the victory arriving Mr. Stocker engaged the bell-ringers of Christ Church to announce the victory. They commenced to do so, but were quickly stopped by the church-wardens.

—March 5th. The Charter of Incorporation received by Mr. Robert Ashton, solicitor. The area incorporated was identical with that named in the Improvement Act of 1865, the town being divided into four wards (West, Craven, Talbot, and East), each with six councillors and two aldermen. Mr. William Halliwell (or, failing him, Mr. Thomas Milnes) was appointed returning officer for the first, and any other election that might take place before the first of November.

—March 12th. A new organ, built by Messrs. Foster and Andrew, of Leeds, opened at the Baptist Chapel, Houghton Street.

—March 14th. The Water Bill, promoted by the Commissioners, rejected by the Committee of the House of Commons. An "additional powers" Bill, of the Waterworks Company, passed the examiners.

—April 2nd. The Church of St. Stephen-in-the-Banks opened by the Rev. Dr. (now Archdeacon) Taylor, of St. Silas', Liverpool. The Rev. Norman S. Jeffrey appointed first incumbent.

—May 12th. St. Joseph's Church, Albert Road, Birkdale, consecrated by the Right Rev. Dr. Goss, Bishop of Liverpool. The Rev. Charles Teebay was first pastor.

—June 1st. The first municipal election. It was non-political, and nearly all the candidates were pledged to elect aldermen from amongst the councillors. The result was declared as follows:—In No. 1, or West Ward, the gentlemen

returned were Messrs. Richard Ball (brewer), Richard Ball (Albion), James Scott, Amos Gregson, Seth Rimmer, and Samuel Boothroyd. No. 2, or Craven Ward—Messrs. E. W. Stocker, Thomas Fisher, Thomas Marshall, Isaac Beswick, James Whitehead, and William H. Talbot. No. 3, or Talbot Ward—Messrs. Henry Robinson, John A. Robinson, W. Sutton, senr., W. Sutton, junr., W. Smallshaw, and T. Bond. No. 4, or East Ward—Messrs. John Holt, Gilbert Harrison, Peter Wood, M.D., Geo. B. Barron, M.D., Thomas Houghton, and Taylor R. Stephenson. The return for West Ward was a disputed one. There were eleven candidates, and the result of the poll gave the following figures to the first eight, viz.:—R. Ball (B), 110; R. Ball (A), 103; James Scott, 98; Thomas Whalley, 98; W. Ball (farmer), 93; Amos Gregson, 81; S. Boothroyd, 73; and Seth Rimmer, 56. The returning officers, however, declared many of the voting papers bad (it was before the Ballot Act) because the word "Southport" did not appear after the names of the candidates. The result of a scrutiny gave the figures:—Scott, 92; Gregson, 81; Boothroyd, 70; R. Ball (B), 63; R. Ball (A), 57; Rimmer, 55. Messrs. Whalley and W. Ball were thus declared in a minority. They were, however, elected, on June 19th, to fill the aldermanic vacancies.

**1867**—June 6th. The new Congregational Church, Chapel Street, opened by the Rev. James Parsons, of York. It was built to seat 900, at a cost of £4,500. The architect was Mr. R. Moffat Smith, of Manchester; builder, Mr. W. Wilkinson. The enlarged site necessitated the removal of many graves, the contents of which were re-interred at the Cemetery.

—June 8th. First meeting of Southport Town Council. The first aldermen were elected, from the councillors, as follows:—West Ward, Messrs. Boothroyd and Gregson;

Craven Ward, Messrs. Talbot and Harrison; Talbot Ward, Messrs. Sutton, senr., and Holt; East Ward, Messrs. Wood and Stephenson, the last-named in each ward to be the first to retire, at November, 1871. Dr. Wood was elected first Mayor, and Mr. R. Ashton town clerk *pro tem*.

**1867**—June 9th. The Albert Hotel, London Street, opened as a temperance hotel by a limited liability company.

—June 19th. Extraordinary election, to fill the vacancies caused by the appointment of aldermen. In West Ward (two vacancies), Messrs. W. Ball and T. Whalley were elected; in Craven Ward (one), Mr. Thomas Stanley; in Talbot Ward (one), Mr. Walter Smith; in East Ward (four), Messrs. W. H. Walker, T. L. Watson, R. Clegg, and D. H. McNicoll, M.D.

—August 4th. New organ opened at West End Congregational Church.

—August. Revs. John W. Greeves and G. Stringer Rowe appointed Wesleyan ministers at Southport, *vice* Revs. W. B. Pope and Francis W. Greeves.

—August 7th. Unitarian Church, Portland Street, opened by the Rev. Charles Beard. The Rev. E. S. Howse was the first minister, but he was early succeeded by the Rev. Thomas Holland, B.A.

—August 8th and 9th. Grand cricket match, All England Eleven v. Twenty-two of Southport and District. Scores:—The Eleven, 101 and 115, total 226; Southport, 79 and 77, total 156.

—August. The total cost of the Charter of Incorporation, including the returning officer's expenses, announced to amount to £1,691 13s. od.

—September 13th. Birkdale Common Wesleyan School-Chapel opened by the Rev. W. B. Pope.

- 1867**—September 23rd. Mr. C. S. Goodman (Forshaw, Goodman, and Hawkins) appointed Town Clerk of Southport.
- November 1st. Municipal Elections. West Ward—Messrs. Edward Iddon and Richard Ball (A), the former *vice* Mr. Seth Rimmer. Craven Ward—Messrs. Thomas Milnes and Isaac Beswick, the former *vice* Mr. James Whitehead. Talbot Ward—Messrs. Jonas Segar and Robert Clarkson, *vice* Messrs. T. Bond and W. Smallshaw. East Ward—Dr. McNicoll and Mr. W. Smallshaw, the latter *vice* Dr. Barron.
- November 9th. Dr. Peter Wood re-elected Mayor.
- December 18th. Thomas Cave, foreman porter at Chapel Street Station, killed whilst uncoupling an engine and carriages.
- December 19th. The Right Hon. W. E. Gladstone, M.P. for the Division, addressed the electors in the Music Hall, Portland Street, Southport. At that meeting the right hon. gentleman first mooted the disestablishment of the Irish Church.
- 1868**—January 21st. Died, Mr. Goodwin Packer, borough surveyor. Mr. W. Crabtree was appointed his successor.
- March 10th. Buried at Churchtown, aged 100 years, Mrs. Margaret Johnson. She left 124 descendants.
- March 12th. Local Auxiliary of the Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals established.
- March 23rd. The Pier extension opened. It had previously been very narrow, and several feet lower than the older part of the Pier.
- May 1st. Hesketh Park opened by the Mayor, Dr. Peter Wood, J.P. It was a gala day, with procession, etc., and illuminations at night. The cost was £12,000, in addition to the land, which was given by the Rector, Rev. Charles Hesketh, M.A.

- 1868**--May 10th. Died, Dr. David Hay McNicoll, writer of the "Handbook to Southport." His seat on the Town Council was filled by the election of Mr. Thomas Ireland.
- May 20th. Evangelical Conference, at which two papers were read by the Rev. J. C. Ryle, M.A., afterwards Bishop of Liverpool.
- June 4th to 6th. Grand cricket match at Row Lane, All England Eleven v. Twenty-two of Southport and District. Scores:--The Eleven, 96 and 183, total 279; the Twenty-two, 97 and 122, total 219.
- June 3rd. Died, at her residence in Bath Street, the Hon. Mary Charlotte Bootle-Wilbraham, aged 67.
- August 4th. The Church of St. Stephen-in-the-Banks consecrated by the Bishop of Chester.
- August 11th. The "Fernley Lecture," in connection with the Wesleyan Conference, established by Mr. John Fernley, of Birkdale.
- August 13th. Mr. John Hunt, Poor-rate collector, declared a defaulter to the amount of £945.
- September 1st. Serious fire at "Hunts old farm," which was situate where the Highway Yard in Forest Road now is. A valuable mare and other live stock, and the whole of the year's corn crops were destroyed.
- September 1st, 2nd, and 3rd. The Manchester and Liverpool Agricultural Show, with which the local society amalgamated, held at Southport. It was situate between Scarisbrick New Road and the railway, occupying from what is now Sefton Street to beyond Chambres Road.
- September 11th. Mr. Thomas B. Hodgkinson, the borough accountant, arrested for embezzlement. His defalcations amounted to £10,010 1s. 2d. At the Quarter

Sessions he pleaded guilty, and Mr. R. A. Cross, M.P., sentenced him to eighteen months' hard labour. The "hard labour" consisted in being schoolmaster to his fellow-prisoners.

**1868**—October 11th. The Rev. Alexander Crerar, M.A., one of the masters of Dr. Morgan's College, commenced Presbyterian services in the Exchange Newsroom, afterwards engaging the Town Hall. Mr. Crerar's efforts resulted in the Church being, ultimately, "recognised" by the Synod of the English Presbyterian Church, but, as the rev. gentleman was a clergyman of the Established Church of Scotland, *he* was not "recognised," and had to leave the congregation after doing all the hard work.

—October. South Lancashire had been divided into South-East and South-West Lancashire, the candidates for this division at the General Election being Messrs. Turner and Cross (Conservatives) and Messrs. Gladstone and Grenfell (Liberals). The Conservative candidates addressed the electors in the Town Hall on the 17th, with the Rector in the chair. On the 21st, Messrs. Gladstone and Grenfell appeared in the Music Hall, when Mr. Holbrook Gaskell presided. The polling in the Southport District resulted as follows:—Gladstone, 884; Grenfell, 836; Cross, 618; Turner, 615.

—November 1st. Municipal Election, with the following results:—West Ward—\*R. Ball (B), 112; C. Barrow, 109; \*W. Ball, 102; E. Vincent, 29. Craven Ward—\*T. Fisher, 194; James Whitehead, 163; \*T. Marshall, 98; J. C. Smith, 75. Talbot Ward—\*W. Sutton, junr., 199; E. Martin, 179; \*J. A. Robinson, 90. East Ward—T. Lawton, 91; \*W. H. Walker, 89; \*T. L. Watson, 84. Those marked\* were retiring councillors. The two first-named in each ward elected.



**1868**—November 9th. Mr. Alderman Boothroyd elected Mayor.

—————December 25th. Foundation stone of Ebenezer Independent Methodist Chapel, High Park Road, laid by Mr. William Lyon.

**1869**—January 26th. Terrible calamity at Marshside. Seven fishermen, returning from “putting” for shrimps, got lost in a dense fog, and were drowned. The Marshside Fog Bell was erected as a memorial, and as a preventative of a similar calamity. An inscription on the Bellhouse read:—  
“MARSHSIDE FOG BELL: This Bell was erected in May, 1869, to prevent a similar calamity to that which happened on the 26th January, 1869, when seven men, viz., Peter Aughton, Robert Wright, John Wright, John Rimmer, Peter Wright, William Hesketh, and Peter Wright were drowned by the rising tide on the adjacent sandbanks, in a dense fog, being unable to discover, until too late, the direction of home.” A handsome subscription was raised for the relief of the widows and orphans, which was invested in such manner as to expire, capital and interest, in twenty years. John Ashworth, author of “Strange Tales,” founded one of his most interesting stories on this event.

—————March. Mr. W. Halliwell, J.P., elected councillor for Craven Ward *vice* Mr. T. Milnes, who had left the town.

—————June 17th. Testimonial presented to Mr. Henry Robinson for his services to the Liberal party. There was an illuminated address, a service of plate, a valuable timepiece, a gold watch and chain, with seal. The subscribers included Mr. W. E. Gladstone, M.P., Lord Sefton, Mr. Weld-Blundell, and other county magnates.

—————The barque *Cadette* wrecked on the Horsebank.

- 1869**—August 8th. The barque *William Wallace*, of Dundalk, ashore on the Horsebank. Vessel and crew saved by the lifeboat.
- August 8th. Rev. J. E. Millson resigned the pastorate of Chapel Street Congregational Church. He was succeeded by the Rev. W. Park.
- September. Mr. Keighley Walton appointed Town Clerk *vice* Mr. C. S. Goodman, resigned.
- November 1st. Municipal Election, at which the following changes were made:—West Ward, Dr. Lang *vice* Mr. T. Whalley; East Ward, Messrs. H. S. Cox and W. P. Clarke *vice* Messrs. R. Clegg and T. Houghton.
- November 9th. Alderman S. Boothroyd re-elected Mayor of Southport.
- November 17th. Singular accident at Eastbank Street Gas Works. One of the weights of the gasholder having broken from the chain, the holder tilted, all the gas escaped, and for several nights the town was in darkness.
- 1870**—March 5th. Foundation stone of Southport's first Infirmary and Local Dispensary, Virginia Street, laid by the Mayor (Alderman Boothroyd). Mr. John Fernley had purchased the land (for £286), and Mr. William Atkinson, J.P., gave £500 towards the building fund. Messrs. Mellor and Sutton were the architects; Messrs. Wishart and Irving, builders.
- March 15th. St. Peter's School, Birkdale, opened as a School-Church. The Rev. F. Cooper, vicar-designate.
- March 16th. A Waterworks Act of Parliament, authorising £70,000 increase of capital, passed.
- April 7th. Foundation stone of All Saints' Church laid by Mrs. Hesketh, who bore the entire cost.
- April 25th. Councillor Thomas Lawton died. The vacancy in East Ward was filled by the election of Mr. S. Swire.

- 1870**—May 1st. The Southport Borough Police Force established. Mr. Samuel Kershaw appointed first Head Constable.
- June. Cemetery Road Primitive Methodist School-Chapel opened.
- June 4th. The first festival of the Southport Athletic Society held on the Cricket Field, Row Lane.
- July 7th. Fermor Lodge (1313) of Freemasons formed.
- July 12th. Councillors W. H. Walker and Walter Smith elected aldermen *vice* Mr. Gilbert Harrison, deceased, and Mr. W. H. Talbot, resigned. At the consequent election of councillors, Mr. G. Henry was elected for East Ward, and Mr. R. W. Kettle for Talbot Ward.
- August 3rd. The Agricultural Show held in the grounds of the Palace Hotel, Birkdale; £330 taken at the gates.
- August. The Revs. E. E. Jenkins and Thomas Akroyd appointed Wesleyan ministers *vice* Revs. J. W. Greeves and G. S. Rowe.
- August 26th. Mr. James Marchbank elected councillor for East Ward *vice* Mr. H. S. Cox, who had left the town.
- September 22nd. Rev. J. T. C. Gullam, of Swansea, called to the pastorate of the Presbyterian congregation, then worshipping in the Town Hall.
- October 3rd. Edward Hunt, a Marshside fisherman, drowned (in a fog) whilst shrimp fishing.
- November 1st. At the municipal elections the following changes took place:—West Ward, Mr. J. R. Calrow *vice* Mr. E. Iddon; Craven Ward, Captain H. Hodge *vice* Mr. W. Halliwell, J.P.; Talbot Ward, Mr. J. W. Dawson *vice* Mr. Robert Clarkson.

**1870**—November 9th. Alderman Walter Smith, J.P., elected Mayor of Southport.

————December. Mr. T. P. Griffiths elected councillor for Craven Ward *vice* Mr. Thomas Stanley, deceased.

————December 15th. The schooner *Jessie*, of Gourock, wrecked on the sandbanks. The crew (five) saved by the *Jessie Knowles*.

**1871**—January 2nd. Southport Infirmary, Virginia Street, opened. Drs. J. Segar, D. Elias, and G. A. Woods, hon. medical officers; Mr. G. A. Coombe (now Sir George A. Pilkington), first house-surgeon.

————January 2nd. Forty-six aged people entertained by Mr. Thomas Rigbye, Bold Arms Hotel, Churchtown. Their united ages reached 3,573 years, an average of  $77\frac{3}{4}$  years.

————January 5th. All Saints' Church, Hesketh Park, opened by license.

————April 4th. Census. Population of the Borough of Southport:—Males 7,349, females 10,735, total 18,084 (East Ward 3,035, Talbot Ward 6,127, Craven Ward 5,055, West Ward 3,867). North Meols, outside the borough:—Males 2,092, females 2,094, total 4,186. Birkdale:—Males 1,242, females 2,031, total 3,273. Total inhabitants of the ancient Parish of North Meols:—Males 10,683, females 14,860, total 25,543. Number of inhabited houses:—Southport 3,328, "outside" 890, Birkdale 609, total 4,827. Uninhabited houses:—Southport 295, "outside" 28, Birkdale 57, total 380. Building, 61.

————May 23rd. Southport Tramways Company formed.

————July 5th. Great gala on the occasion of the opening of the new Baths, by Lord Skelmersdale. At the same time the Meteorological Observatory, Hesketh Park, the gift of

Mr. John Fernley, was inaugurated. Robes of office were presented to the Mayor (Alderman Walter Smith) by a number of ladies.

**1871**—July 7th. The West Lancashire Railway Bill passed.

———July 13th. Southport Improvement Act, 1871, passed.

———July 26th. The foundation stone of St. Andrew's Church, Eastbank Street, laid by Mr. W. Atkinson, J.P., D.L., who contributed more than £4,000 to the building fund. Architects, Messrs. T. D. Barry and Sons, of Liverpool.

———July. During excavations at Crowlands, for the new Gas Works, a number of elk antlers and bones of extinct animals were found at a depth of 12 feet 6 inches from the surface.

———August 30th. Alderman William Sutton resigned owing to age and infirmity. His son, Councillor William Sutton, was elected to fill the vacancy. Mr. Silas Eastham was appointed councillor for Talbot Ward *vice* Mr. Sutton.

———September 20th. Foundation stone of St. Peter's Church, Birkdale, laid by the Rector, Rev. Charles Hesketh. Architects, T. D. Barry and Sons, Liverpool; builder, Mr. Henry Yates, Liverpool; contract price, £2,399.

———September 28th. Foundation stone of Wesley Chapel, Aughton Road, Birkdale, laid by Mr. John Fernley, who bore the entire expense thereof, *viz.*, £4,000.

———October 19th. Rev. Ebenezer E. Jenkins married, at Mornington Road Wesleyan Church, to Miss M. H. Wood, daughter of Alderman Peter Wood, M.D., J.P.

———October 29th. The Welsh Presbyterian Church, Portland Street, opened by the Rev. J. Pritchard, of Liverpool.

———November 1st. Politics introduced, for the first time, into municipal elections. Result:—West Ward—Johnson (L) 243, Proctor (C) 233; \*Ball (brewer) (C) 226. Craven

Ward—\*Fisher (L) 382, \*Whitehead (L) 335; Marshall (C) 227, Hankinson (C), 187. Talbot Ward—\*Martin (L) 379, \*Eastham (L) 371; Robson (C) 328, Forshaw (C) 309. East Ward—\*Swire (L) 22, Dr. Barron (C) 22; W. Ball (C), 1. Two first in each ward elected. The poll in East Ward was only open a little over an hour, Mr. Ball declining to carry on the contest. These marked \* were retiring councillors. In West Ward Mr. C. Barrow, and in East Ward Mr. G. Henry, did not offer themselves for re-election. This was the last election under the system of open voting.

**1871**—November 9th. Alderman Smith re-elected Mayor. Politics for the first time entered into the voting for aldermen. The retiring aldermen were Messrs. Holt (L), Stephenson (L), Gregson (L), and Walker (C). Mr. Holt declined nomination. The voting resulted as follows:—Stephenson (L) 26, Gregson (L) 18, Segar (L) 17, Robinson (L) 15; Walker (C) 12, Swire (L) 10, Ireland (C) 10. For the two vacancies caused in Talbot Ward Messrs. C. Bracewell and J. Witham were returned unopposed.

————November 9th. The *Jeune Colombe*, a French barque, wrecked on the Horsebank. The hull was afterwards sold for a sovereign.

————December 17th. Portland Street Congregational Schools opened as a school-church. The Rev. George Hinds, first pastor.

————December 19th. Messrs. Lawsons and Mansergh's Sewerage Scheme, estimated to cost £57,500, adopted by the Town Council. Mr. T. D. Barry, C.E., had propounded a scheme, which he estimated would cost £15,228. The Council passed a vote of thanks to Mr. Barry, but could not approve of his scheme being adopted.

- 1872**—January 18th. The Rev. J. L. Rentoul, M.A., ordained pastor of the English Presbyterian Church, at that time worshipping in the Town Hall.
- February 27th. Thanksgiving services held in all the churches in the parish, for the recovery of H.R.H. the Prince of Wales [King Edward VII.].
- March 6th. Died, aged 84, Lady Scarisbrick. At Preston Guild, in 1822, George IV. designated her “the finest woman in Europe.”
- March 13th. Theatrical license granted to Mr. James Tingman, lessee of the Royal Music Hall, Portland Street. He called it the Bijou Theatre.
- April 15th to 22nd. Postal Statistics: Despatched from the Southport Post Office—Letters 40,429, newspapers 3,265, book packets, etc., 11,520, total 55,214. Telegrams forwarded 300, received 357, transmitted 10, total 667. [See 1842 and each subsequent ten years.]
- April 30th to May 4th. Bazaar in the Town Hall, on behalf of the building fund of St. Peter’s Church, Birkdale. Result, £895.
- May. During excavations for the sewer in Gloucester Road, Birkdale, portions of a human skeleton were found. The skull was in good preservation, no doubt from the action of the peat moss, and was remarkably dense and firm in structure. From the depth at which it was found, it doubtless belonged to a far distant epoch.
- June. Rev. W. Park, of Chapel Street Congregational Church, accepted a call to New Court Chapel, Tollington Park, London. On June 23rd he preached his farewell sermon, after a ministry of nearly three years.
- June 17th. St. Andrew’s Church consecrated by the Bishop of Chester. Rev. Prebendary Cross, first vicar.

**1872**—July 1st. Southport Bowling Club, Aughton Road, Birkdale, opened.

—————July. Mr. Benjamin Lepard Green, editor of the *Visiter*, appointed Secretary of the Manchester Nonconformist Association.

—————July 23rd. St. Peter's Church, Birkdale, consecrated by the Bishop of Chester. Vicar, Rev. Francis Cooper.

—————August 6th and 7th. Agricultural Show held in Scarisbrick New Road; receipts £566.

—————August 22nd. Wesley Chapel, Aughton Road, Birkdale, opened by the Rev. Luke H. Wiseman, M.A., President of the Conference. Rev. S. Gregory appointed first pastor. Architects, Messrs. Mellor and Sutton.

—————August 26th. Died, Captain Flynn, adjutant of the 3rd Brigade, Lancashire Artillery Volunteers. He was the founder of the Southport Volunteer Artillery Corps. His services in the Royal Artillery, which he joined as a private in 1841, and in which he rose to the rank he held up to his death, were rewarded by the Crimean and Turkish medals. He had been adjutant of the 3rd Brigade ten years.

—————September 28th. The ship *Nazarene*, 815 tons, Captain Brewer, with a crew of sixteen, lost, with all hands, in a terrible storm. She had been left the Mersey six days when she was driven ashore near Burbo Bank. The New Brighton and Liverpool lifeboats went out, but could not find the vessel; the Formby lifeboat was launched, but could make no headway, and Coxswain Rockliffe, of the Southport lifeboat, saw it was impossible for his boat to get to the distressed ship, so did not launch his craft. Much adverse criticism was the result of Captain Rockliffe's action, but the Lifeboat Committee (with Admiral Barton) held three exhaustive inquiries, and each time acquitted the coxswain of all blame.



**1872**—October 9th. Great gala in Southport, on the occasion of the laying of the foundation stone of the Cambridge Hall, by H.R.H. the Princess Mary of Cambridge, Duchess of Teck. The Duke of Teck, and many peers and members of Parliament were present. Architects, Messrs. Maxwell and Tuke, of Bury.

———October 15th. Terrible accident at the Artillery Battery, on the shore near the New Inn. Gunner Salmon, storekeeper of the Southport Artillery Volunteers, was killed by the explosion of a shell.

———November 1st. First municipal election under the Ballot Act. The following changes took place:—West Ward—Mr. T. W. Barker (C) *vice* Dr. Lang (C), who did not offer himself again. Craven Ward—Mr. J. Wainwright (L) *vice* Mr. W. E. Stocker (C), retired. East Ward—Mr. A. Silcock (C) *vice* Mr. W. P. Clarke (L), retired. The balance of parties unaltered.

———November 7th. Trinity Hall, Duke Street, a college for Wesleyan ministers' daughters, opened. It had been built at a cost of £8,000 by John Fernley, Esq. Architects, Messrs. Mellor and Sutton.

———November 9th. Councillor Samuel Swire elected Mayor of Southport.

———November 19th. Extraordinary election in West Ward *vice* Mr. C. E. Proctor (C), resigned. The candidates were Mr. Robert Jeffries (L) and Dr. John Lang (C), who had retired in pique three weeks earlier. Results:—Jeffries 252, Lang 232.

———December 6th. Died, Rev. Thomas Stead, Wesleyan minister, aged 84. He had been in the ministry 60 years. He was the father of Messrs. J. Fishwick Stead and T. Walton Stead.

- 1872**—December 15th. Serious fire at St. Andrew's Church, when the new organ, value £700, was totally destroyed.
- 1873**—January 14th. Recognition meeting to welcome the Rev. J. T. Woodhouse, formerly of Stockport, as minister of Chapel Street Congregational Church.
- January 16th. John Fernley, Esq., J.P., died, aged 76, at his residence, Clairville, Birkdale. His personalty was proved at £135,000, of which he left £42,000 to relatives, servants, etc., the balance being left in the hands of trustees for religious and charitable (principally Wesleyan) purposes.
- January 26th. Died, Rev. Andrew Lynn, Methodist New Connexion minister, aged 39.
- February 23rd. Rev. Alexander M. Stalker preached his last sermon as pastor of Houghton Street Baptist Church.
- March 2nd. Died, Mr. W. Sutton, ex-alderman, and one of the Commissioners "named in the Act" of 1846. He was a member of the governing bodies over twenty-five years.
- March 4th. Captain Rockcliffe resigned the command of the lifeboat, when he was decorated with the silver medal and second service clasp of the Royal Society. Charles Hodge was appointed coxswain in his place.
- April 19th. First sod of the West Lancashire Railway cut by the Mayor of Southport (Councillor Swire).
- May 20th to 24th. Bazaar in aid of St. Peter's Church, Parsonage, and Schools. Three thousand pounds were required to free the church from debt, build the parsonage, etc., when on the 8th January, 1873, Mr. W. Atkinson offered £1,000 on condition of the remaining £2,000 being raised in six months. The bazaar realised £720, and on July 8th it was announced that the whole sum had been raised.

- 1873**—May 24th. Southport Tramways completed. On May 31st, traffic commenced from Weld Road, Birkdale, to Churchtown.
- June 26th. A public meeting of the ratepayers decided to petition the Local Government Board for a separation from the Ormskirk Union.
- June 26th. West Lancashire Railway Bill (additional capital) passed.
- July 14th. The Crowlands Gas Works opened, having cost £40,000.
- July 19th. New organ opened at the Methodist New Connexion Church, Manchester Road.
- August 13th. Mr. W. Atkinson offered to provide a clock and chimes for Cambridge Hall.
- August 31st. Died, aged 88, Mr. William Ball, clerk of Christ Church. From 1832 to 1853, Mr. Ball was schoolmaster of Christ Church National Schools, in which capacity he was commonly known as "Stick Billy." From 1841 to his death he was clerk of the Church, having in one capacity or another been connected with that place of worship from its building, at which he was employed.
- August. Revs. J. Chalmers, M.A., and F. W. Macdonald appointed Wesleyan ministers at Southport *vice* Revs. E. E. Jenkins and T. Akroyd.
- September. Rev. Thomas Henery instituted vicar of St. John's, Crossens, *vice* Rev. W. Cornwell, with whom he exchanged livings.
- September 15th. The French brigantine *Zoe*, of Roden, wrecked on the Horsebank. The lifeboat went to her assistance, but whilst on the way to the north end of the bank, where the wreck lay, a boat was seen struggling to get round the south end. Dan Wright, and a few others, at once went out in the boat *Marco Polo*, and met the boat containing the

crew of the *Zoe*, and, after towing it through the breakers, landed all safe at the Pier. An amusing matter in the affair was that when the Frenchmen saw the *Marco Polo* they looked on the crew as pirates, and would not, for some time, lay hold of the hawser thrown to them. However, on the rescuers setting sail for home, the unfortunate sailors cried for the help that was offered them. On the lifeboat reaching the *Zoe* the latter had sunk in 15 feet of water; the only trophy that could be obtained being the French ensign at the masthead. Next tide the wreck broke up.

**1873**—October 23rd. Captain Hesketh resigned the command of the 13th L.R.V., and was succeeded by Captain William Macfie.

—————November 1st. Municipal Election. Results:—West Ward—Dr. Lang (C) 245, \*Captain Ball (Albion) (C) 235; Mr. G. Hart (L) 228, Mr. W. J. Wansbrough (L) 204. \*Mr. J. R. Calrow had retired. Craven Ward—Messrs. \*Beswick (L) and \*Hodge (C), unopposed. Talbot Ward—Atherton (L) 420, Roberts (L) 385; Falcon (C) 236, Ball (brewer) (C) 230. Messrs. \*Stephenson (L) and \*Bracewell (L) did not offer themselves for re-election. East Ward—\*Smallshaw (C) 184, \*Ireland (C) 176; Hobbs (L) 113, Thompson (L) 110. Those marked \* were retiring members. Dr. Lang had been elected without any effort on his part, having “refused to fight or bleed.” At the declaration of the poll he refused to return thanks, telling the electors, “You have put me in the Council to please yourselves, and not to please me.”

—————November 9th. Councillor Swire re-elected Mayor.

—————November 18th. Foundation stone of St. George’s English Presbyterian Church laid by the Earl of Kintore. Architect, Mr. Thomas Wylie; builders, Wishart and Irving. Cost £5,000.

- 1873**—December 13th. Died, aged 69, Captain William Rockliffe. He was lifeboat coxswain from 1842 to 1873, and during that time assisted in saving no less than 367 lives. In the *Rescue* he brought ashore, from different vessels, 212 persons, in the *Jessie Knowles* 71, and in various shore boats 84. In addition he had, with his crew, assisted seventeen ships off the banks. He wore several medals, conferred on him for lifeboat services.
- December 14th. The Rev. Thomas J. Clarke, M.A., preached his farewell sermon as Vicar of St. Paul's, having accepted a living at York.
- 1874**—January 27th. The Rev. A. McCormack preached his valedictory sermon at Churchtown Congregational Church, after a pastorate of seven years.
- January 29th. Messrs. C. Turner and R. A. Cross, M.P.'s, addressed their constituents in the Town Hall. At the General Election they were returned unopposed.
- January 29th. The *Jessie Knowles* having been condemned by the Royal National Lifeboat Institution, a new boat, the *Eliza Fernley*, was sent down. Mr. John Fernley had left a legacy for the purpose, the new boat being given the name of the wife of the donor. She was built of mahogany, her predecessor being made of fir.
- February 6th. The Rev. W. Millington, M.A., appointed vicar of St. Paul's Church.
- February. A memorial window placed in St. Stephen's Church, Banks, by Mr. T. H. Isherwood, in memory of Mrs. Ann Linaker.
- April 3rd. The foundation stone of Zion Independent Methodist Chapel, St. Luke's Road, laid by Alderman Walter Smith, J.P.

- 1874**—May 30th. Memorial stones of a new Methodist New Connexion Church, Manchester Road, laid by Mrs. J. Unwin, Mrs. Turner, Mrs. Hadfield (for Mrs. Atherton), Mrs. Mayall, Mrs. Buckley, and Mrs. Pilling. Architects, Mellor and Sutton. Contract £2,880; to seat 530.
- June 16th. The Town Council decided to petition for the incorporation of High Park, Churchtown, and Crossens.
- July 5th. The Rev. B. Swift, LL.B., resigned the living of St. James's, Birkdale, on account of ill health. He was succeeded by the Rev. Robert Stephenson, who entered on the pastorate August 9th.
- July 13th. Five thousand Liverpool Orangemen visited Southport. A meeting was held on Meols Hall Green, Churchtown. In the evening the scenes in the streets were disorderly in the extreme.
- July 25th. "Infirmity Saturday" founded. On September 13th "Infirmity Sunday" was inaugurated, and has been held annually since.
- August 13th. Hannah Cumberbach, a domestic servant, sentenced to eighteen months' hard labour for concealment of birth. She had carried the body about, in a paper parcel, for four days, one of which she spent in Manchester.
- August 19th. The Town Council applied to the Local Government Board for their approval of the Sewerage Scheme, and for power to raise the necessary loans.
- August 26th. Foundation stone of St. Andrew's Hall laid by the Mayor, Councillor Swire.
- September. Licenses granted to the Albert Hotel (built for a temperance hotel) and to the Winter Gardens.
- September 16th. The Winter Gardens and Aquarium opened by Frank Buckland, Esq., who gave an inaugural

address, at which there was a large and illustrious company. Chairman, Alderman Walter Smith, J.P.; secretary, Mr. Edward Martin; manager, Mr. W. B. Leeming. Cost £90,000. Architects, Messrs. Maxwell and Tuke.

**1874**—September 20th. St. George's Presbyterian Church opened by the Rev. J. Oswald Dykes, D.D., of London.

———September 23rd. Died, aged 73, Mr. James Whitehead, one of the councillors for Craven Ward, and one of Southport's oldest tradesmen.

———October 6th. Cambridge Hall opened by the Right Hon. R. A. Cross, Home Secretary, one of the representatives of the Division. There was a great gala, in which all classes of the community took part.

———October 21st and 22nd. Great gale, during which the new turret, 30 feet high, of Crossens Church, fell through the roof in one mass.

———November 2nd. Municipal Elections, with the following results:—West Ward—Correa (C) 303, Hart (L) 293; \*Jeffries (L) 251, Sadler (C) 229. \*Mr. W. Lawton (L) retired. Craven Ward—\*Fisher (L) 458, Hacking (*vice* Whitehead, deceased) (L) 413; Turvey (C) 317. Talbot Ward—Nicholson (L) 467, \*Martin (420); Mather (C), 419. \*Mr. Eastham (L) had retired. East Ward—\*Dr. Barron (C) and \*Mr. Swire (L) returned unopposed. Those marked \* retiring councillors.

———November 9th. Alderman Walter Smith, J.P., elected Mayor of Southport, for the third time. Aldermen Boothroyd, Smith, Sutton, and Wood re-elected.

———November 14th. Special meeting of the Town Council to promote a Bill for extending the borough, and obtaining borrowing powers for the new sewerage scheme. The statutory meeting of the burgesses was held on the 2nd of December.

**1874**—November 18th. Mr. Samuel Crompton, station-master at Chapel Street Station, killed on the line. In stepping out of the way of a goods train, he was caught and run over by a passenger engine.

————November 19th. Mrs. Swire, Crown House, wife of the ex-Mayor, burnt to death. The unfortunate lady was in her bedroom, when her nightdress became ignited at an unguarded gas fire, and she was so severely burnt that death ensued almost immediately.

————November 21st. Memorial stones of the New Jerusalem Church, Duke Street, laid by the Mayor (Alderman Smith) and other friends.

**1875**—January 25th. Talbot Ward Election Inquiry commenced. Mr. R. V. Mather, the Conservative candidate at the November election, had petitioned against the return of Mr. E. Martin, alleging that certain good votes had been disallowed by the returning officer, Alderman Sutton, and claiming the seat. The petitioner made no charge of illegal practices; but the respondent, in his reply, alleged that the petitioner had, by his agents, been guilty of illegal acts. After a seven days' inquiry, the commissioner, Mr. Prentice, Q.C., found that Mr. Martin had a majority of lawful votes, but intimated that had the petitioner alleged illegal practices on the part of the respondent's agents, he would have declared the election void, as he thought there were cases proved on both sides. Alderman Sutton, having failed to write the word "rejected" on the votes disallowed by him, was ordered to pay his own costs, which amounted to £137. As to the petition, each side must pay its own costs, and, on the recriminatory charges, they having been proved, the petitioner to pay the costs.



- 1875**—February 4th. St. Andrew's Hall opened by the Rev. Dr. Clarke, on behalf of Mr. W. Atkinson, J.P., D.L.
- February 6th. The Drill Hall, Hawesside Street, built by the 13th L.R.V., opened.
- February 8th. Free Libraries Act adopted by the Southport ratepayers.
- March 30th. A dispute having arisen as to the ownership of pews in Christ Church, Mr. W. Atkinson bought nearly all owned by non-parishioners and presented them to Rev. Dr. Clarke.
- April. The General Post Office removed from Chapel Street to Cambridge Hall. The old Post Office had been sold to Parr's Banking Company.
- April 14th to 17th. Bazaar in Cambridge Hall on behalf of St. George's Presbyterian Church. The sum required was £1,400; the amount realised £1,750.
- April. William Atkinson, Esq., offered to build a Free Public Library and Art Gallery, at a cost of £6,000.
- May 3rd. The *Southport Independent* had, for several months, been issued three times a week as the *Southport News*. On May 3rd it became the *Southport Daily News*.
- May 15th. Churchtown Botanic Gardens opened by the Rev. Charles Hesketh, who then laid the foundation stone of the principal conservatory. Messrs. Mellor and Sutton were the architects; Mr. John Shaw, of Manchester, landscape gardener; Mr. W. Fish, curator. Cost £18,000.
- May 18th. Dr. Robert Craven died. The incorporation was mainly due to his efforts. His memory is perpetuated in the name of one of the wards.
- May 24th. A temporary Free Library opened in the Exchange Buildings, London Square. The books of the Athenæum Library were handed over on the Committee undertaking the liabilities of the Athenæum.

- 1875**—July 6th. A chronograph and purse of gold presented to G. A. Coombe, Esq. (Sir G. A. Pilkington), the first house surgeon to the Southport Infirmary, he having resigned the appointment in February.
- July 11th. The New Jerusalem Church, Duke Street, opened.
- July 28th. The Agricultural Show held on the Cemetery Road ground; receipts for the day, £560.
- August 1st. The new Improvement Act, which incorporated Hesketh and Scarisbrick Wards, came into operation.
- August 31st. The Rev. Dr. Moffatt, the eminent African missionary, visited Southport and preached at Chapel Street Church.
- September 6th. Dr. Peter Wood, J.P., gave £1,000 towards enlarging or improving the Southport Infirmary.
- September 9th. The Rev. Levi Nuttall installed pastor of Hoghton Street Baptist Church.
- October 5th. The first sitting of the County Court at Southport.
- October 15th. Died, William Hawkshead Talbot, Esq., J.P., the senior trustee of the Scarisbrick Estate.
- November 1st. Municipal Elections. Results:—  
 West Ward—H. Hodge (L) 281, E. Iddon (L) 268; R. Sadler (C) 239, J. Turvey (C) 203, \*J. Scott (C) 52. \*Mr. Barker (C) did not offer himself again. Craven Ward—\*T. P. Griffiths (L) 497, \*J. Wainwright (L) 446; W. Blundell (C) 196, R. Rimmer (C) 163. Talbot Ward—C. H. Brown (L) 456, \*J. Witham (L) 421; J. P. Duessen (C) 68. \*Mr. Kettle (L) declined nomination. East Ward—\*J. Marchbank (C) 209, \*T. Evans (C) 194; W. V. Hodgson (L) 145, E. Vincent (L) 137. Those marked \* retiring members. The first election for the new wards, three councillors to each, took place the same day. Results:—Scarisbrick Ward—S. L. Booth (L) 161, E.

Hobson (L) 161, W. Lyon (L) 160; T. Sherrat (C) 96, J. Peet (C) 89, J. Linaker (C) 81. Hesketh Ward—R. Johnson (C) 163, T. Hunt (C) 132, P. Blundell (C) 131; W. Vaughan (L) 116.

**1875**—November 9th. Alderman Walter Smith, J.P., elected fourth time, Mayor of Southport. Councillors Swire and Fisher chosen aldermen for the new wards. For the vacancies created, Mr. R. Jeffries (L) was elected councillor for Craven Ward and Mr. W. J. Robson (C) for East Ward.

—November 10th. New Improvement Bill promoted, proposing to borrow £220,000 for the extension of the Gas Works, 40,000 for new Markets, £7,000 for workmen's houses, £5,000 for a new town's yard, and £3,000 for various improvements. Also to incorporate Birkdale and to extend the Promenade, North and South. At the ratepayers' meeting the Bill was approved by a large majority, but a poll of the ratepayers was demanded. Result:—For the Bill 2,871, against 1,106, majority 1,765. Birkdale ratepayers resolved to oppose the Bill.

—November 27th. Sims Reeves sang at a concert in Cambridge Hall.

**1876**—January 6th. Councillor R. Nicholson (L) elected alderman *vice* Mr. Amos Gregson, deceased.

—January 7th. Died, Rev. Jonathan Jackson, M.A., J.P., first vicar of Holy Trinity Church. The Rev. Charles Stead Hope, M.A., was appointed vicar a few months later.

—January 11th. Mr. Abel Matley, Government tax collector, arrested on a charge of misappropriating £418, and other monies of which he was trustee in bankruptcy.

—February 8th. Councillor T. P. Griffiths elected alderman *vice* Dr. Peter Wood, resigned. The vacancy in Craven Ward was filled by the election of Mr. J. H. A. Linaker (L).

**1876**—February 21st. The Fisk Jubilee Singers first visited Southport.

————February 27th. The Rev. Geo. Hinds resigned the pastorate of Portland Street Congregational Church.

————April 1st. Richard Thompson (42), a huckster, of Churchtown, sentenced to penal servitude for life for stabbing his wife, with intent. He was tried for murder, but acquitted, as it appeared that puerperal fever was the actual cause of death.

————April 10th. The foundation stone of Portland Street Congregational Church laid by Mr. E. B. Dawson, of Lancaster.

————May 10th. Memorial stones of Southbank Road Wesleyan School-Chapel, and of Wesley Sunday Schools, Kent Road, Birkdale, laid by H. Mathwin, senr., Esq.

————May 15th. Southport Improvement Bill passed.

————May. All Saints' parish formed out of the district attached to St. Cuthbert's.

————June. Smallpox introduced into Southport by visitors. The disease spread rapidly, and did much injury to the town, though far more mischief was caused by the exaggerated reports issued from Blackpool and other places. The authorities promptly took the matter in hand, and though it was not until August that the town was declared free from the scourge, only 27 deaths were recorded from that disease during the entire year. The reports circulated from Blackpool alleged "hundreds dying every week." The following year there was one death from smallpox; but since 1877 there has not been a single death registered in Southport from that disease.

————June. Rev. B. S. Clarke, D.D., appointed Hon. Canon of Chester.





OLD RECTOR.

**1876**—July 13th. The Union Hotel closed. A few days later it was demolished to make room for the Prince of Wales Hotel.

—————July 15th. Died, aged 72, the Rev. Charles Hesketh, M.A., rector of North Meols, rural dean, and one of the lords of the manor. Three rectors had held the living over 128 years [*vide* 1748 and 1793], the Rev. C. Hesketh filling the office just 41 years. The whole parish seemed to go into mourning on the occasion of the funeral. The Rev. Charles Hesketh Knowlys, a nephew, was, on the 14th September, appointed his successor.

—————July 23rd. Mr. and Mrs. John Capstick attempted to cross the Ribble by fording, near Freckleton, and were both drowned.

—————August. Revs. E. Lightwood and D. J. Waller appointed Wesleyan ministers for Southport *vice* Revs. J. Chalmers, M.A., and F. W. Macdonald.

—————August 7th. Died, John Robinson, fisherman, on whose life the lease of "Little London" was held.

—————September 5th to 7th. The County Agricultural Show held at Southport; proceeds over £2,000.

—————September. The West Lancashire Railway works, which had been at a standstill many months, re-commenced.

—————October. Rev. Conolly Thomas Porter, LL.D., appointed vicar of All Saints.

—————November 1st. Municipal Elections uncontested. In West Ward Mr. M'Crossan (L) took the place of Dr. Lang (C), and in Craven Ward Mr. Seth Moore (L) replaced Mr. I. Beswick (L).

—————November 9th. Alderman Nicholson appointed Mayor. The same afternoon the memorial stone of the Atkinson Free Library and Art Gallery was fixed by the Rev.

Canon Clarke, D.D., as proxy for William Atkinson, Esq., J.P., D.L., who had undertaken to defray the whole cost, £8,000. Messrs. Waddington and Sons, Burnley, were the architects.

**1876**—November 14th. The Southport Naval Artillery Corps formed. At the first drill, held this night, over sixty joined, and by the end of the year that number had been nearly doubled. Mr. Edmund Winter was first commanding officer, Mr. Charles Stewart, hon. secretary.

—————December 20th. Closing meeting of a "Jubilee" series held in connection with Chapel Street Church. There were amongst those present, the Revs. John Thornton and W. G. Milne, who had taken part in the re-opening services of 1843. On the previous Sunday (December 17th) the Rev. W. Crosbie, LL.D., of Derby, preached two sermons, and in the afternoon there was a joint meeting of the four Independent congregations of the town. At the Wednesday night meeting the Rev. J. T. Woodhouse, the pastor, read a history of Congregationalism in Southport.

**1877**—January 7th. Rev. W. H. Dyson appointed pastor of Portland Street Congregational Church.

—————January 24th. Southbank Road Wesleyan School-Chapel opened by the Rev. Ebenezer E. Jenkins. Cost £1,534.

—————January 30th. Wesley Schools, Kent Road, Birkdale, opened. Mellor and Sutton, architects; T. Bridge, builder. Cost £3,000.

—————February 15th. Peter Wood, Esq., M.D., J.P., died, aged 65. Dr. Wood was, for many years, the Chairman of the Improvement Commissioners, and was the first Mayor of the Borough.



- 1877**—February 20th. Portland Street Congregational Church opened by Mr. R. W. Dale, M.A., of Birmingham. Mellor and Sutton, architects; Thomas Cheetham, builder.
- April 3rd. Foundation stone of the Southport Glaciarium laid by Admiral Lord Clarence Paget.
- April 3rd. The Conservative Club, Nevill Street, opened by Colonel Ireland-Blackburne, M.P.
- April 11th. The Corporation fined £5 for using the Town Hall for music, without having a license, and £5 for allowing a performance in Cambridge Hall on Good Friday. The Winter Gardens Company were also fined £5 for having a concert on Good Friday.
- May 5th. Since this date the *Visiter* has been published three times a week.
- May 5th. All Saints' Church consecrated by the Bishop of Chester, having previously been a chapel of ease to St. Cuthbert's.
- May 10th. Died, Mr. William Halliwell, J.P., aged 75. To Dr. Craven and Mr. Halliwell the town owed the Charter of Incorporation. During the Anti-Corn Law struggle Mr. Halliwell was one of Cobden's ablest lieutenants.
- June. Rev. Francis Cooper, M.A., Cambridge, vicar of St. Peter's, Birkdale, granted the degree of B.D. by Trinity College, Dublin.
- July. Mr. Robt. Heywood McKeand, one of the ablest oculists in the country, having retired to Southport, opened a Cottage Eye Hospital in Virginia Street, opposite the Infirmary. The first annual report, which was issued this month, showed receipts £297 15s. 2d., expenditure £287 18s. 9d.
- September 13th to 15th. Bazaar in Cambridge Hall on behalf of St. Peter's Church, Birkdale. Result, £458 18s. 10d.

**1877**—November 1st. The only change at the Municipal Election was in Talbot Ward, where Mr. W. Welsby (L) took the place of Mr. E. Martin (L).

————November 9th. Alderman Nicholson re-elected Mayor. At the aldermanic election Messrs. Nicholson, Fisher, Robinson, and Stephenson were re-appointed, but the last-named refused office and declined to “qualify.” Councillor Witham was elected *vice* Alderman Segar, who retired. Mr. W. V. Hodgson was elect councillor *vice* Mr. Witham. Mr. Welsby was made alderman in place of Mr. Stephenson. A contest then took place in Talbot Ward to fill the vacancy, when Mr. W. E. Hobbs (L) was elected by 562 votes against 333 recorded for Mr. T. Sherrat (C).

**1878**—January 5th. Dr. John Lang killed by an explosion of gas at his house in Hoghton Street. One of his servants had discovered gas to be escaping in the billiard-room, and the doctor, getting on the table for the purpose of discovering the place of leakage, struck a match, when the explosion took place, bringing down the ceiling and burying him in the debris. Death was instantaneous.

————January 14th. Rev. Thomas Henery, M.A., vicar of Crossens, died, aged 56. On the 6th March the trustees presented the Rev. W. T. Bulpit, of Banks, to the vacancy. The Rev. Henry Greene was appointed to St. Stephen’s, Banks.

————February 19th. The West Lancashire Railway opened between Windsor Road, Southport, and Hesketh Bank.

————February 21st. The Atkinson Art Gallery opened by the Mayor (Alderman Nicholson), to whom Mr. Atkinson presented a silver key on a silver salver. There was a banquet held in celebration of the ceremony. The galleries were filled with a loan exhibition of pictures.

- 1878**—February 28th. A testimonial presented to the Rev. Francis Minton, M.A., curate of Christ Church, on his leaving to accept the vicarage of Middlewich, to which he had been presented. Mr. Minton had established a church (iron) in Scarisbrick New Road, the nucleus of St. Philip's. It was mainly by this congregation that the testimonial was presented.
- March 29th. A "British" Day School opened at Upper Portland Street.
- May 11th. Government inquiry at Southport before Her Majesty's Commissioners, Messrs. Frank Buckland and Spencer Walpole, *re* the alleged destruction of the fry and spawn of sea fish by the use of the trawl net or beam trawl, and of the sieve net or ground sieve.
- May 18th. Serious fire in Nevill Street, which did damage to the value of £3,400 at the establishments of Mr. Hobbs and Mr. Hewitt.
- June 10th. The Cambridge Road section of the Southport Tramway Company's system opened.
- June 18th. Mr. R. Watson elected councillor for Craven Ward *vice* Mr. Wainwright, resigned.
- June 20th. The annual assembly of the Presbyterian and Unitarian congregations of Lancashire and Cheshire held at the Unitarian Church, Portland Street.
- June 27th. Terrible thunderstorm, during which a lad at Banks, John Howard, aged 12, was struck dead by lightning.
- June 29th. Foundation stones of Marshside Road Primitive Methodist Church laid by the Mayor (Alderman Nicholson) and Dr. Goodman. Architect, Mr. R. Owen, Liverpool; builder, Mr. W. Vaughan. Cost £1,700.

- 1878**—July 2nd. Memorial stones of the United Methodist Free Church, Duke Street, fixed by the Mayor (Alderman Nicholson) and Mr. George Mansell, ex-Mayor of Rochdale. Architects, Maxwell, Tuke, and Hurst; builder, Mr. James Cheetham. Cost £8,000.
- July. The Rev. J. L. Rentoul, M.A., pastor of St. George's Presbyterian Church, accepted a call to East St. Kilda, Melbourne.
- August 1st. An attempt had been made to form a new agricultural society under the name of the "Southport National Agricultural Society." The first show was held on this date, on the Cemetery Road ground.
- August 21st. The Ormskirk and Southport Agricultural Show held in Cemetery Road.
- September 18th. A Branch Free Library opened at Churchtown.
- September 25th. Memorial stones of a new Wesleyan Church in Leyland Road laid by the Rev. Dr. W. B. Pope, J. Wheeler, Esq., J. Fishwick Stead, Esq., and James Wood, Esq., LL.B. Architects, Messrs. Waddington and Sons, Burnley; builders, Messrs. Bridge and Son. Cost £10,000.
- October 18th. Lord Skelmersdale, R.W.P.G.M., laid the foundation stone of St. Luke's Church, with full Masonic honours.
- November 1st. Municipal Elections. The only changes were in Craven Ward, where Mr. J. Wainwright (L) took the place of Mr. Watson (C), and Talbot Ward, Mr. Sergeant (L) succeeded Mr. Hodgson (L), who retired. Mr. Watson's and nearly all the other Conservative nominations were declared bad, and several members were re-elected in default of legal nominations.
- November 9th. Alderman Boothroyd elected third time Mayor of Southport.

- 1878**—November 29th. The Church of Christ, Mornington Road, opened. Rev. W. T. Moore, M.A., first pastor.
- December 3rd. The Victoria Footbridge, from London Street to Virginia Street, opened.
- December 16th. Intense poverty existed in the town, much aggravated by the exceeding severe winter. Subscriptions opened for the relief of the distress realised £1,500, which was distributed in soup, bread, coal, clothing, etc., by a Committee under the presidency of the Mayor.
- December 28th. The new North of England Children's Sanatorium, Hawkshead Street South, opened by the Right Hon. Lady Lindsay.
- 1879**—January 10th. Southport Glaciarium opened by Mr. Edward Holden. The first curling match took place January 16th.
- February 8th. Died, aged 41, Miss Caroline Hesketh, the youngest daughter of the late Rev. Charles Hesketh.
- March 4th. Municipal Election in Craven Ward *vice* Mr. Jeffries (L), resigned. Mr. R. Watson (C) elected by 455 votes against 367 given to Mr. R. Lloyd (L).
- March 6th. Town's meeting called to protest against the erection of a new Market. The resolution was carried, but ignored by the Town Council, a vote of the ratepayers having been taken and resulted in a large majority in favour of the scheme.
- March 10th. Mr. J. B. Gough, the famous Temperance advocate, addressed a large meeting in Cambridge Hall.
- March 10th. The first "Spring Exhibition" of pictures, in the Atkinson Art Gallery, opened.
- March 13th. Died, aged 65, Captain W. H. Walker. He had taken an active part in the affairs of the town from

his youth. He was successively, Commissioner, Councillor, and Alderman, and was one of the founders of the Southport Rifle Volunteer Corps.

- 1879**—April 17th. A memorial stone to the memory of the late Rector, in All Saints' Church, uncovered by Lord Skelmersdale.
- May 3rd. The "Southport Hunt" races held at Ainsdale—the first and last time.
- June 5th. The Rev. J. Mellis, M.A., of the Free Church of Scotland, Carnbee, Fifeshire, accepted the pastorate of St. George's Presbyterian Church.
- June 14th. Drs. E. D. McNicoll and G. A. Coombe elected Honorary Medical Officers of the Infirmary *vice* Drs. Segar and Elias, resigned.
- June. Rev. F. Cooper, B.D., elected D.D. Trinity College, Dublin.
- July 31st. Second (and last) show of the Southport National Agricultural Society.
- September 2nd. Two illuminated addresses and a diamond ring presented to Dr. F. R. Murray on his resigning the post of House Surgeon to the Infirmary, after four years' service.
- September 7th. United Methodist Free Church, Duke Street, opened by the Rev. A. Holliday, the President of the Connexion.
- September 18th. Great Fete and Gala. Lord Derby cut the first sod of the new Promenade extension and laid the foundation stone of the Markets.
- September 18th to 20th. First Grand Curling Tournament at the Glaciarium, for the Holden Challenge Shield, presented by Mr. E. Holden. Thirteen clubs competed, the Manchester rink being the victors.

- 1879**—October 2nd. The Southport Reform Club, Eastbank Street (now the Y.M.C.A.) opened by Sir W. V. Harcourt, Bart., M.P.
- October 14th to 19th. Bazaar on behalf of St. Luke's Church, which was opened by Lord Skelmersdale; result £1,728.
- October 16th. High tide and gale, which did great damage to Promenade extension works.
- November 10th. Alderman Boothroyd re-elected Mayor—fourth time.
- November 10th. A fatal accident occurred to the eldest son of the Town Clerk. Mr. W. K. Walton, aged 17½ years, an articled clerk with his father, was loading a revolver, when it exploded, killing him on the spot.
- December 14th. The West Lancashire Bank buildings, at the corner of Eastbank Street, opened.
- 1880**—January 26th. Died, aged 66, Mr. Jonas Segar, ex-alderman.
- March. The new main sewer completed, having cost £120,000.
- March 22nd. General Election. Messrs. Rathbone and Molyneux, Liberal candidates, on this day addressed the electors in Cambridge Hall. The following evening Messrs. Cross and Blackburne, the Conservative members, also met the electors.
- April 14th. Birkdale Conservative Club established.
- April 15th. First appointment of a Borough Bench of Magistrates. The following is a list of the first appointments, viz.:—Messrs. John Atkinson, Samuel Boothroyd, Joseph Davies, Henry L. Gregory, J. L. Hordern, W. Houghton, R. Nicholson, Walter Smith, J. Fishwick Stead, S. Swire, W. Thomas, M.D., J. Thorley, G. H. Thorniley, Captain Hesketh, and Dr. Blumberg.

- 1880**—April 16th. New Bishopric of Liverpool. Rev. Canon Clarke, D.D., elected Proctor in Convocation, and appointed Bishop's Chaplain.
- April 19th. Dr. McKeand died. In consequence the Cottage Eye Hospital, Virginia Street, was closed.
- April 20th. Mr. Keighley Walton resigned office as Town Clerk, having been appointed to Halifax. On June 8th, Mr. John H. Ellis, of Halifax, was appointed successor to Mr. Walton.
- April 21st to 23rd. Challenge Shield Curling Competition; fourteen entries; Liverpool won.
- May 27th. St. Luke's Church opened by license as chapel-of-ease to Holy Trinity. Rev. C. S. Hope preached in the morning, Rev. Canon Bardsley in the evening. Next day the Rector preached in the morning and the Bishop of Manchester in the evening.
- May. Dr. Smith appointed Hon. Medical Officer to the Infirmary *vice* Dr. G. A. Woods, resigned.
- June 2nd. Leyland Road Wesleyan Church opened by the Rev. Dr. W. B. Pope. At the following Conference the Rev. Thomas Allen was appointed first pastor.
- June 15th to 17th. The Lancashire and Cheshire Association of Baptist Churches held their annual meeting in Southport.
- July. The Scarisbrick Trustees offered the Corporation fifteen acres of land, in Scarisbrick New Road, for a park. As the conditions laid down would have necessitated an outlay of £13,000, the Town Council declined the gift.
- August. The Rev. Levi Nuttall resigned the pastorate of Houghton Street Baptist Church. In the following March the Rev. Samuel Vincent, of Great Yarmouth, accepted a call to the church.



- 1880**—September 4th. Bishop Ryle preached in Southport for the first time—at Christ Church, morning and evening.
- September 9th. Sunday School Centenary Demonstration, in which thirty schools were represented by 5,000 scholars.
- October 5th to 7th. Curling Tournament for the Holden Challenge Shield. Seventeen rinks competed—Alloa won.
- October 26th. Memorial stones of Hawkshead Street Congregational Church laid by Mrs. Boothroyd, Mrs. Berry, Mrs. Sidebottom, and Miss Carver.
- November 1st. Municipal Election, in which the Market, called the “White Elephant,” was the party cry. The new members elected were:—West Ward, Messrs. Gregory (C) and Cockshott (C) *vice* Messrs. Correa (C), retired, and Hart (L). In Talbot Ward Mr. Betham (C) took the place of Mr. Hobbs (L). East Ward, Mr. Thorley (C) filled the vacancy caused by the retirement of Dr. Barron (C), and Mr. Unwin (L) defeated \*Mr. R. V. Mather (C) by 20 votes. In Hesketh Ward Mr. Vaughan (L) was elected by 142 votes to 128 given to Mr. Vincent (C), \*Mr. T. Hunt (C) having retired. Those marked \* retiring members.
- November 9th. Alderman Sutton elected Mayor. Messrs. Boothroyd, Sutton, Swire, Smith, and Griffiths re-elected aldermen.
- November. Suspected murder at Birkdale. Joseph Wildigg and his wife arrested on suspicion of having murdered Alfred Brewer, aged 8, the woman's son. No trace of the child could be found, and after several remands the prisoners were discharged. The mystery has never been solved.
- November. The Southport and Cheshire Lines Extension Railway promoted.

**1880**—November 28th. Two men, Richard Ball (32) and Charles Rimmer (25), drowned, on the North Shore, whilst attempting to make secure a boat belonging to Rimmer. A gale and high tide prevailed at the time.

————December. Mr. William Atkinson gave £5,500 to the Library Committee, to clear the establishment from debt. This made a total gift of £13,500 on account of the Library and Art Gallery. This noble donation was accompanied by a request that the Corporation would refrain from passing any vote of thanks.

**1881**—January 4th. Died, aged 83, Admiral Ralph Barton, who for nearly forty years had been one of the leading men in Southport. At his death the lease of South Hill Cottage expired.

————January 17th. The Southport and West Lancashire Bank stopped payment, with liabilities amounting to £343,956, besides paid-up share capital. The depositors were received by the other banks, who willingly honoured their cheques to the amounts shown in their bank books. The assets of the Southport and West Lancashire Bank amounted nominally to £551,770; but they had undoubtedly lost £190,000. On the 9th February the shareholders decided to reconstruct the bank under the old name, which was done in June, the new bank taking all the liabilities of the old one. It was re-opened on August 29th.

————February 18th. The *Liverpool and Southport Daily News* ceased publication; the proprietor announcing that through the lack of support hitherto accorded to the paper, and the recent stoppage of the bank, he was convinced that the paper could not be a financial success.

————March. Miss Ball, of Queen's Road, by her will, bequeathed her collection of pictures to the Atkinson Art Gallery.

- 1881**—March 30th. Died, Rev. John E. Millson, aged 81. He was minister of Chapel Street Congregational Church for twenty years, retiring in 1869.
- April 5th to 7th. Fourth bi-annual competition for the Holden Challenge Shield. Seventeen rinks entered; Newcastle won.
- April 19th. Bazaar on behalf of All Saints' Church opened by the Earl of Lathom. It realised over £1,000.
- April. Census. Number of the inhabitants of the borough, 32,191; rest of the township of North Meols, 1,551; Birkdale, 8,706; total for the parish, 42,448. Number of houses in borough, 6,425; rest of township, 311; Birkdale, 1,561; total, 8,297.
- May 17th to 21st. Grand bazaar for St. Luke's Church, which realised £3,000.
- May 24th. The Congregational School-Chapel, Hawkshead Street South, opened by Rev. Alex. Thomson, M.A., D.D., of Manchester. The services on the first Sunday were taken by the Rev. E. Walker, of Pendleton.
- June 6th. The Annual Moveable Committee of the Order of Oddfellows, held at Southport.
- June 9th. Foundation stone of a Wesleyan School-Chapel, High Park Road, laid by James Wood, Esq., LL.B.
- June 29th. Southport and Cheshire Lines Extension Railway Bill passed the House of Lords, with the terminus fixed at Weld Road, Birkdale.
- July. The Rev. Thomas Holland, B.A., resigned his ministry of Portland Street Unitarian Church.
- August. The Town Clerk issued his report upon the foreshore question, based on the *Inspeximus* [*vide* 1529].
- August 29th. The Southport and West Lancashire Bank re-opened.

**1881**—September 7th. Great gala at the opening of the new Market, by Lord Derby, and the Promenade Extension, by the Earl of Lathom. There was a procession, followed by a banquet. The Market tenants were in Old English dress, and at night there was a torchlight procession.

—October 18th to 20th. Bi-annual Curling Tournament won by Lilybank team. Seventeen rinks competed.

—November 1st. Municipal Elections, in which Messrs. Parker (C) and Vincent (C) took the places of Messrs. Hodge (L) and Iddon (L), (who did not re-offer themselves) for West Ward; Messrs. Duxfield (L) and Pierce (C) replaced Messrs. Linaker (L) and Wainwright (L) in Craven Ward; Mr. James Wood, LL.B., replaced Mr. C. H. Brown (L), retired, in Talbot Ward; and Mr. W. Walker (C) succeeded Mr. T. Evans (C) in East Ward.

—November 9th. Alderman Sutton re-elected Mayor. Mr. J. F. Roberts (L) resigned his seat for Talbot Ward, and was succeeded by Mr. G. H. Thorniley (C).

—November 30th. The Earl of Lathom elected a Governor of University College, Liverpool, to represent Southport.

—December 1st. Special meeting of the Town Council to arrange clauses in the new Bill of the Southport and Cheshire Lines Extension Railway.

**1882**—January. The West Lancashire Railway Company proposed to make a branch line along the shore to connect with the Southport and Cheshire Lines Extension Railway, passing the front of the Promenade in a tunnel. It was opposed by the Corporation and withdrawn.

—January. The 13th L.R.V. formed, with the Ormskirk Volunteers, into a separate battalion, with Lieut.-Colonel Macfie in command. Major Ruck, first adjutant.

- 1882**—March 6th. The Southport Building Society dissolved, after an existence of 24 years.
- March 22nd. By deed poll bearing this date George Augustus Coombe, Esq., adopted the name of "Pilkington" in place of "Coombe."
- April 11th. Dr. Tom A. Elias died suddenly from an overdose of morphia.
- April 15th to 21st. Postal Statistics. Number of letters despatched from Southport, 48,629; post cards, 5,416; newspapers, 4,743; books, etc., 12,362; total, 71,152. Telegrams forwarded, 762; received, 1,156; transmitted, 314; total, 2,232. [*Vide* 1842 and each succeeding ten years.]
- April 25th to 27th. Sixth bi-annual Curling Tournament, won by Sheffield. Twenty-two rinks competed.
- May 3rd to 6th. A Bazaar on behalf of Crossens New Church realised £1,620.
- June. Captain E. F. Hesketh, J.P., appointed Hon. Colonel to the 13th L.R.V.
- June. The University of Edinburgh conferred the degree of LL.D. on Mr. James Wood, LL.B., of Southport.
- July 29th. The first number of the *Southport Guardian* published.
- September 4th. The West Lancashire Railway opened through from Derby Road, Southport, to Preston, for the Preston Guild week. The formal opening took place September 15th, when a banquet was given in the Winter Gardens.
- September 15th. Two new treble bells (F sharp and G) added to the peal in Christ Church tower.
- September 17th. Census of attendances taken at the various places of worship in Southport and Birkdale. Morning attendance—Church of England, 5,687; Free

Churches, 6,461; Roman Catholic, 1,219; total, 13,375. Evening attendance—Church of England, 5,647; Free Churches, 6,384; Roman Catholic, 745; total, 12,776.

**1882**—September 24th. Rev. J. Ashby commenced his ministry at the New Jerusalem Church, Duke Street.

—October 17th. St. Luke's Church consecrated by the Bishop of Liverpool. Rev. W. H. Marsden, M.A., first vicar.

—October. A beautiful stained glass window, representing Our Lord's Last Supper, presented to the Mornington Road Wesleyan Church by the Mayoress, Mrs. W. Sutton.

—October 24th to 26th. Seventh Curling Tournament, won by Liverpool. Twenty-four competing rinks.

—November 1st. Municipal Elections. West Ward—E. J. Rimmer (L) 368, W. Houghton, J.P. (C) 326; T. Karr (C) 322. Messrs. \*Ball (C) and \*M'Crossan (L) retired. Craven Ward—T. Harrison (L) 468, T. Tetlow (L) 420; \*J. Davenport (C) 419, T. Marshall (C) 392. \*Mr. Seth Moore (L) had retired. Messrs. Tetlow and Davenport each polled 419 votes, and the returning officer (Alderman Swire), after drawing lots, gave his vote to Mr. Tetlow. Talbot Ward—G. A. Pilkington (L) and \*G. H. Thorniley (C), unopposed. \*Mr. Atherton (L) had retired. East Ward—\*Smallshaw (C) 224, \*Sherrat (C) 209; W. Kelk (L) 191. Scarisbrick Ward—J. H. A. Linaker (L) 212, T. R. Threlfall (I) 86. \*Mr. W. Lyon (L) had retired. Hesketh Ward—\*P. Blundell (C) 151; T. Hosker (L) 103. Those marked \* were retiring members.

—November 9th. James Wood, Esq., LL.D., elected Mayor of Southport.

—November. Rev. A. S. Welch ordained minister of Hawkshead Street Congregational Church.

**1882**—December 26th. Mr. T. W. Barker, of Southport, elected Coroner for South West Lancashire *vice* Mr. C. E. Driffield, resigned.

————December 28th. Died Mr. John Thorley, J.P. (C), one of the councillors for East Ward. For the vacancy Mr. W. J. Robson (C) was elected.

————December 28th. The town divided into wards for Poor Law purposes. Three additional Guardians were given to Southport (total eleven), and a third member was given to Birkdale.

**1883**—January 20th. Died, aged 85, William Atkinson, Esq., J.P., D.L. Mr. Atkinson was a native of Knaresborough, and was, for many years, a cotton manufacturer in Preston. He lived at Ashton Heyes, Cheshire, and was, in 1857, High Sheriff for that County. About 1862 he purchased Claremont House, Promenade, which he soon made his permanent residence. His generosity has had no parallel in Southport, although there have been many liberal residents amongst us. His various public gifts are mentioned, under their dates, in the previous pages. His private generosity equalled his public liberality.

————January 26th. Terrific hurricane, during which a large ship, the *Welbury*, 1,193 tons, in ballast from Liverpool to Cardiff, was driven ashore at Birkdale. She was got off a few weeks later, with little injury. Much damage was done in the town, and next day the barque *Atlantic* was wrecked at Ainsdale. During the high tides much wreckage was washed ashore from the ill-fated *City of Brussels*.

————March 7th. The Lancashire Congregational Union held its annual meeting at Southport. The Rev. John Chater was chairman for the year.

**1883**—March 25th. The Rev. S. Vincent, having accepted a charge at Plymouth, preached his farewell sermon at Hoghton Street Baptist Church.

—April 16th. Completion of the West Lancashire Railway. Traffic between Derby Road, Southport, and Blackburn commenced this day.

—April. During proceedings before the Committee of the House of Commons, the "Foreshore" dispute came to the front. Both the landowners and the Corporation were opposing the Ribble Navigation Scheme of the Preston Corporation, and as the *locus standi* of the Corporation was in doubt, the deputation then in London attempted to complete a bargain, entered into some time before, and purchase the "Foreshore" from the Duchy of Lancaster; but one morning, to their surprise, they found that the landowners had gone to the Duchy and purchased the land. The Duchy authorities admitted that the offer of the Corporation was as good as that of the landowners, but the sale to the latter "closed the door to litigation." The Duchy had previously offered the land to the Corporation for £9,500, but required an additional £5,000 "to guarantee possession against litigation." The price paid by the landowners was £15,000.

—April 26th. Government Inquiry *re* an application to borrow £30,000 to complete the sewerage system of the borough.

—May 12th. The Birkdale and Southport Tramway Company opened their line from London Square to Kew Gardens.

—May 14th. Rev. W. T. Bulpit laid the foundation stone of a new church for Crossens.

—July 2nd. St. Luke's Station (L. and Y.) opened for traffic.



**1883**—August. Rev. Canon Teebay, rector of St. Joseph's, Birkdale, appointed Rector of St. Joseph's R.C. College, Upholland.

———September. Rev. Henry Greene, vicar of Banks, exchanged livings with the Rev. Thomas Cooper, M.A., of All Saints', Darlington.

———September. Birkdale School Board established. First members: Messrs. H. Mathwin, B.A., J. C. Barrett, T. S. Little, W. Warburton, S. Latham, H. H. Vernon, M.D., and F. Newsham, M.D.

———September 18th. The British Pharmaceutical Society held its annual meeting at Southport. Professor Attfield, president.

———September 20th. The British Association for the Advancement of Science held its 53rd meeting at Southport; Professor Cayley, president. There were 2,714 members' tickets issued, the receipts amounting to £3,369. Of the fifty-three meetings held, this ranked sixth in numbers and the third in receipts.

———September 23rd. Rev. J. J. Fitch commenced his pastorate at Houghton Street Baptist Church.

———October 9th to 13th. Bazaar in aid of St. Luke's Church ("Ye Antient Abbeye") realised £2,300.

———October 16th. Severe storms, which occasioned much damage to the Southport and Cheshire Lines Extension Railway works, and to the Promenade Extension.

———October 29th to 31st. Curling Tournament, when the Holden Challenge Shield was won by the Hamilton Club. Twenty-four rinks competed.

———October 30th. The new Convalescent Hospital, built by the Cotton Famine Fund Committee, at a cost of £30,000, opened by Lord Derby, K.G. Messrs. Paull and Bonella, of London and Manchester, were the architects.

**1883**—November 1st. Municipal Elections. West Ward—Messrs. G. Smith (L) and T. Karr (C), unopposed. Messrs. \*Gregory and \*Cockshott retired. Craven Ward—\*G. Hacking (L) 526, James Butterworth (L) 477; C. Bowcock (C) 315. \*Mr. Watson (C) had left this ward to contest East Ward. Talbot Ward—A. Pilling (L) 558, T. R. Threlfall (L) 550; J. Davenport (C) 436. Messrs. \*Betham (C) and \*Lawton (L) had retired. East Ward—\*J. Unwin (L) 266, \*W. J. Robson (C) 239; R. Watson (C) 231. Scarisbrick Ward—\*S. L. Booth (L), unopposed. Hesketh Ward—\*W. Vaughan (L) 154; R. Wright (C) 141. Those marked \* were retiring members.

————November 9th. Dr. James Wood re-elected Mayor.

————December 11th and 12th. Terrific storm, which did immense damage in the town. The *Mermaid*, 1,076 tons, of Cardiff, from Quebec to the Mersey with timber, wrecked on George's Bank. The crew (22) saved by the Lytham lifeboat.

————December 11th. After considerable negotiation the Corporation agreed to purchase the Foreshore, in front of the town, from the landowners, for £10,085 (3,871a. 3r. 20p.). The land opposite the old promenade (400 acres), from Birkdale boundary to Seabank Road, is to have no buildings upon it except for recreational purposes—the remainder is practically unfettered by conditions.

————December 29th. Mr. T. W. Barker, County Coroner, killed at Wigan, by a runaway tramcar.

**1884**—January 8th. Local Government Board inquiry *re* the proposed division of the Ormskirk Union, which was refused.

————January 14th. Mr. Samuel Brighthouse elected Coroner *vice* Mr. T. W. Barker, deceased.

**1884**—January 23rd. Southport Wholesale Corn and Produce Market established.

———January 26th to 28th. Terrific storms, during which two vessels were wrecked on this coast. On Sunday, the 27th, a vessel was seen in distress off the north end of the Horsebank. The lifeboat was launched, but was a long time before it could get alongside, which, however, it ultimately did, and rescued the crew, eleven in number. The carpenter had previously been washed overboard. The vessel proved to be a Norwegian barque, the *Björnstjerne Björnson*, 440 tons, from Charlestown to Liverpool with cotton. This vessel went to pieces. Next morning another vessel was seen in distress off Birkdale. The lifeboat was taken out and, with great difficulty, launched. So great was the force of the waves that the lifeboat crew had to put out their anchors until the tide turned, after which they succeeded in getting a hawser aboard the vessel, which proved to be the *Nereus*, a barque of 1,067 tons from Barrow for Queensland with a cargo of steel rails. The vessel had had the assistance of two steam tugs in attempting to get into the Mersey, but both had left her. The crew, twenty-five in number, were brought ashore by the lifeboat, and the vessel afterwards ran ashore at Birkdale, where she still remains. At the next assizes several men from Banks were convicted of wrecking at the Norwegian barque.

———January 30th. Died, aged 88, James Hardy Wrigley, Esq., J.P., D.L., who, for half a century, had been one of the leading citizens.

———February. The Liverpool, Southport, and Preston Junction Railway promoted.

———March 2nd. A second census of attendances at religious worship taken. Morning—Church of England, 6,254; Free Churches, 6,996; Roman Catholic, 1,409; total,

14,659. Evening—Church of England, 5,658; Free Churches 6,674; Roman Catholic, 806; total, 13,138. On this day the Salvation Army had special services in Cambridge Hall and the Volunteer Drill Shed. The morning attendance was 937, whilst those of the evening could not number less than 2,500. These figures are not included in those given above.

**1884**—March. Rev. Canon Clarke, D.D., appointed rural dean *vice* Rev. Canon Sheldon, deceased.

—April. Curling Tournament. Holden Challenge Shield won by Alloa Prince of Wales Club. Twenty-one rinks competed.

—April 28th. Died, Mr. Charles E. Driffield, thirty-one years coroner for West Derby Hundred.

—June 25th. The Rev. John Chater, having completed twenty-one years' ministry at West End Congregational Church, his congregation, in recognition, presented him with a purse of gold to pay the expenses of a three months' holiday. They also paid the cost of the three months' "supplies."

—June 30th. At a special meeting of the shareholders of the Southport and West Lancashire Bank, it was announced that the directors had entered into an agreement with the Manchester and Liverpool District Banking Company by which the latter bought, for £17,500, the buildings and goodwill of the Southport and West Lancashire Bank. The called-up capital of £48,000 had been sunk in the assets of the old bank, and it was necessary to make a further call of 30s. per share. After hearing the explanations of the directors, the shareholders unanimously agreed to the seal of the company being fixed to the agreement.

—July 14th. Great Orange demonstration, in Meols Hall grounds, of the Liverpool lodges. Fully ten thousand

persons attended, and the proceedings were very enthusiastic throughout the day. In the evening, however, the conduct of many of the trippers was very disgraceful.

**1884**—July 27th. St. Teresa's Roman Catholic Church, Everton Road, Birkdale, consecrated by Bishop O'Reilly, of Liverpool. The evening preacher was Dr. (afterwards Cardinal) Vaughan, Bishop of Salford.

————September 1st. The Southport and Cheshire Lines Extension Railway opened. The shareholders and friends were entertained to luncheon at the Palace Hotel, and taken for a trip over the line.

————September 25th. A memorial tablet to the late Rev. Charles Hesketh, M.A., rector and lord of the manor, placed in the tower of the new All Saints' Institute, by the Earl of Lathom.

————October 9th. Memorial stone of St. Philip's Church laid by the Bishop of Liverpool. Architect, Mr. R. F. Tolson, of Manchester; builders, Messrs. William Brown and Sons, of Salford; estimated cost £6,000. Rev. C. H. Hatfield, vicar-designate.

————October 10th. Died at Birkdale, aged 73, the Rev. James Abraham, formerly rector of St. Marie's Church, Seabank Road. Deceased had been stationed in Southport and Birkdale thirty-four years.

————October. Tenth Curling Tournament won by the Manchester Club, second time. Nineteen rinks competed.

————October 29th to November 1st. "Anglo-Chinese" Bazaar on behalf of All Saints' Institute. Result £1,330.

————November 1st. Municipal Elections. In West Ward, Mr. J. Greenwood (C) took the place of Mr. Parker (C), retired; and in Craven Ward Mr. J. Davenport (C) was elected in place of Mr. Duxfield (L), who did not offer his services again.

- 1884**—November 5th. The Birkdale and Southport Tramway opened to Brighton Road, Birkdale.
- November 10th. Dr. G. A. Pilkington elected Mayor of Southport. Councillor S. L. Booth elected alderman *vice* Mr. T. P. Griffiths, resigned. Mr. E. Hobson, J.P. (L) was chosen to fill the vacancy in Scarisbrick Ward.
- November 15th. Lawrence Townley, sub-postmaster at Eastbank Street Post Office, sentenced to six months' hard labour for embezzlement.
- November 15th. George Lucy, an old convict, arrested on several charges of burglary. Whilst under remand the prisoner managed to loosen one of the bars of his cell, and early in the morning he crept through the opening thus made—exactly six and a half inches wide. He escaped over the roofs, and a few hours later was recaptured in Birkdale sandhills, disguised as a sweep. On the wall of his cell, after his escape, was found written in pencil, "Go, and sin no more." At the Quarter Sessions he was sentenced to ten years' penal servitude.
- December 29th. Alderman Walter Smith having been declared bankrupt, his seat became void. To fill the vacancy Councillor Hacking was elected by 19 votes, against 13 given to Councillor Marchbank. Mr. Kilby was elected councillor *vice* Mr. Hacking.
- December 29th. A farewell meeting held in Portland Street Congregational Schoolroom, the pastor, Rev. W. H. Dyson, having accepted a call to Zion Chapel, Wakefield.
- 1885**—January 12th. Died, Mr. Thomas Harrison, one of the councillors for Craven Ward. He was the founder of the Southport Corn and Produce Market. Mr. Broome was elected his successor.
- January 19th. Died, aged 86, Mr. Thomas Part, the last surviving member of the original "Scarisbrick Trustees."

**1885**—January 23rd. The Tramp Ward and Relieving Office, Birch Street, opened by Councillor Pierce, one of the Guardians of the Poor.

—January 29th. Died, aged 90, John King, the first of the "Seven Wise Men of Preston" to sign the total abstinence pledge. He was employed many years on the Lancashire and Yorkshire Railway, but, in 1872, had to give up his position of station master at Ainsdale, owing to the failure of his eyesight. He was given charge of a gatehouse, and his temperance friends bought him an annuity of £40.

—February 11th. Grand Fancy Dress Ball at the Winter Gardens, in aid of the funds of the Infirmary. It was promoted by the Mayor (Dr. Pilkington), and resulted in £200 being handed over to the treasurer of the infirmary.

—March 1st. Died suddenly, aged 55, Mr. H. Lewis Gregory, J.P., the leader of the local Conservative party.

—March 18th. The new church, St. John's, Crossens, consecrated by the Bishop of Liverpool.

—March 22nd. A service in memory of General Gordon held in St. Andrew's Church, when a collection was made on behalf of a memorial window.

—March 30th. The Re-distribution of Seats Bill having conferred a member on the Southport Division, Mr. John E. Edwards-Moss was chosen as the Conservative candidate.

—April 4th. The burial ground attached to St. Cuthbert's Parish Church having been very much enlarged, the new portion was consecrated by Bishop Ryle.

—April 15th. Died suddenly, aged 62, Mr. Thomas Mellor, the leading architect of the district.

—April 24th. Memorial stones of the United Methodist Free Church, High Park Road, laid by the Mayoress (Mrs. Pilkington), Mrs. G. Mansell, Mrs. S. W. Higginbottom, and Mr. J. J. Barlow.

- 1885**—May 20th to 23rd. A bazaar on behalf of St. Philip's Church realised £1,250.
- May 30th. The Mayoress (Mrs. Pilkington) laid the memorial stone of the "Pilkington" Children's Ward at the Infirmary, Virginia Street.
- June 9th. The Mayor announced to the Town Council that he had decided to accept the invitation to become Liberal candidate for the Division.
- July 4th. Memorial stones of Birkdale Board School laid by Dr. H. H. Vernon, Chairman of the Board.
- July 21st. The Royal Caledonian Curling Club held their annual meeting in Southport. The Curling Tournament was held at the same time, the Challenge Shield being won by Bolton rink.
- July 22nd. The Southport Improvement Act, empowering the Town Council to purchase the foreshore, passed.
- September 5th and following days. The Trades Union Congress held at Southport; Mr. Councillor T. R. Threlfall, President.
- October 25th. The Gordon Memorial Window, at St. Andrew's Church, unveiled.
- November 2nd. Municipal Elections. In Craven Ward Mr. W. Ashton (C) replaced Mr. T. Tetlow (L), by one vote; in East Ward Mr. W. Macgregor (L) replaced Mr. T. Sherrat (C), by six votes; and in Hesketh Ward Mr. R. L. Ascroft (L) was elected *vice* Mr. P. Blundell (C), retired.
- November 2nd. Fatal fire in Seabank Terrace, Seabank Road. An old lady, named Sarah Elizabeth Heywood, being alone in the house, by some means set her bed on fire, and was suffocated before she was discovered.
- November 9th. Councillor John Unwin elected Mayor of Southport.



**1885**—December 4th. First Election of a Member of Parliament for the Southport Division of Lancashire. Result of the poll:—

|                                           |       |
|-------------------------------------------|-------|
| George Augustus Pilkington, Esq. (L)..... | 3,741 |
| John E. Edwards Moss, Esq. (C) .....      | 3,581 |

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|                        |     |
|------------------------|-----|
| Liberal majority ..... | 160 |
|------------------------|-----|

**1886**—January. On New Year's Day the Mayor and Mayoress entertained all the juvenile poor in Cambridge Hall. On January 8th, His Worship gave a Children's Fancy Dress Ball, in the same building. Subsequently an album, containing the portraits of the children in fancy dress, was presented to the Mayor.

—January 27th. St. Philip's Church opened by Bishop Ryle.

—February 20th. The shareholders of the Southport and Cheshire Lines Extension Railway elected Messrs. Gilroy and Craven directors, in place of Mr. Weld-Blundell and Mr. David Radcliffe, chairman and vice-chairman of the company.

—March 1st. Died, aged 46, Dr. Daniel Elias.

—March 22nd. Birkdale Board School opened.

—April 1st to 3rd. Curling Tournament, when the Challenge Shield was won by Bolton—twice in succession.

—April 17th. Southport Habitation of the Primrose League established.

—April 26th. Died, aged 72, Alderman Samuel Boothroyd, J.P., "father" of the Town Council. He had been resident in the town 52 years.

—April 27th. A testimonial, from the working men of Southport Division, presented to Dr. Pilkington, M.P.

—May 18th to 22nd. A bazaar in aid of St. Luke's Church realised £1,200.

**1886**—May 20th. Birkdale Habitation of the Primrose League established.

—————May 28th. Dr. James Wood having been elected an alderman *vice* Mr. Boothroyd, the vacancy in Talbot Ward was filled by the election of Captain W. A. Duncan (C).

—————June 7th. The Hon. G. N. Curzon chosen as the Conservative candidate at the forthcoming General Election.

—————June 16th to 18th. The "National St. Bernard" Dog Show held in Hesketh Park.

—————June 25th. Died, aged 70, Ralph Fletcher, Esq., J.P., chairman of the County Petty Sessional Division.

—————July 7th. General Election. Result in the Southport Division of Lancashire:—

|                                    |       |
|------------------------------------|-------|
| Hon. G. N. Curzon (C).....         | 3,723 |
| Geo. A. Pilkington, Esq. (L) ..... | 3,262 |

—————  
Conservative majority .....

461

—————July 21st. The Agricultural Show held on the Cemetery Road ground.

—————July 23rd. High Park Primrose League Habitation founded.

—————July 31st. The West Lancashire Railway Company went into liquidation. Mr. E. Holden, chairman of the directors, appointed receiver.

—————September. The Southport Channel buoyed by the Corporation.

—————September 15th. Alderman Dr. James Wood, J.P., married to Miss Garrett, daughter of the Rev. Charles Garrett.

—————September 28th. The memorial stone of the Science and Art Schools laid by the Mayor.

- 1886**—October 18th. Died, aged 53, Colonel Edward Fleetwood Hesketh, J.P., lord of the manor, and last of the male line of Heskeths.
- November 1st. Municipal Elections. In West Ward Mr. S. Bannister (C) was elected in place of Mr. G. Smith (L); in Craven Ward Mr. R. Watson (C) and Dr. Moore (C) took the places of Mr. Butterworth (L), who retired, and Mr. Kilby, who had been elected as a Conservative, but had “returned to the Liberal fold.”
- November 2nd to 4th. Curling Tournament, when the Challenge Shield was won by the Southport rink. Twenty-three clubs competed.
- November. In lowering the sewer of West Street, consequent on the making of Scarisbrick Avenue, the workmen discovered an old road leading to the shore, nine feet below the level of the street. It was a continuation of old Eastbank Lane. The men were instructed to remove no more stone than was necessary.
- November 9th. Councillor Unwin re-elected Mayor. An aldermanic election followed, those retiring being Messrs. Sutton, Swire, Hacking, Booth, and Wood, all Liberals. The Liberals were in a majority in the Council, but owing to the illness of several members the parties present were nearly equal. When the voting papers had been collected it was found that Councillor Smallshaw (C) had received 27 votes, Councillor Marchbank (C) 18, Councillor Houghton (C) 18, ex-Alderman Sutton (L) 15, ex-Alderman Wood (L) 15, ex-Councillor Sherrat (C) 15; ex-Alderman Hacking (L) 14, ex-Alderman Booth (L) 13, Councillor Vaughan (L) 3, Councillor Johnson (C) 2. The Mayor gave his casting vote for Messrs. Sutton and Wood, who had tied with Mr. Sherrat. Thus three Conservative aldermen were elected for the first time as such. For the vacancies as councillors, Mr. W.

Crankshaw (C) was elected in West Ward, and Messrs. B. Wilkinson (C) and J. G. Bayley (C) for East Ward.

**1886**—November 12th. Terrible tragedy in Sefton Street, a girl named Maud Hamilton being shot dead by her sweetheart, Alfred Smith, who subsequently was sentenced to six months' hard labour for manslaughter.

—————November 29th. The Town Council decided to apply for borrowing powers to make a Marine Park and Lake in front of the southern portion of the Promenade.

—————December 6th. Councillor E. Broome died, aged 54. For the resulting vacancy in Craven Ward Mr. J. Kilby (L) was elected.

—————December 10th. Terrible disaster, which spread a gloom over the whole nation. On the night of December 9th, whilst the Mayor was giving a grand *conversazione* and dance, in celebration of his re-election, a fearful storm was raging on the sea. Signals of distress were seen, and the Southport lifeboat was got out. She was taken along the shore to near the boundary of Ainsdale, and when opposite to the vessel in distress she was launched, containing a brave crew of sixteen, of whom only two came back to tell the story. After struggling with the waves for over two hours, the gallant crew had got nearly alongside the distressed vessel, and had loosened the anchor ready, when an immense wave—in nautical language “a green sea”—rose like a wall beside them, and struck the boat, filling and sinking it. She rose again, but keel uppermost, and failed to right herself. She had capsized in seventeen or eighteen feet of water, and afterwards drifted on to the coast. Most of the men were too benumbed to help themselves, but two of them, Henry Robinson and John Jackson, managed to make their way home and give the alarm. Another, John Ball, was found alive, but he never recovered consciousness. The bodies of

the remaining members of the crew were found near the boat. The St. Anne's lifeboat-men had also seen the signals, and had gone on the same errand of mercy. Not one of this crew lived to tell the story of that night. Near noon next day, two gentlemen were walking near the wreck, when they noticed something like the keel of a boat in the water. By the aid of a telescope it was seen to be a lifeboat, but where from could not be told. Two hours elapsed before the boat could be approached, and in the meantime five bodies had been found in the neighbourhood, each wearing a lifeboatman's belt. On the boat being reached it was found to be that of St. Annes, with three other bodies under it. The mast, sails, anchors, and all loose fittings were missing, and not a sign to show how the disaster happened. It was conjectured that the boat had capsized, with sails set, when turning the corner of Spencer's Bank, the sails and mast afterwards being found in that neighbourhood. The wrecked vessel was the *Mexico*, of Hamburg, the crew of which, twelve in number, were rescued by the Lytham lifeboat. The twenty-seven gallant men who lost their own lives in attempting to save those of their fellow-creatures were as follows:—In the Southport lifeboat, the *Jessie Knowles*—Charles Hodge (coxswain), Ralph Peters (second coxswain), Henry Hodge, Thomas Spencer, Thomas Jackson, John Robinson, Richard Robinson, Benjamin Peters, Peter Wright, Timothy Rigby, Peter Jackson, Thomas Rigby, Henry Rigby, and John Ball. The crew of the *Laura Janet*, the St. Anne's lifeboat, were William Johnson (coxswain), James Johnson, Charles Tims, Reuben Tims, Oliver Hodson, James Harrison, Thomas Parkinson, Nicholas Parkinson, James Dobson, Thomas Bonney, James Bonney, Richard Fisher, and James Wignall. The feeling excited throughout the nation, and also in foreign countries, was shown by the fact that within a fortnight thirty thousand pounds was

subscribed to meet the wants of the bereaved families; in fact much more could have been had, but the committee, having sufficient, cried "Hold! enough."

**1886**—December 16th. Died, aged 54, Alderman William Houghton, J.P. Councillor E. Hobson, J.P., was elected alderman, and to fill the vacancy in Scarisbrick Ward Mr. S. L. Booth was chosen.

————December 17th. Died, aged 77 years, Dr. John Goodman, founder of the Hydropathic Hospital. He had been in practice in Southport over thirty years, and was ever forward in good works, especially in regard to religious matters and total abstinence.

**1887**—January 1st. New organ opened at St. George's Presbyterian Church.

————January 3rd. Died, Mr. Thomas Weld-Blundell. He was born at Lulworth Castle in 1808, and in 1839 married his cousin, Miss Teresa Vaughan, of Court Field. Of his twelve children, five sons and six daughters survived him. Two of the former were Benedictine priests; his third daughter, Alice Mary, is Lady Lovat; another is Mrs. Lane Fox, and a third Mrs. Walmsley. One daughter was in a convent at Bristol. At the deathbed the Bishop of Salford (afterwards Cardinal Vaughan), nephew of Mr. Weld-Blundell, administered the last rites of the Church. Mr. C. J. Weld-Blundell, the eldest son, succeeded to the estate.

————January 5th. The Lifeboat Committee appointed a new crew, electing William Robinson as coxswain.

————January 12th. A Local Government Board Inquiry held, the Corporation desiring to borrow £8,000 to form the South Marine Park and Lake.

————March 1st and April 6th. Inquiries regarding the alterations and partial rebuilding of the Town Hall, at an estimated cost of £6,000.

**1887**—April 2nd, etc. Curling Tournament, when the Holden Challenge Shield was won by Hamilton.

————April 7th. Died, Alderman Henry Robinson, J.P., one of the most energetic of the founders of Southport. From early youth he was an active worker at Christ Church Sunday School, and also an earnest advocate of total abstinence. Born in 1830, when Southport was in its infancy, he knew more of it than anyone else. He was looked upon as a kind of local encyclopædia. He was an uncompromising Radical, and enjoyed the personal friendship of Mr. Gladstone and other Liberal leaders. He was elected a member of the first Town Council in 1867, and was made an alderman, November, 1871. He was created a Borough Magistrate in 1880.

————May. Mr. John Geddes offered £1,000 towards the building of a new Infirmary.

————May 29th. The Rev. T. E. Sweeting retired from the pastorate of Churchtown Congregational Church.

————June. The Misses Macrae gave £2,000 as a Jubilee gift to the building fund of St. Philip's Church.

————July 4th. Died, Mr. Walter Smith, J.P., four times Mayor of Southport. Mr. Smith had been connected with Southport from the making of the Liverpool, Crosby, and Southport line. He made a considerable fortune, on which he retired, but was led by his own enthusiasm into undertaking the construction of the Cheshire Lines Extension Railway, and in that adventure lost his all. Bankruptcy followed, and paralysis seized Mr. Smith, who never recovered. He was the founder of the Winter Gardens, the Southport Tramways, the Botanic Gardens, and many other schemes, his main object in life being the finding of employment for working men.

- 1887**—July 21st. The memorial stones of Southbank Road Wesleyan Church laid by Dr. J. Wood, Mr. J. F. Stead, Mrs. Pearson, and Mrs. Wallworth.
- August 20th. The Liverpool, Southport, and Preston Junction Railway opened.
- September 7th. Jubilee celebrations of Queen Victoria's Reign. The Science and Art Schools were opened, there were picturesque processions, illuminations on the Marine Park and Shore, fete on the Lake, etc., the whole being a great success.
- September. The Rev. Canon Clarke, D.D., vicar of Christ Church, appointed Archdeacon of Liverpool. He was installed in office, October 4th.
- October 7th. Died, Mr. Joseph Baxendell, the Borough Meteorologist. His son became his successor in office.
- October 11th. St. Philip's Church consecrated by the Bishop of Liverpool.
- November 1st. Municipal Elections. In Craven Ward, Messrs. T. P. Griffiths (L) and T. Morris (L), took the place of Messrs. J. Davenport (C) and T. Pierce (C). In Talbot Ward, Mr. R. Todd (L) captured the seat of Captain Duncan (C), and in Hesketh Ward, Mr. G. Hacking (L) was elected *vice* Mr. R. Johnson (C).
- November 2nd to 4th. Bi-annual curling contest for the Holden Challenge Shield. Winner, Alloa rink.
- November 6th. Mr. Michael Davitt addressed a Liberal meeting in Cambridge Hall.
- November 9th. Councillor E. J. Rimmer elected Mayor. The Conservative members left the Council Chamber without voting.



- 1888**—January 18th. The members of the Choir of Holy Trinity Church presented an illuminated address and a handsome epergne to Mr. H. Hudson, organist and choirmaster.
- January 24th. The Dale Habitation (Blowick) of the Primrose League established.
- January 27th. The *Albert William*, with 5,000 bags of grain, ashore on the Horsebank. Most of the crew were taken off by the Lytham lifeboat, but the captain and carpenter refused to leave the ship. She was stranded for several weeks, but her cargo having been taken off in carts, she ultimately floated and was got away. Two valuable horses became embedded in the sands and were lost during the operations of unloading.
- February 7th. Dr. E. Mortimer Smith, of Hesketh Street, killed through attempting to change carriages, at Formby Station, whilst the train was in motion.
- February 10th. Died, Mr. T. R. Stephenson, J.P., aged 82. He was one of the first aldermen of Southport, and as chairman of the Highway Committee earned the sobriquet of the "granite alderman" from his persistence in introducing the granite setts for road pavement. In early life he was an engineer, and was long connected with his uncle, George Stephenson, the railway pioneer. He retired from the Council in 1877.
- February 14th. Died, aged 81, Mr. Robert Johnson, founder of the *Southport Visiter*.
- March 2nd. Rev. C. H. Hatfield, M.A., instituted vicar of St. Philip's Church.
- March 12th. Thomas Allen, a police constable, arrested on a charge of robbing the shop of Mr. Wooller, jeweller, Nevill Street. A stone had been thrown through the window on January 9th, and a quantity of jewellery stolen. Prisoner, who was on duty in that neighbourhood,

was discovered dealing with the jewellery. He pleaded guilty, and was sentenced to five years' penal servitude.

**1888**—April 4th. A new congregational hall, in connection with the Unitarian Church, Portland Street, opened.

—April. The bi-annual Curling Competition for the Holden Challenge Shield won by the Dall rink.

—May 18th. H.R.H. the Duke of Cambridge visited Southport for the purpose of inspecting the Lancashire Hussars. His Royal Highness also visited Altcar Rifle Range and inspected two battalions of Militia then in camp.

—June 20th. A child, Albert Herbert Barton, aged five, killed by sunstroke.

—June 20th. Queen Victoria Memorial Pulpit in Christ Church dedicated.

—June 28th. The new sailing lifeboat, the *Edith and Annie*, built at the expense (£850) of the Misses Macrae, had arrived early in the month, and had been well tested. On the 28th the donors performed the christening ceremony, and on the same day the Mayor unveiled the memorial obelisk on the Promenade. On it are bronze tablets recording the doings of the lifeboat crews from 1840 to 1886.

—July 2nd. The new Police Courts opened.

—July 23rd. A new Baptist congregation had been formed some time before. On this date the Rev. J. Morgan Houston was inducted to the pastorate by the Rev. Dr. Parker. The congregation at that time worshipped in the Temperance Hall.

—August 9th. Inspector Holmes, of Chapel Street Railway Station, expired suddenly.

—August. The Park Avenue Mystery. On the first of August a lad named William T. Rhodes, aged between nine and ten, left his lodgings in Manchester Road to visit Hesketh Park. He was last seen on the swings. His non-return

created much sensation, which was by no means lessened when on August 13th his body was found locked in a room on an upper floor of an empty house in Park Avenue, the key having been taken away. The mystery has never been cleared up.

**1888**—September 19th. Southbank Road Wesleyan Church opened by the Rev. E. E. Jenkins, M.A. Architects, Messrs. Waddington; builders, Messrs. Fairbridge and Hatch. Cost £6,200.

—November 1st. Municipal Elections. In West Ward Mr. W. Blackburn (C) took the place of Mr. Crankshaw (C); in Craven Ward Mr. Hatch (C) replaced Mr. Kilby (L); in Talbot Ward Mr. Dimond (L) succeeded Mr. Thorniley (C); and in East Ward Mr. Boocock (C) was chosen instead of Mr. Macgregor (L), retired.

—November 9th. Councillor B. Wilkinson (C) elected Mayor.

—November. In the Curling Tournament the Challenge Shield was won by Belle Vue rink, twenty-nine clubs competing.

—November 20th. Died, aged 61, Alderman James Marchbank. He had been a member of the Town Council from 1870, and in 1886 was elected alderman.

**1889**—January 15th. First County Council Elections. There were contests in all the local divisions, with results as follows:—Craven Division (2,979 electors)—Dr. G. A. Pilkington 1,512, Mr. J. J. Cockshott 948, majority 564. Talbot Division (3,080 electors)—Mr. J. Unwin 1,425, Mr. C. Scarisbrick 930, majority 495. Birkdale (2,506 electors)—Mr. J. Fletcher 946, Mr. C. J. Weld-Blundell 816, majority 130.

—January 23rd. The Conservative Club, Nevill Street, having been much enlarged, was re-opened by the Hon. G. N. Curzon, M.P.

**1889**—January 31st. The Marshside Calamity Fund (1869) wound up. It was reported that four widows had respectively received £336, £315, £275, and £206.

————February 3rd. Great gale and heavy tide. Next morning it was found that the ebbing tide had carried away the foundations of the Pier from under the Refreshment Rooms, which were completely wrecked. The lifeboat *Edith and Annie* was moored close by, and the moving sand had carried away her anchors, drawing the boat under water almost completely.

————February 6th. Christ Church had been re-seated, the whole of the old "box" pews having been taken away, the re-arrangement making total accommodation for 1,280 worshippers. The Bishop of Liverpool preached the re-opening sermon.

————February 26th. A great sensation caused by the mysterious death of Mr. John Fletcher, county councillor for Birkdale. He had been found, in a dying condition, in a Manchester cab. It was afterwards found that he had been accompanied to a public-house by a youth, Charles Parton, who managed to drug Mr. Fletcher, with chloral stolen from a Liverpool chemist. Finding his victim in a dying state, Parton got him into the cab and absconded. He was captured and afterwards sentenced to death, but ultimately was reprieved. For the County Council vacancy there was a contest, when Mr. T. O. Clinning was elected by 1,068 votes to 767 given to Mr. J. C. Barrett.

————March 4th. Died, at Birkdale, aged 70, Mrs. Thomas Weld-Blundell, of Ince Blundell.

————March 28th. New Congregational Church, Hawkshead Street; memorial stones laid by Miss Carver, Mrs.

Unwin, Mr. Thomas Southworth, and Councillor E. J. Rimmer. Sermon by the Rev. John Watson ("Ian Maclaren.")

**1889**—April 3rd, etc. The last competition for the Holden Challenge Shield held at the Glaciarium, when Bolton won. There were nineteen rinks competed. At the annual meeting of the Glaciarium Company, held on May 14th, it was decided to wind up the company, and in consequence the hall was closed on May 18th.

————April 15th. Died, Mr. George Woods, F.R.C.S. He had been in practice in Southport from 1853, and had held most of the public medical offices.

————May 29th. A Liberal Demonstration at Cambridge Hall, at which Earl Spencer was principal speaker.

————June 20th. Birkdale Conservative Club opened by the Hon. G. N. Curzon, M.P.

————June 20th. Recognition service at Portland Street Congregational Church, when the Rev. E. Jones Williams became pastor, in succession to the Rev. W. H. Dyson.

————July 22nd. The new buildings of the Preston Bank opened.

————August. New organ in St. Luke's Church opened.

————August 2nd. Died, at Glasgow, after a long illness, Rev. J. M. Houston, pastor of the new Baptist congregation, then worshipping in the Temperance Hall.

————August 21st. Died, Alderman William Sutton, aged 65. He was the first "Sandgrunder" elected Mayor of Southport.

————September 10th. Scene in the Council Chamber, when Alderman Vincent defied the Mayor, who suspended the meeting for ten minutes in consequence.

**1889**—September. The ratepayers polled on the question of forming the North Lake, when the project was carried by a majority of 2,088.

———October 4th. The “Unwin (Football) Challenge Shield,” the gift of Alderman Unwin for competition amongst the Elementary Schools, presented to Birkdale Board School team, who had won it the first time.

———October 6th. Great gale, which did much damage in the town and neighbourhood.

———October 11th. Died, aged 33, the Rev. Arthur Pearman, a very popular and much-loved curate of Christ Church. In visiting a parishioner he had contracted diphtheria.

———October 19th. Foundation stone of a new church, dedicated to St. Simon and St. Jude, in High Park Road, laid with full Masonic honours by the Earl of Lathom, Provincial Grand Master.

———October 23rd. Visit of the Right Hon. W. E. Gladstone, who addressed an immense meeting in Cambridge Hall. Great excitement was caused by the action of the Mayor. The Town Hall keeper, acting on precedent, had hoisted the flag over the Town Hall, but the Mayor ordered it to be taken down, as he had not been consulted in the matter.

———November 2nd. Municipal Elections. In West Ward, Messrs. Banister (C) 467, and Karr (C) 464, retained their seats by the narrowest of majorities against Mr. G. Eastwood (L) 463. In Craven Ward, Mr. W. Hulme (L) polled 711 votes, \*Mr. R. Watson (C) 603; \*Dr. Moore (C), 552. In Scarisbrick Ward, Mr. S. Wright (L) took the place of Councillor Booth (L), who had been elected alderman *vice* Alderman Sutton, deceased.

- 1889**—November 9th. Councillor A. Pilling elected Mayor. The retiring aldermen were Messrs. Nicholson, Fisher, Welsby, Witham, and Vincent. Messrs. Welsby and Witham withdrew, and Mr. Vincent had fallen under a "ban." The election resulted in the return of Messrs. Nicholson, Fisher, Sergeant, Unwin, and Pilkington. For the three vacancies, Mr. W. J. Robson (C) was elected councillor for East Ward, and Messrs. Eastwood (L) and Kilby (L) for Talbot Ward.
- November 20th. The Rev. H. A. Phillips, of Spurgeon's College, accepted the pastorate of the new Baptist congregation then establishing the "Tabernacle."
- November 28th. Dr. Baidon elected hon. medical officer of the Infirmary *vice* Dr. A. Jones, resigned.
- December 14th. The foundation stone of St. John's Church, Birkdale Common, laid by Miss Burton, of The Warren.
- December 17th. Died, aged 64, Mr. Robert Ivy, a leading member of Chapel Street deaconate, and one of the foremost of Southport's accountants.
- December 20th. Died, aged 68, Mr. William Warburton, one of the nation's leading educationalists, the founder of Birkdale Board School.
- 1890**—January 2nd. Mr. S. Hurst, a Southport architect, found dead in a field at Rochdale.
- January 22nd. Hawkshead Street Congregational Church, erected at a cost of £3,000, from designs by Waddington and Son, opened by the Rev. C. A. Berry, of Wolverhampton.
- January 23rd. The Duke of Norfolk addressed a meeting of the Central Habitation, Primrose League, at the Winter Gardens.
- February 15th. Mr. J. G. Biggar, M.P., received, at Birkdale, an address from local Irishmen. He complained at

the time of a pain in his side, and died suddenly in the House of Commons four days later.

**1890**—February 17th. Died, aged 86, Mr. James Pilkington, of Swinithwaite Hall and Blackburn, formerly M.P. for Blackburn, father of Lady Pilkington.

—————March 26th. A woman named Hannah Woods (30) sentenced to five years' penal servitude for the manslaughter of her baby, which she had left to freeze to death in a garden in Westbourne Road on the night of January 3rd—the coldest night that winter.

—————March 27th. Final scene in what was known as the Birkdale Baby Farming Case. Eliza Pearson (38), William Pearson (51), and a Mrs. Oldfield, the latter a woman of some wealth, were charged with the manslaughter of two illegitimate children of Mrs. Oldfield. The mother was acquitted, William Pearson was sentenced to seven years', and his wife to five years' penal servitude.

—————March 29th. Foundation stone of New Jerusalem Schools laid by Mr. J. H. Ormerod. They were opened October 4th by the Rev. J. J. Thornton, of Melbourne.

—————April 30th. Sad fatality on the shore. An elderly man, William Jackson, who was nearly blind, Albert Bearman (4), and Richard Lloyd (14) were drowned near low water mark by the upsetting of a cart. Jackson had taken his horse to bathe its feet, and in doing so got the cart wheel into a hole, and all were thrown out. A brother of Lloyd was with them, but he saved himself.

—————May 1st. Mr. Robert Iddon (50), a local tradesman and formerly gas manager for the Borough, was found drowned in the canal at Scarisbrick.

—————May 5th. The Birkdale Recreation Ground opened, without any ceremony.



- 1890**—May 19th. Died, Dean Henry Cooke, rector of St. Marie's, Seabank Road, aged 61. Father Cooke had been at St. Marie's from the year 1859, and during that time gained the esteem of all who knew him, irrespective of creed. It was no unusual thing to see him on the Promenade, in the "sixties," arm-in-arm with the Vicar of Christ Church and the Wesleyan minister of the town.
- June 9th. Serious fire at London Street Primitive Methodist Church, when damage was done to the extent of nearly £1,000. The building was insured, but not the loose contents.
- June 21st. Great Miners' Demonstration held at Southport, when between sixty and seventy thousand miners took part.
- June 25th. The "Harvey Ward" of the Children's Sanatorium opened by the Mayor.
- August 5th. The first Juvenile Conference of the Independent Order of Rechabites held at Southport. Bro. T. Jones Parry, High Chief Ruler, presided.
- August 31st. A new organ opened at the United Methodist Free Church, Duke Street.
- September 25th. New Liberal Club, Chapel Street, opened by Mr. George Eastwood.
- October 8th. Memorial stones of a new Primitive Methodist Hall, Derby Road, laid by Mr. W. P. Hartley, Mrs. Pilkington, Mrs. Unwin, and Mr. Charles Scarisbrick. The congregation were worshipping in Cambridge Hall through having been "burnt out" at London Street.
- October 9th. A new dining hall, for the use of the Corporation workmen, opened in the Highway Yard, Forest Road, by Councillor Todd.

- 1890**—October 15th. Local Government Board inquiry *re* £37,000 for Foreshore improvements, Town Hall alterations, etc.
- November 1st. Municipal Elections, when Dr. Pollard (L) defeated Councillor Greenwood (C) in West Ward, and Mr. Thomas Wright (C) beat Councillor Silcock (L), who had succeeded Alderman Hacking in Hesketh Ward. In East Ward, Mr. G. Austerfield (C) took the place of Councillor Bayley (C), without a contest.
- November 7th. Severe storm that impeded railway traffic, damaged the Pier, sank boats, and did much injury in the town.
- November 9th. Councillor Pilling re-elected Mayor.
- November 13th. Died, Aldermen John Sergeant, aged 63. Mr. Sergeant was an able and popular temperance advocate. He had been a member of the Town Council from 1878. He was succeeded as alderman by Councillor Vaughan, whose seat for Hesketh Ward was filled by the election of Mr. T. Isherwood.
- November 19th. The Right Hon. A. J. Balfour, M.P., addressed a Conservative gathering in Cambridge Hall.
- November 19th. Hampton Road (Congregational) Mission Hall opened. Mr. J. T. Wilkins the first evangelist.
- November 21st. Mr. Michael Davitt addressed a public meeting in Cambridge Hall.
- December 12th. Married, at Holy Trinity Church, Miss Mary Stuart Pilkington, eldest daughter of Lady Pilkington, to Lieutenant Henry Thomas Gartside-Tipping, R.N., of the Royal National Lifeboat Institution.
- 1891**—January 8th. General Booth, chief of the Salvation Army, visited Southport and held a series of meetings in connection with his "Darkest England" scheme.

**1891**—January 19th. The making of the North Marine Park and Lake commenced.

—February 3rd. Dr. G. H. Pollard adopted as the Liberal candidate at the forthcoming General Election.

—March 5th. Leyland Road Wesleyan Sunday Schools opened. Sermon preached by Rev. C. Garrett. Cost £3,600. Architects, Waddington and Sons.

—March 12th. Arthur Hy. Morrison (34), a local stock-broker, sentenced to seven years' penal servitude for fraud.

—March 25th. Mr. J. Davies Williams, of Cardiff, appointed Town Clerk *vice* Mr. J. H. Ellis, who had been elected Town Clerk of Plymouth.

—April 13th. Died, aged 78, Alderman William Smallshaw, who had been connected with Southport from his boyhood, and who had been a member of the Town Council from its foundation. Councillor T. P. Griffiths was appointed to the vacant aldermanship, and Mr. G. F. Travis (L) was elected councillor for Craven Ward by 594 votes to 556 given to Mr. J. G. Emmison (C).

—April 18th. Died, aged 49, Mr. W. J. Conell, editor of the *Southport Standard*, best known as "The Sandgrunder," a pen-name under which he had written for many years.

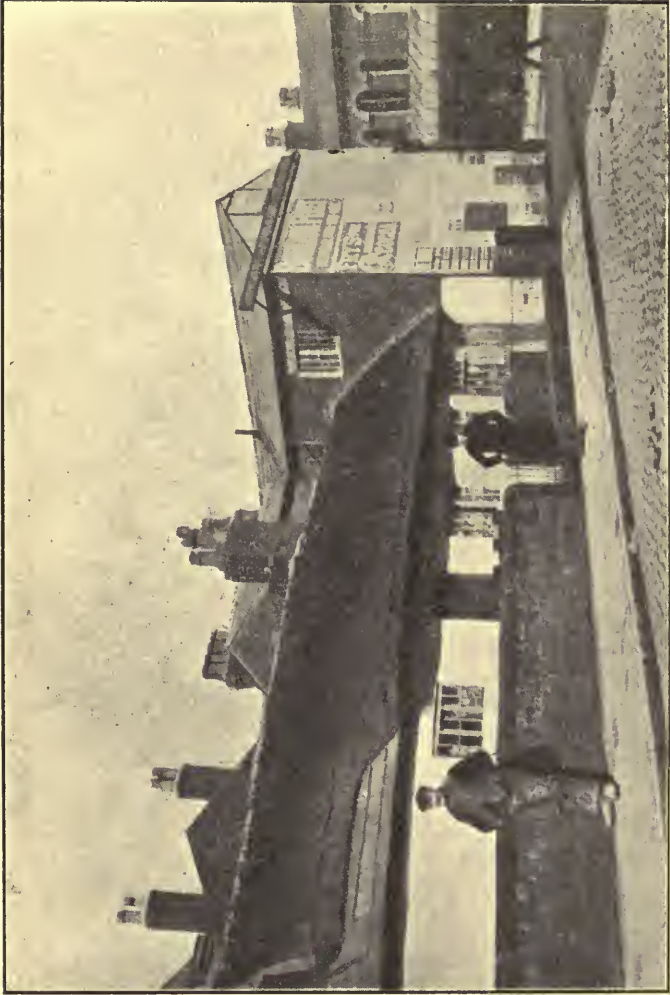
—April. Result of the Census. Population of the Borough:—Males 16,939, females 24,464, total 41,403. Rural North Meols—Males 827, females 796, total 1,623. Birkdale 12,387. Total for the ancient parish 55,410.

—June 19th. The annual conference of the Corporate Treasurers and Accountants' Institute held in the Council Chamber, Town Hall. Mr. S. C. Potts, Huddersfield, president.

—June 20th. The Miners' Demonstration held in Southport for the second time. From 80,000 to 100,000 took part.

- 1891**—July 2nd. Wycliffe Hall, Shakespeare Street, the outcome of Mr. S. Breeze's Bible Class, opened. The Trust Deed provides that the services shall be of an undenominational character, that the Liturgy of the Church of England shall be used, and that the prayers and psalms shall be said and *not* sung or intoned. Mr. Shadrack Breeze, superintendent.
- September 2nd. The Primitive Methodist Hall and Sunday School opened by Mrs. W. P. Hartley. The sermon was preached by the Rev. A. T. Guttery.
- September 7th. The Winter Gardens Opera House opened. It had cost nearly £20,000. The "Dancing Girl" was the opening piece.
- September 8th. A three days' bazaar, on behalf of the Baptist Tabernacle, opened. Result, £518.
- September 9th. The Rev. J. T. Woodhouse, pastor of Chapel Street Congregational Church, announced his resignation, he having accepted an invitation to Bexley, Kent.
- September 23rd. The Baptist Tabernacle Sunday School opened by the Rev. E. Parker, D.D., of Manchester.
- October 12th, etc. The Autumn Meeting of the Congregational Union of England and Wales held in Southport, when twelve hundred ministers and delegates, including most of the leading men of the Church, attended. The Rev. John Brown, B.A., D.D., President of the Union, presided.
- October 24th. Died, aged 61, Rev. Thomas Buxton, M.A., of Birkdale, a leading member of many scientific and antiquarian societies.
- November 1st. No change at the Municipal Elections.
- November 9th. Dr. Pilkington elected "Centenary" Mayor.
- November 18th. New schools of the United Methodist Free Church, Crossens, opened by Mrs. W. Jones, of





LAST THATCHED HOUSE IN SOUTHPORT.

Elsinore, Birkdale. They had been erected at a cost of £1,000, from plans by Mr. G. E. Bolshaw.

**1892**—February 18th. Baptist Tabernacle, Scarisbrick New Road, opened by the Rev. W. Landells, D.D., of Edinburgh. Cost £5,000. Architect, Mr. E. W. Johnson.

—March 5th. County Council Elections. Dr. Pilkington and Mr. J. Unwin, unopposed. Birkdale—Clinging 1153, H. Hodge 795, majority 358. At the first meeting of the Council Dr. Pilkington was elected alderman. For the vacancy in Craven Division, Dr. Pollard was elected by 1,295 votes to 1,242 given to Mr. J. Hatch.

—March 12th. Mr. W. H. Hesford (L) elected councillor for Scarisbrick Ward *vice* Mr. S. Wright (L), deceased.

—April 7th. New County Police Station and Courts, Weld Road, Birkdale, opened.

—April 15th to 22nd. Postal Statistics. Number of letters despatched from Southport, 77,755; post-cards, 14,519; newspapers, 6,387; book packets, 15,406; total, 114,067. Telegrams—forwarded 1,434, transmitted 1,564, received 2,325, total 5,323. (See 1842 and each succeeding ten years.)

—June 18th. The Southport Centenary Festivities commenced, when the Earl of Lathom, who was accompanied by the Mayor (Dr. Pilkington), many members of Parliament, some forty other Mayors and Lord Mayors, and as many Town Clerks, opened the Centenary Exhibition in the Municipal Buildings and Gardens. High festival was held in all directions. After a luncheon at the Winter Gardens, the Southport and Birkdale Philharmonic Society (233 voices) rendered Mendelssohn's Hymn of Praise. Processions were formed, and at night the decorated streets were illuminated, and a display of fireworks was added. On the following day

(Sunday) there was a Masonic service in Holy Trinity Church, when a collection was made on behalf of the New Infirmary (£70 2s. 8d.). On Monday, June 20th, the North Marine Park and Lake was opened by the Mayor.

**1892**—June 24th. Five new borough magistrates appointed, viz., Messrs. Theo. H. Davies, J. Hatch, G. Austerfield, J. J. Cockshott, and H. Mathwin, B.A.

————June 25th. Died, aged 58, Alderman E. Hobson, J.P. Councillor E. J. Rimmer was elected his successor, and for the vacancy in West Ward, Mr. J. B. Foggitt (C) was chosen.

————July. The Royal Naval Artillery Force disbanded, after 16 years' service.

————July 13th. General Election. Result of the polling in Southport Division:—Hon. G. N. Curzon 4,752, Dr. G. H. Pollard 4,148, majority 604.

————August. Rev. W. J. Dawson, Wesleyan minister, attached to Leyland Road Church, accepted an invitation to the Highbury Quadrant Congregational Church, and severed his connection with the Wesleyan Conference.

————October 8th. Eight new Justices of the Peace placed on the Borough Roll, viz., Messrs. J. Unwin, G. Hacking, T. P. Griffiths, T. Fisher, G. H. Pollard, M.D., A. Pilling, R. Proudfoot, and I. Bond.

————October 27th. Foundation stone of the new Infirmary laid by the Mayor. The inscription on the stone reads:—  
“This foundation stone was laid October 27th, 1892, the Centenary year of Southport, by George A. Pilkington, M.R.C.S., J.P., C.A., Mayor. J. C. Barrett, Chairman; C. Sydney Ingham, Architect.”

————November 1st. Municipal Elections. The only changes were, in West Ward, Mr. J. J. Barlow (L) defeated



Councillor Greenwood (C), and in East Ward, Mr. Hy. Brooke (L) won the seat vacated by Councillor Horsburgh (C).

**1892**—November 9th. Councillor W. Hulme elected Mayor.

**1893**—January 10th. The Town Council adopted a scheme for the Marine Drive (enclosing 80 acres), with the lakes joined, and an ornamental bridge over, at a cost of £20,000. The "Inquiry" was held on February 1st, and sanction was granted to borrow money for twenty years only. Consequently the scheme was "hung up."

————February 8th. The Rev. Adam Scott, of Sale, having accepted the pastorate of Chapel Street Congregational Church, a "recognition meeting" was held on this day.

————February 22nd. Extensive additions to the Children's Sanatorium, Hawkshead Street, opened by the Countess of Crawford.

————February. Final meeting held for the winding up of the "Southport Glaciarium."

————May 8th. A Jewish Synagogue opened at the junction of Sussex and Windsor Roads, by the Rev. Dr. Adler, Chief Rabbi. Rev. N. Blazer, priest in charge.

————June 2nd. The honour of knighthood conferred on Dr. Geo. A. Pilkington, ex-Mayor of Southport, and ex-M.P. for the Division.

————June 5th. Died, aged 64, Dr. Henry Blumberg, J.P., one of Southport's senior physicians, and founder of the Children's Sanatorium.

————June 30th. Several interesting presentations made to the Rev. John Chater on his completing thirty years' ministry at West End Church.

————July 8th. Died, at Carlsbad, aged 59, the Rev. Canon Cross, first vicar of St. Andrew's Church. He had given notice of resignation and had arranged an exchange of livings,

which never took effect. His body was embalmed, and brought to Southport for burial in the Cemetery.

**1893**—October 6th. The Church of the Holy Family, Brompton Road (Dean Cooke Memorial) opened by the Catholic Bishop of Liverpool. Rev. Father Halpin, first missionary.

—————October 10th. The Freedom of the Borough conferred on Sir George A. Pilkington, in recognition of his many great and valuable services to the town of his adoption. His name appears first on the Freeman's Roll.

—————October 28th. The Church of St. Simon and St. Jude, High Park Road, opened by Bishop Ryle.

—————October. Rev. A. Johnson undertook the pastorate of the Church of Christ, Morningson Road.

—————November 1st. Municipal Elections, when, in West Ward, Mr. J. M. Dewhurst (C) polled 522 votes, Mr. Warwick Wood (C) 521; and \*Dr. Pollard (L) 518, a Conservative gain of one. In Craven Ward, Mr. J. Baxter (C) 744, \*Mr. T. Morris (L) 663; \*Mr. G. F. Travis (L) 631, another Conservative gain.

—————November 9th. Councillor Henry Hodge elected Mayor. He was in indifferent health, but no one had any idea of serious illness. He, however, attended Divine service, in state, on the following Sunday, the only civic function he was able to discharge, for, to the great grief of the whole town, he died on November 30th, aged 58. His funeral, on December 4th, was attended by the largest gathering ever known in Southport in the case of a single individual.

—————December 19th. Alderman Dr. James Wood accepted the Mayoralty for the remainder of the municipal year.

—————December. The Rev. Dr. Parker, of the City Temple, conducted a three days' mission in the town. A Noncon-

formist Ministerial Fraternal Association was formed, embracing all sections of Nonconformity.

**1894**—January 6th. The “Christian Workers’ Association” and the “Lay Preachers’ Association” amalgamated.

———January 22nd. Presentation of a valuable gold watch, etc., to Sir Geo. A. Pilkington, as a souvenir of his mayoralty, and a recognition of his splendid services to the town.

———March 25th. Opening of a new electric organ at Mornington Road Wesleyan Church. Preacher, Rev. W. J. Dawson.

———April 2nd. A new Infant School, Wennington Road, for All Saints’ Parish, opened by the Bishop of Liverpool.

———April 30th. Handsome new schools for St. Philip’s parish opened by Mrs. Oldfield, who had contributed most generously to the cost.

———August 3rd. Rev. Silas K. Hocking announced his impending retirement from the pastorate of the United Methodist Free Church, Duke Street.

———September 2nd. Died, aged 77, Dr. William Mort, Southport’s senior physician.

———September 6th. Memorial stones of Wesleyan Church, Brighton Road, laid by Dr. James Wood, Mrs. Fynney, Mrs. Sutton, and others.

———September 12th. Rev. Charles H. Knowlys, M.A., resigned the living of North Meols, after seventeen years’ service. On October 6th the Rev. J. Denton Thompson, M.A., appointed Rector.

———September 28th and 29th. The North-Western Poor Law Conference held in Southport. Sir J. T. Hibbert, K.C.B., M.P., president.

———October 1st. Rev. George Everard, M.A., resigned the vicarage of St. Andrew’s Church, owing to ill health. On

December 2nd the Rev. Grantley C. Martin, M.A., appointed his successor.

**1894**—October 18th. Conference in Southport of the Union of Lancashire and Cheshire Institutes. Address by Lord Derby, president.

—October 28th. Died, Councillor W. J. Robson, J.P., who for forty years had been a leading citizen.

—November 1st. Municipal Elections. The only changes were, in West Ward, Mr. T. Jones (L) defeated Councillor Hough (C), and in Hesketh Ward, Mr. J. Ashton (C) turned the tables on Councillor F. W. Brown (L), who had won the seat eight months earlier.

—November. A bazaar in aid of the new Infirmary, which was hoped to produce £3,000, realised over £5,000.

—November 9th. Alderman James Wood, LL.D., re-elected Mayor. The electric lighting system inaugurated that night by His Worship.

—November. Mr. S. Yates Ormerod appointed secretary to the Y.M.C.A., in succession to Mr. T. W. Gladstone, who had been ordained pastor of Eccles Reformed Church of England.

—December 27th. Final meeting of the Birkdale Local Board, when the Chairman, Mr. T. O. Clinning, announced the purchase of the Duchy foreshore rights for £50. The first election of members for the new Birkdale District Urban Council had been held December 17th.

**1895**—January 9th. Died, aged 81, Mr. Samuel Swire, J.P., of Crown House, twice Mayor of Southport.

—March 6th. County Council Elections. In Talbot Division, Alderman Unwin was returned unopposed. In Craven Ward, the candidates were Messrs. John Hatch (C) and George Eastwood (L), the result of the poll being:—Hatch 1,284, Eastwood 1,190, majority 94. In Birkdale,

Mr. T. O. Clinning was unopposed, and at the first meeting of the County Council he was elected alderman. For the vacancy there was a contest, the result being:—Mr. G. Kilvert (C) 997, Mr. R. Formby (L) 350, majority 647.

**1895**—March 9th. The Lancashire Congregational Union held its meetings at Southport.

————April 30th. Mr. Tom Talbot Leyland Scarisbrick married to Miss Josephine Chamberlain.

————July 17th. General Election. Result of the contest in Southport Division:—Right Hon. G. N. Curzon 5,163, Sir Herbert S. Naylor-Leyland 4,399, majority 764.

————July 25th. All Saints' Creche, Norwood Road, opened by the donor, Mrs. Blanshard, who had laid the foundation stone November 1st, 1894.

————September 26th, 27th, and 28th. Great rejoicings for three days. On the 26th, the Mayor, Dr. Wood, opened the new Infirmary, which had cost £25,000 (and of which £21,000 had been subscribed). There was a general holiday, with processions, etc. On the 27th the two lakes were joined, the electric extension inaugurated, and two new recreation grounds opened, etc.

————October 19th. Foundation stone of Emmanuel Church laid by Mrs. Hesketh, lady of the manor, who had given the land and £2,000. Mr. Theo. H. Davies gave £1,000, Mr. W. N. Heald £2,000, and the Mayor (Dr. Wood) £1,000.

————October. A grand bazaar, held in the Winter Gardens, on behalf of St. Luke's Church, realised £3,360.

————November 1st. Municipal Elections. In Talbot Ward, Mr. W. Jones (C) defeated Councillor Pilling (L), and in East Ward, Colonel Richards (C) beat Councillor Brooke (L).

————November 9th. Councillor George Eastwood elected Mayor of Southport.

- 1895**—November 18th. Died, aged 83, the Venerable Archdeacon Clarke, D.D., forty-five years vicar of Christ Church.
- 1896**—January 9th. The Rev. Canon Honeyburne, M.A., formally inducted vicar of Christ Church *vice* Archdeacon Clarke, deceased.
- January 10th. Holy Trinity Church Schools destroyed by fire. Over £2,000 damage done.
- February 21st. Died, aged 70, Mr. William Crabtree, M.Inst.C.E., twenty-eight years Borough Surveyor.
- February 21st. Memorial stones of extension to Marshside Road Primitive Methodist Church laid by the Mayor.
- March 1st. First contested election for Borough Auditors (two). Result:—W. T. Kenyon 452, W. J. Thomasson 403; B. Ash Roberts 335.
- March. The Council decided to purchase the Southport Tramways for £17,000, and to let the lines to the Company at an annual rent of £2,700.
- April 6th. Annual Session of the Order of Good Templars held at Southport.
- April 10th. The Bishop of Liverpool opened a Parochial Hall in Mill Lane—the gift of Mr. W. N. Heald, J.P., on a site presented by Mrs. Hesketh.
- April 14th. Died, aged 51, Dr. Edward Day McNicoll, in recognition of whose services to the institution the “McNicoll Cot” was endowed by the Infirmary Committee.
- May 9th. The Watch Committee held a gathering in Cambridge Hall, when presentations were made to Chief-Constable Kershaw, Chief Inspector Bothwell, and Inspector Wright, on their retirement from the force after twenty-five years’ service. They were all sworn in as members when the force was formed. Each received an illuminated address

from the Watch Committee, and a gold watch from the members of the force. Mr. William Elliott, police superintendent, Nottingham, was appointed Chief-Constable.

**1896**—June 15th, etc. Swedenborgian Conference (89th) held at New Jerusalem Church, Duke Street. President for the year, Rev. J. Ashby.

———June 15th. Loss of the *Drummond Castle*, amongst whose passengers were two Southport gentlemen, Mr. Fred. Bradshaw and Mr. John Allen.

———June 25th. The Southport Corporation fined £10 and costs on each of three charges in the gas cases ("candle-power"). The convictions were, however, quashed on appeal.

———July 6th. Great Lifeboat Demonstration and Fete, which resulted in £120 being remitted to the Royal Institution.

———July 15th. Presentation of a public testimonial to ex-Chief Constable Kershaw, consisting of an illuminated album and £142. Mrs. Kershaw was the recipient of a gold bracelet set with diamonds.

———July 29th. Valedictory meeting at Duke Street Methodist Free Church, on the retirement from the pastorate of the Rev. Silas K. Hocking, who had served the church for twelve years.

———July 31st and following days. The Royal Lancashire Agricultural Show held in Scarisbrick New Road.

———August. The Birkdale District Council agreed to put the Free Libraries Act into operation, and asked the School Board to co-operate by lending a portion of the schools for the purpose. That body, however, decided not to comply with the request, so the proposal collapsed.

- 1896**—September 1st. The Mayor inaugurated the new plant, at Crowlands, erected for the manufacture of carburetted water gas.
- September 5th. Miss Clarke unveiled, in Christ Church, a mural monument to the memory of the late Archdeacon Clarke, D.D.
- September 10th. Southport Attractions Committee formed.
- September 12th. Foundation stones of a new Congregational School-Church, in Canning Road, laid by Sir Herbert Naylor-Leyland and Mr. T. T. L. Scarisbrick.
- September 28th. Died, aged 55, Mr. J. H. Fairbairn, twenty-six years surveyor and collector for Birkdale.
- October 6th. The Earl of Lathom laid the memorial stone of the new Holy Trinity Schools, with full Masonic honours.
- October 8th. A great gale, during which the tide caused extensive damage on the foreshore, smashing many of the boats in the Lake boathouse and doing other injury, that to the Corporation property alone amounting to £766.
- October 10th. The new crypt and vestries of Holy Trinity Church opened by Mrs. Hope and Mrs. Grafton.
- October 14th. The memorial stones of the new Congregational Sunday Schools, Chapel Street, fixed.
- November 1st. The Rev. T. Llewellyn Edwards commenced his pastorate at the Baptist Tabernacle.
- November 1st. Municipal election changes. West Ward, Dr. J. J. Weaver (I) took the place of Mr. Warwick Wood (C); Craven Ward, Mr. G. B. Rhodes (C) replaced Mr. J. Baxter (C); in Talbot Ward, Mr. Evan Bradshaw (C) defeated Mr. R. Todd (L); in East Ward, Mr. C. E. Austin (C) succeeded Mr. G. Austerfield (C); and in Hesketh Ward, Mr. F. W. Brown (L) defeated Mr. T. Wright (C).



- 1896**—November 9th. Dr. G. H. Pollard, J.P., elected Mayor of the Borough—the first occasion on which the Mayor had been selected from outside the Council.
- November 16th. Died, aged 61, Dr. E. K. Lever, for thirty years one of the leading medical practitioners of Southport.
- November 30th. The Town Council decided to apply for powers to reduce the standard illuminating power of the gas. At the same time it was agreed to purchase the Glaciarium.
- 1897**—January 9th. The Congregational Mission School-Church, Canning Road, opened by Miss Carver. Cost £750.
- January 15th and 16th, and February 9th. Local Government Board Inquiries *re* proposal to reduce the gas illuminating power, fix maximum price, etc, and asking power to borrow £12,000 for electric lighting.
- January. Birkdale Sewage Tanks extended, at a cost of £20,000.
- January. The West Lancashire and the Liverpool, Preston, and Southport Junction Railways sold to the Lancashire and Yorkshire Railway Company on a perpetual rent.
- March 9th. Dr. Nansen gave a lecture, entitled "Across the Polar Regions," in Cambridge Hall.
- March 10th. Died, aged 75, Dr. G. B. Barron, J.P., a prominent resident nearly sixty years, leader of the Conservative party, and for many years a member of the Town Council.
- April 1st. Died, aged 48, Mr. John Long, manager of the Winter Gardens.
- May 1st and following days. The Liverpool District Meeting of the Primitive Methodist Connexion held in Marshside Road Church. Rev. W. Bowe, of Preston, chairman.

**1897**—May 22nd. Lancashire and Cheshire Miners held their annual demonstration, for the third time, in the Recreation Grounds. About 70,000 persons estimated to be present.

————June 17th. The Town's Band made its first appearance. Conductor, Signor La Camera. A voluntary rate of one penny laid by the Town Council.

————June 21st and following days. Queen Victoria's Diamond Jubilee Rejoicings. On the 21st, joyful peals were rung on Christ Church bells, the 3rd V.B.K.L.R. assembled on the shore and fired a *feu-de-joie*, a Sunday Schools procession of 11,000 children followed (Holy Trinity children were prevented from joining), a confetti fete and carnival, cyclists' parade, masquerade ball, fireworks and Venetian fete on the Lake each night, etc. The Corporation voted £1,000 for the children's treat, medals, etc. The Volunteers supplied a detachment of twenty-two men for the Queen's Guard of Honour, and eight Southport Ambulance men were selected for duty in London streets. In the "Honours list," Colonel W. Macfie was gazetted "C.B.," for his thirty-seven years' service in the Volunteer force, and six gentlemen were added to the Borough Bench of Magistrates, viz., Messrs. H. Brooke, J. M. Dewhurst, P. N. Palin, H. S. Threlfall, H. H. Vernon, M.D., and Warwick Wood. The Mayoress (Mrs. Pollard), over a dress of the 1837 period, wore a handsome chain of office provided on the occasion by the Corporation, for the use of ladies occupying her position.

————July 6th. New schools of Chapel Street Congregational Church opened by Rev. Adam Scott. Cost £3,930 18s. 7d.

————July 14th. The Rev. William Williams inducted pastor of the Welsh Presbyterian Church, Portland Street.

- 1897**—July 16th. New Home (Almshouse) in Norwood Road, the gift of a lady (anonymous), opened. It is under the charge of the Provident Society.
- August. The Rev. Thomas Wakefield, F.R.G.S., a famous African missionary, appointed to Churchtown Circuit of the U.M.F.C., in succession to the Rev. G. H. Kennedy.
- August 9th. Died, aged 57, Councillor Enoch Rimmer, one of the representatives of Scarisbrick Ward. He was succeeded by Mr. Robert Todd.
- September 9th. The Mayor (Dr. G. H. Pollard, J.P.) presented the town with a “mace.”
- September 18th. Serious fire on the Pier, when the Pavilion and other erections were destroyed, damage to the extent of £4,000 resulting.
- October 20th. Died, aged 77, Mr. Abraham Pilling, J.P., an ex-Mayor and member of the Town Council for twelve years. Mr. Pilling had also been a member of Bolton Town Council, as councillor and alderman, for twelve years.
- November 1st. The only changes at the Municipal Elections were in Talbot Ward, Dr. T. Hammond Fisher (C) defeated Councillor Eastwood (L), and in Scarisbrick Ward, Mr. H. Kennedy (L) took the place of Councillor Peet (L), retired.
- November 3rd. Mr. Joseph Saul agreed to purchase the Baths for £52,000, but the negotiations fell through.
- November 9th. Alderman S. Lawson Booth, J.P., R.C.A., F.R.G.S., elected Mayor of Southport.
- December 1st. The old Infirmary having been sold, the memorial stone of the (Children’s) Pilkington Ward was removed to the new Infirmary, and there refixed by Lady Pilkington in the wall adjoining the Children’s Ward. An additional inscription put on it reads, “And was raised here

by Lady Pilkington as a connecting link between the old and the new Infirmaries." (See May, 1885.)

**1897**—December 22nd. Owing to the dangerous state of the building, caused by the shifting foundations, it was decided to pull down St. Simon and St. Jude's Church, High Park, which had cost £6,000.

————December 25th. Zion Independent Methodist Church, Sussex Road, having been rebuilt, was opened by Mrs. William Sutton. The Rev. James Lewis (Wesleyan) preached the sermon.

**1898**—February 7th. The old Glaciarium having been bought by the Corporation, had been leased to the 3rd V.B.K.L.R. This day it was opened as a Drill Hall by Major-General L. V. Swaine, C.B., C.M.G., commanding the North-Western District.

————March 21st. Died, aged 59, Miss Anne Jane Garton. This lady, who was the only child of William Garton, surgeon, of St. Helens, and her widowed mother, had devoted their lives to charitable works. By her will Miss Garton (her mother had pre-deceased her) left £1,000 to each of nine local charitable institutions, and the residue, estimated at £60,000, to be divided between the Southport and St. Helens Infirmaries.

————April 16th. Emmanuel Church, Cambridge Road, consecrated by the Bishop of Liverpool. A large number of special gifts were announced, and the collections realised £710. During the opening services sermons were preached by the Bishops of Sodor and Man and Coventry, and Dean Lefroy.

————April 30th. The Church of All Souls' (iron), Blowick, dedicated by the Bishop. It cost £800.

————May 6th. The Town Clerk, Mr. J. Davies Williams, having taken the LL.D. degree and gained the "Gold Medal

of Special Distinction" at the London University, the legal practitioners of the district presented him with robes, and a testimonial signed by all the barristers and solicitors of the district.

**1898**—May 17th. Died, aged 68, Mr. Shadrack Breeze, an active Christian worker, who founded Wycliffe Hall, Shakespeare Street.

—————May 18th. His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales visited Southport to inspect the Lancashire Hussars. He afterwards lunched in Cambridge Hall with the Mayor and Corporation, the Hussar officers, and invited guests. After a reception, H.R.H. planted a scarlet chestnut tree in the grounds opposite the Art Gallery. The town was *en fete*.

—————June 20th. The new Post Office, St. George's Place, opened. Mr. T. P. Brown, postmaster.

—————June 22nd. Lifeboat demonstration, procession, cycle parade, masquerade ball, etc. Nett result, £60.

—————July 6th. Victoria Wesleyan Church, Blowick, erected at a cost of £4,700, opened by Mrs. W. Sutton. The Rev. E. E. Jenkins, D.D., preached.

—————August 6th. St. Teresa's R.C. Church, Everton Road, Birkdale, opened by Bishop Whiteside. Father Bernard Vaughan preached.

—————August 10th. The Right Hon. G. N. Curzon, M.P., appointed Viceroy of India. At the bye-election held August 24th, the poll was declared:—Sir Herbert Naylor-Leyland 5,100, Lord Skelmersdale 4,828, majority 272.

—————August 31st. Died, aged 80, Colonel W. Welsby, J.P. He was Magistrates' Clerk and County Court Registrar nearly fifty years, Guardian of the Poor for thirty-two years, first Captain of Ormskirk Volunteers, and became Hon. Colonel when the corps was amalgamated.

- 1898**—September 1st. The seventh annual meeting of the Postmen's Federation held in Chapel Street School. Mr. J. S. Smith, Newcastle, chairman.
- September 19th. Died, aged 50, the Rev. James Lewis, one of the most popular of Wesleyan ministers. Only that month had he joined the Trinity Circuit, having spent the previous three years in the Mornington Road Circuit.
- October 1st. Leyland Arcade opened. Mr. G. E. Bolshaw, architect.
- October 12th. The new Church of St. Simon and St. Jude dedicated by the Bishop. On the old foundations a new church of iron and wood had been erected, the gift of Mr. W. N. Heald. The floor, chancel steps and wall, choir, communion, pulpit, font, and lectern of the old church remain, and by re-arrangement of seats there is accommodation for fifty more worshippers.
- October 23rd. Died, aged 88, the Rev. T. E. Sweeting, pastor of Churchtown Congregational Church from 1875 to 1885. In the latter year he had a paralytic stroke that compelled his resignation.
- October 29th. Mr. J. T. Wilkins, pastor of Hampton Road Mission, ordained minister of Norden Congregational Church. Mr. W. Robertson was appointed his successor at Hampton Road.
- November 1st. The town had now been divided into ten "single" wards. The result of the contests this day were that four new councillors were elected, viz.:—Mr. E. Thorp (L), South Ward; Mr. W. Taylor (C), Craven Ward; Mr. E. Trounson (L), Marine Ward; Mr. W. Lloyd (L), Sussex Ward *vice* Messrs. J. J. Barlow (L), R. Watson (C), W. Jones (C), and J. Duckworth (C).
- November 9th. Councillor C. E. Austin elected Mayor of the borough.

**1898**—November 29th. Died, in her 90th year, Mrs. Anna Maria Alice Hesketh, lady of the manor, widow of the Rev. Charles Hesketh, M.A., and only daughter of Mr. Richard Saunders, of Wennington Hall.

————December 12th. The Freedom of the Borough conferred on Alderman James Wood, LL.D., J.P., four times Mayor of Southport and second on the List of Freemen.

**1899**—January 6th. A Local Government Board Inquiry into an application of the Corporation to be allowed to vary the arrangement of its loans. Under the existing arrangements the Corporation had to put aside a fund to wipe off its loans. The Corporation sought permission to invest this money with itself instead of borrowing. The Provisional Order was granted, and confirmed by Parliament in July.

————January 31st. Died, aged 46, the Rev. C. A. Berry, D.D., of Wolverhampton. Dr. Berry spent the whole of his youth in Southport, and was also connected with the town by his marriage.

————February 15th. Died, aged 54, Alderman James Wood, LL.D., four times Mayor of Southport, and the second Freeman of the Borough.

————February 28th. The "Market Passage Property" sold by the Corporation to Mr. W. Birtwistle for £14,000.

————March 21st. Councillor T. R. Threlfall elected alderman *vice* the late Dr. Wood. Mr. W. Young (L) was elected to fill the vacancy in Talbot Ward.

————March 9th. "Peace Crusade" meeting in Cambridge Hall, at which Mr. W. T. Stead was the principal speaker.

————April 10th. Mr. John Kensit visited Southport in his campaign against Ritualism.

————April. Another canoe found in Martin Mere. It was first taken to the Botanic Gardens, and afterwards to the Science and Art Schools.

- 1899**—May 7th. Died, aged 35 years, Sir Herbert Scarisbrick Naylor-Leyland, M.P. for Southport Division, and one of the beneficiaries of the Scarisbrick Estate.
- May 12th. The Birkdale School Board dismissed the head master, Mr. A. Mortimer. A long agitation ensued, the public taking the part of Mr. Mortimer. In September, Mr. J. Syddall was appointed the successor of Mr. Mortimer, on a five years' engagement.
- May 30th. Parliamentary Election for the vacancy caused by the death of Sir Herbert Naylor-Leyland. Result of the poll :—Sir George Pilkington 5,635, Mr. C. B. Balfour 5,052, majority 583.
- June 3rd. The 24th annual demonstration of the Lancashire Fire Brigades held at Southport.
- June 15th. Rev. R. Stephenson, M.A., vicar of St. James', Birkdale, presented by the congregation with a memento of his twenty-five years' ministry.
- June 19th. A stained glass window, in Emmanuel Church, unveiled in memory of the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Kirkham, Roe Lane.
- June 21st. The Rev. T. Ll. Edwards announced his resignation of the charge of the Baptist Tabernacle, he having accepted an invitation to the pastorate of Queen's Park Church, Glasgow. In October he was succeeded at the Tabernacle by the Rev. J. Rhys Davies.
- June 22nd. The Pier shareholders approve of proposed alterations, viz., widening the Pier, doubling of the tram-lines, erection of new Pavilion, and making a new entrance. New debenture issue of £30,000 approved.
- June 26th. Another sad lifeboat calamity. The coxswain, William Robinson (64), his son John Robinson (44), and his son-in-law, Frederick Rigby (37), lost their lives whilst endeavouring to change the moorings of the lifeboat. They



were in a punt containing the anchor and chains, when by some mischance the little boat capsized, and of six persons engaged these three were drowned. A subscription raised, amounting to £1,068 6s. 10d., was invested in exchange for nine policies of annuities, each widow getting £16 10s. per annum, and the children 2s. 3d. per week each until they attain the age of 16 years.

**1899**—June 30th. Local Government Board Inquiry *re* application to borrow £55,000 for electric tramways.

—————July 15th. A new company, having taken over the Winter Gardens from the liquidators, appointed Mr. Robert Watt manager.

—————August 4th. The lake let to the boatmen on a five years' lease, at £800 a year rent and a half share of any sum received over £2,400, the Corporation to issue the tickets and collect the money.

—————August 11th. Result of Lifeboat Saturday movement, £150 sent up to the central institution. Bad weather spoilt the demonstration.

—————August 12th. A successful swimming gala held on the lake, organised by the Southport Swimming Club.

—————October 14th. New electricity plant at Crowlands inaugurated by the Mayor.

—————October 20th. Died at Southport, suddenly, Signor Foli (Allan James Foley), the great singer, aged 64.

—————October 31st. Alderman Thomas Fisher, J.P., the "father of the Council" (he having been elected one of the first councillors, June 1st, 1867), elected as the third Freeman of the Borough.

—————October 31st. High Park Liberal Club opened by the Marquis of Northampton.

—————October. The War Fund, for the dependants of those engaged in the South African War, opened by the Mayor.

Many kindred agencies were soon at work, and on November 4th, the Mayor sent to the Lord Mayor of London a first contribution from Southport of £602 11s. 6d., and £136 was remitted for the Transvaal Refugees' Fund.

**1899**—November 1st. Municipal Elections. In West Ward, Mr. T. Hough (C) succeeded Mr. Dewhurst (C); in Central Ward, Mr. W. Shuttleworth (L) was elected *vice* Mr. G. B. Rhodes (C); in Craven Ward, Mr. S. O. Platt (L) succeeded Mr. T. Morris (L); in Sussex Ward, Mr. S. Ingham (L) replaced Mr. E. Bradshaw (C); in Scarisbrick Ward, Mr. H. Brooke, J.P. (L), took the place of Mr. R. Todd (L).

————November 9th. Mr. Alderman Griffiths, J.P., elected Mayor of the Borough.

————November 11th. Boiler explosion at the Prince of Wales' Hotel, by which the engineer and his boy assistant were killed.

————November 14th. The Town Council decided to promote the "Omnibus" Bill and the Tramway Bill in Parliament. The statutory meeting of ratepayers, held December 6th, confirmed the proposals. It was decided to approach the Waterworks Company *re* purchasing the undertaking.

————December 7th. The Scarisbrick Trustees announced they had decided to abolish "licenses to assign" future leases, and to reduce the fee to 5s. on licenses under old leases.

————December 24th. The Rev. A. S. Welch, pastor of Hawkshead Street Congregational Church, announced his resignation, to take place from the middle of February.

————December. The gift by the late Alderman Dr. Wood of his Hebrew rolls of the law was placed in a glass case on the counter of the Reference Library. This year there had been several valuable additions to the pictures in the Art Gallery, including "Langdale Pike," by Alderman Booth, the

gift of Miss Geddes, by whose commission it was painted at a cost of £300; Miss Ethel Wright's "Path of Roses," purchased for 250 guineas by Mr. C. Scarisbrick, J.P.; and Mr. T. Greenhalgh's "Interior of St. Mark's, Venice," the gift of Dr. E. J. Longton, J.P., value 100 guineas.

**1900**—January 6th. Married, Mr. Charles H. Bibby-Hesketh, Lord of the Manor of North Meols, to Miss Anne Dorothea Brocklebank.

———January 8th. Mr. J. O. Campbell, F.S.Sc., welcomed as pastor of Wycliffe Hall, Shakespeare Street.

———January 11th. Died, aged 58, Mr. J. C. Barrett, J.P., chairman of the Infirmary Board and an ex-chairman of Birkdale District Council.

———January 16th. Died, aged 68, Dr. H. H. Vernon, J.P., Medical Officer of Health from 1873, and first chairman of Birkdale School Board.

———January 16th. Town Council approved of "Omnibus" Bill and Tramway and Borough Extension Bill. Purchase of the Birkdale and Southport Tramways confirmed.

———February 13th. Rev. A. S. Welch, B.A., bid farewell to the congregation of Hawkshead Street Church, on leaving for Shanklin, Isle of Wight.

———February 14th. The active service contingent of the 3rd V.B.K.L.R. (27) left for "the front."

———February 22nd. Died, aged 46, Mr. Geo. Kilvert, county councillor, chairman of Birkdale District Council. For the vacancy on the County Council, Major John Formby, of Formby Hall, was elected.

———February 20th, etc. Five days' bazaar on behalf of North Meols Parish obtained £1,643.

———February 27th. At a meeting of Churchtown Co-operative Society the auditor notified a deficiency of £4,454.

- 1900**—February 27th. A window to the memory of Miss Ogden and her parents, in St. Philip's Church, unveiled by the donor, Mr. Henry Neville.
- March 1st. Died, Mr. A. Mortimer, ex-head master, Birkdale Board School.
- March 6th. Dr. J. J. Weaver appointed Medical Officer of Health in succession to Dr. Vernon, deceased. Dr. Weaver had previously resigned office as councillor for South Ward. Mr. Isaac Smith was elected his successor.
- March 15th. Mr. J. Ernest Jarratt, son of the Town Clerk of Loughborough, appointed Town Clerk in succession to Dr. J. Davies Williams, who had been "called to the Bar."
- May 8th. The Rev. F. Sinker, M.A., curate of Christ Church, appointed vicar of St. Aidan's, Carlisle.
- May 12th to 17th. The May Synod of the Liverpool (Wesleyan) District held at Mornington Road Church. Rev. Charles Garrett delivered the official sermon—the last time he preached.
- May 18th. The relief of Mafeking celebrated.
- May 27th. Died suddenly, aged 38, Dr. Thomas Hammond Fisher, councillor for Sussex Ward. Dr. Wilshaw was elected in his stead.
- June 8th. Mr. T. T. L. Scarisbrick presented to the town the picture "Conway Castle, Town, and Harbour," which Alderman Booth, R.C.A., had been commissioned to paint by the donor.
- June 16th. Rev. J. Sturdy Gardner, curate of Holy Trinity, presented to the vicarage of Melling.
- July 18th. The Corporation Electric Tramway service opened, the Mayoress (Mrs. Griffiths) starting the first car.
- July 18th. Foundation stone of a new Congregational Church at Churchtown, on the site of the one erected 1831, laid.

- 1900**—July 21st. Colonel Macfie, C.B., V.D., J.P., having resigned his commission, bade farewell to the Regiment.
- July 23rd. Councillor Dimond elected alderman *vice* Mr. Hacking, who had left the town. Mr. W. H. Stansfield was elected councillor for Talbot Ward *vice* Mr. Dimond.
- August 17th. Superintendent Jervis attained his Jubilee as a “member of the force.” He entertained his friends at the Palace Hotel.
- September 2nd. Rev. E. T. Kirby, the new pastor of Hawkshead Street Congregational Church, preached his inaugural sermon.
- September 21st. Mr. B. Crosby, of Garston Wesleyan Schools, appointed head master of Birkdale Board School *vice* Mr. J. Syddall.
- October 13th. General Election. Polling in Southport Division:—Mr. E. Marshall Hall 5,522, Sir Geo. A. Pilkington 5,313, majority 209.
- November 1st. Municipal Elections. No change, except in Hesketh Ward, where Mr. C. Rimmer (L) defeated Councillor Ashton (C).
- November 6th. “Water Board Bill” promoted. It was approved by ratepayers’ meetings on November 17th and December 20th.
- November 8th. A three days’ Diamond Jubilee bazaar on behalf of St. Marie’s R.C. Church opened. Result, over £1,900.
- November 9th. Councillor T. Isherwood, M.A., LL.D., D.C.L., J.P., elected Mayor.
- December 14th. Winter Gardens shareholders agree to wind up the company.
- December 31st. The Rev. W. Millington, M.A., R.D., having accepted the living of Cottingham Rectory, Northamptonshire, at the watch night service preached his farewell

sermon. On the announcement of Mr. Millington's intended departure, Canon Honeyburne, M.A., was appointed Rural Dean.

**1901**—January 1st. New Century Celebrations. The Mayor (Dr. Isherwood) officially attended All Saints' Church, where the service was conducted by the Rev. C. T. Porter, LL.D., D.D., the vicar, assisted by Rev. R. Foster (Wesleyan) and Rev. A. Scott (Congregational). A joint service of Free Church members was held in Mornington Road Wesleyan Church.

————January 6th. A new organ opened in Cemetery Road Primitive Methodist Church.

————January 8th. Died, aged 75, Mr. George Chamberlain, J.P., chairman of the Southport and Cheshire Lines Extension Railway Company, and of the old Winter Gardens Company.

————January 14th. Rev. F. Sinker, M.A., announced his appointment as vicar of St. Paul's Church.

————January 22nd. Death of Her Majesty Queen Victoria, by which the whole neighbourhood was plunged into mourning.

————January 29th. The Mayor read the proclamation announcing the accession of King Edward the Seventh. The members of the Town Council, of the Birkdale District Council, Borough and County Magistrates, Borough and County Police, etc., subsequently took the oath of allegiance.

————February 2nd. Funeral of Queen Victoria. All business in the town was suspended. The Mayor, attended by the members of the Town Council, Borough officials, Volunteers, and a vast number of the general public, attended a memorial service at Christ Church, when Canon Honeyburne gave the address. A Free Church Council service was held in Mornington Road Wesleyan Church, which was crowded to its utmost capacity. The Rev. Owen Davies

was the officiating minister. At the Jewish Synagogue the Rev. N. Blazer conducted the memorial service appointed by the Chief Rabbi. At Birkdale, a town's service was held at St. James' Church, attended by the members of all the public bodies. In most of the other churches services were also held.

**1901**—March 30th. Severe snowstorm, which broke down the telephone wires and caused much alarm, a similar occurrence in Liverpool having, shortly before, had fatal results. The telephone wires were borne down on to the electric tram trolley wires, but immediately fused and fell to the ground harmless in respect to electricity.

—April 1st. Census. The enumeration showed the population of Southport to be 48,046, viz., 19,802 males and 28,244 females. In Birkdale there were 5,662 males and 8,535 females, total 14,197, and in rural North Meols 916 males, 909 females, total 1,825, or a gross total for the ancient parish of North Meols of 64,068. Thus the population had been multiplied over 35 times in the century. The number of inhabited houses were returned at:—Southport 10,166, Birkdale 2,899, North Meols 388, total 13,453. Population of Southport Parliamentary Division, 90,224.

—April 2nd. Died, aged 42, Father Patrick Halpin, first priest of the Church of the Holy Family, Brompton Road.

—April 5th. Conference of the Lancashire Association of Sunday Schools, held in Chapel Street Church. Rev. Charles Williams, of Accrington, president.

—April 16th. The Freedom of the Borough conferred on Alderman Richard Nicholson, J.P.

—April 23rd. Serious fire at Messrs. Hill's Coach-building Works, Scarisbrick New Road. Damage over £3,000.

- 1901**—April 27th. Eight new names added to the list of Borough magistrates, viz., Dr. Isherwood, Messrs. W. B. Irving, J. E. Willett, C. Smith, J. J. Barlow, C. Stidston-Broadbent, J. B. Foggitt, and T. Hough.
- May 3rd. Died suddenly, aged 58, Rev. W. Millington, late vicar of St. Paul's.
- May 14th. Miners' Demonstration in Recreation Grounds.
- May 16th. An application by the Corporation, for powers to build an Infectious Diseases Hospital at Scarisbrick, refused by the Local Government Board.
- May 23rd. A big fire took place at Latham's boat-building yard, Crossens; damage £2,000.
- June 1st. Died, aged 78, Mr. Henry Blundell, butcher, the oldest of Southport's tradesmen.
- June 5th. The new Congregational Church, Churchtown, opened by Miss J. A. Sleddon. Mr. Francis P. Halsall, architect; cost £2,600.
- July 15th. Orange Demonstration at Kew Gardens, when over 7,000 persons attended.
- July 20th. Garden party in Hesketh Park on behalf of Lifeboat Saturday funds. There were over 2,000 guests. Result £70.
- July 22nd. Died, aged 69, Rev. Edward Jump, vicar of St. Paul's, Bolton. (See 1859—February.)
- July. Alderman Booth, R.C.A., was "commanded" by His Majesty to send a collection of his paintings to Marlborough House, for the King's inspection. Thirteen pictures were sent, and His Majesty was pleased to express his approval of them.
- August 1st. Electric tram service inaugurated on the Southport Tramway Company's system.



- 1901**—August 14th. The old Winter Gardens Company finally wound up.
- August 25th. The Rev. David Brook, D.C.L., the President of the United Methodist Free Church Connexion, commenced his ministry at Duke Street Church.
- September 7th. Lifeboat Saturday Demonstration. Result £120.
- September 13th. The British Association accepted the invitation to visit Southport for the meeting of 1903.
- September 13th. All Saints' New Schools opened by the Earl of Lathom.
- September 25th. First meeting of the Water Board. Alderman Griffiths, J.P., appointed first chairman; Alderman Clinning, J.P., vice-chairman. Mr. Alleyne Brown was appointed clerk.
- September 29th. Mr. J. O. Campbell resigned the pastorate of Wycliffe Hall.
- October 9th. The Rev. J. Chater announced his intention to retire from the pastorate of West End Church on May 1st, after a ministry of 39 years.
- October 19th. The tower and bells of Emmanuel Church, the gift of Dr. and Mrs. Strickland, dedicated by the Bishop of Liverpool.
- November Elections. The changes were:—In Craven Ward, Dr. Earnshaw *vice* Mr. W. Taylor; in Sussex Ward, Mr. J. Saul *vice* Mr. W. Lloyd; and in Scarisbrick Ward, Mr. Josiah Baker *vice* Mr. W. H. Hesford. No political change, the three retiring members having declined re-nomination.
- November 9th. Mr. Charles Scarisbrick, J.P., elected Mayor of Southport.
- December 12th. Died, aged 78, Mr. James Fishwick Stead, J.P. For over fifty years Mr. Stead had been trustee, Sunday School superintendent, leader, and local preacher in

connection with Southport Wesleyanism, and had held every office open to laymen in the Church.

**1901**—December 14th. The Birkdale District Council bought the Birkdale portion of the Birkdale and Southport Tramway Company's undertaking for £5,000.

————December 17th. Died, aged 65, the Rev. Thomas Wakefield, F.R.G.S., superintendent minister of the Churchtown Circuit, United Methodist Free Church. For twenty-six years Mr. Wakefield had been a missionary in East Africa.

————December 25th. The year closed with a tragedy of the sea. Samuel Lloyd, a professional swimmer, and John Norman, a Customs officer, had been out to a vessel in the channel, along with two other men. The others found their way ashore, and reported having left Lloyd and Norman in the boat after a long night of trouble in the fog. The empty boat was afterwards found at Hesketh Bank. On January 7th the dead body of Norman was found at Lytham, but nothing more was seen of Lloyd.

**1902**—January 1st. The new Pier Pavilion opened by Alderman T. P. Griffiths, J.P.

————January. The Southport contributions to the Wesleyan Million Guineas Twentieth Century Fund completed—£7,333 3s. 2d.

————February 15th. Final meeting of shareholders in the Southport Waterworks Company, whose undertaking had been sold to the Water Board for £840,000.

————February 19th. The Winter Gardens offered for sale, and withdrawn at £94,000.

————March. Mr. C. H. Bibby-Hesketh appointed High Sheriff.

————April 15th to 22nd. Postal Statistics. Letters forwarded from Southport, 102,419; post cards, 22,112; newspapers, 5,842; book packets, 26,997; total, 157,370. Telegrams forwarded 1,344, transmitted 1,623, received

2,306, total 5,273. This shows an apparent decrease in "telegrams," which is accounted for by the introduction of the "telephone." During this week there were 1,989 telephonic "trunk calls," making a total for the telegraphic department of 7,262 messages. (See 1842 and each succeeding ten years.)

**1902**—April 27th. The Rev. A. H. Boyden, having accepted the pastorate of a Blackpool church, bade farewell to the Trafalgar Road Congregational Church members.

—May 4th. The Rev. John Chater, having completed thirty-nine years' ministry at West End Congregational Church, preached his valedictory sermon. The rev. gentleman was the recipient of many tokens of regard from his congregation and fellow townsmen.

—May 15th. A new organ opened in Victoria Wesleyan Chapel, Blowick.

—June 15th. Died, Mrs. Naylor-Leyland, one of the Scarisbrick beneficiaries, and mother of the late Sir Herbert Scarisbrick Naylor-Leyland.

—June 8th. News arrived of the conclusion of peace in South Africa. The information reached Southport whilst Church services were in progress, and in most places of worship the Doxology was sung almost spontaneously.

—June 24th to 27th. The arrangements for the Coronation festivities were completed, when consternation fell on the whole country owing to the King's illness being announced. Intercession services were held in the churches, and such of the arrangements as could be put off were postponed. But, in obedience to His Majesty's expressed wish, other parts of the arrangements were carried out with great spirit. There was a cycle parade, trades' procession, old folks' treat, a monstre Sunday Schools' procession, Old English sports, Children's Fancy Dress Ball, etc.

- 1902**—July 1st. His Worship the Mayor presented to each member of the Town Council, as a souvenir of the Coronation, a pewter mug, and in September the members returned the compliment by presenting to the Mayor a massive silver tankard, richly chased and enamelled.
- July 3rd, etc. The North-Western Sanitary Congress held in Southport.
- July 7th to 11th. The Grocers' Federation met in Southport. President, Mr. R. T. Duerdin.
- July 8th. The electric illuminations of the trees during the festivities having been so successful, the Town Council adopted the idea of a permanent system. In September it was decided to fix 3,875 lamps between St. George's Place and Portland Street.
- July 29th. The Town Clerk, Mr. J. Ernest Jarratt, married at Glasgow. The Town Council presented him with a silver tray, and the officials with a silver cigarette box.
- July 30th. Died, aged 51, Lord Gerard, second baron, Lieutenant-Colonel and Hon. Colonel of the Lancashire Hussars. It was his Lordship who induced the King, when Prince of Wales, to visit Southport.
- August 9th. Coronation of King Edward VII. His Worship the Mayor being present at the Coronation service in Westminster Abbey, the announcement was made, to a huge crowd, by Alderman Griffiths. In Hesketh Park, Coronation oaks were planted by Alderman and Mrs. E. J. Rimmer.
- August 17th. The Rev. H. Holgate commenced his pastorate of Churchtown United Methodist Free Church Circuit.
- September 8th. In view of the Nevill Street improvements, the Town Council bought the Victoria Hotel Vaults for £5,000.

**1902**—November 1st. Municipal Elections. The only change was in Scarisbrick Ward, where Mr. H. T. Smith (C) defeated Mr. D. Richards (Trades Council). Mr. H. Brooke (L) retired.

———November 10th. Mr. Councillor T. T. L. Scarisbrick elected Mayor of Southport.

———November 29th. The Deputy-Mayor (Councillor Trounson) laid the foundation stone of a new Independent Methodist Church in Old Park Lane.

———December 16th. The Mornington Road Wesleyan Circuit proposed to expend £10,000 in extension schemes at Southbank Road, High Park Road, and London Street.

———December 28th. Died, Mr. S. W. Higginbottom, M.P., an old Southport resident.





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