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Chaplains, Curates, & Vicars of Deane

Thomas, a clerk of Eccles, A.D.1200-1230	(see before, page 7)
William de Eccles, junior, 1230-1275	(see before, page 7)
Robert de Burnden, 1275 – 1290	(see before, page 12)
Thomas, persona de la Dene, 1290 – 1300	(see before, page 12)

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Richard de Workesley, 1388[?]	(see before, page 13)
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Peter Crompton, doubtless a member of the ancient local family of that name, was Curate of Deane during the latter years of the 15th century & the first years of the 16th. In the course of a suit at law tried in the Duchy Court, concerning the possession of a farm in Westthoughton, an enquiry was held by Laurence Starkey & Matthew Standish, Esq^{res}, in November, 1522; when James Laithwaite, “Our Lady’s priest” – of the Dene Church, deposed – “that he was with Sir Piers Crompton, then parish priest of the said Dene Church, when he “anointed” – Roger Gorton, “who was then in extremis. Roger Gorton died about the year 1506.

Thomas Strete, succeeded Peter Crompton as – “parish priest of Deyne Church & curate of Westhalghton”. During the course of the enquiry above mentioned, held by Messrs. Starkey & Standish, in the year 1522, John Heton of Heton, in the county of Lancaster, Gentleman, aged about 60, deposed – “that he heard Sir Thomas Strete, parish priest of Deyn Church, & Curate of Westhalghton say, that he was present when Richard Lee asked the said Brian Lee, then lying sick, & in the – “article of death” – how he came to the said tenement, & the said Brian answered that he bought the tenant-right of the said Roger Gorton, & had truly paid for it, & was admitted with the consent of the Abbot of Cokersand”. Brian Lee died about the year 1510. In a Subsidy Roll for the year 1535, the following names appear under the heading of – “Deyne”: - Dom: Thom. Strete, curat. – vs. ivd.; Dom: Jacob: Leythwhite – ivs. vd. q^r; Dom: Adam Robynson – ivs. Vd. Q^b”. In certain depositions taken at Elynbroke Chapel, on the 6th Oct. 1544; the Rev Thomas Craven said – “That he had paid to Sir Thomas Strete four pounds yearly for two years at least; but for how many years he had paid that amount he knows not. He agreed with the said Sir Thomas for 40s. for one year.” The Rev. Thos. Strete was in all probability a member of the family of Street of Street (or the Strete) in Adlington; & he appears to have held the Curacy of Deane more than thirty years.

James Laithwaite, “Our Lady’s Priest”, of the Dene Church, at the enquiry aforementioned, held by Messrs Starkey & Standish on the 6th Nov. 1522; deposed – “That he was with Brian Lee when he lay on his death-bed, & the said Brian wished that the Convent Seal wch he had should be delivered to Roger Gorton, together with the tenant right. He was also **[Page 73]** with Sir Peris Crompton, then parish priest of the said Dene church, when he anoynted Roger Gorton, at wch time he asked him whether he had sold his tenant-right of his house in Westhalghton, & the said Roger replied most

solemnly that he had never sold any part thereof to the said Brian Lee, except a parcel of land called – “the Woodhey” – for 16s.; wch sum he had repayed, & had entered again into his said Close”. Mr. Laithwaite still served at the High Altar in Deane Church in the year 1535; & when the Royal Commissioners held their enquiry in the year 1552, concerning Church Ornaments, &c. in the parish of Deane, it was found that – “F^r James latewhatt, Pst (had in his possession) – “a Chalese, wt iij sutes off vestiments v aulter clothes, v corporases wt one case, x Towells, ij cruets wt. other lynnens clothes ye nuber whereof the Commissioners knowe nott.” He appears to have held his office at Deane Church therefore, considerably over 40 years.

Adam Robinson, was another priest serving along with Vicar Strete at Deane Church in the year 1535; & as he receive the same salary as James Laithwaite, it is reasonable to infer that he held a similar position in the parish Church. He continued to serve the same office under vicar Rothwell in 1548, & that is the last record concerning him wch we possess.

The Rev. Hamlet Mabon, succeeded the Rev. Thos: Street as Curate of Deane in the year 1541. He was the last Curate appointed by the Rev. Thos. Craven, Vicar of Eccles; being appointed for one year only, at salary of 5 marks, or £3-6-8.

Rev. William Rothwell, the first Vicar of Deane after the creation of the parish, was appointed by King Henry the eighth, in the year 1542. During Easter term, in the 36th. Henry the 8th. (1544), William Rothwell, clerk & vicar of the Parish Church of Dene, co: Lanc: late called St Mary’s Chapel of Dene, late pierd[?] of the parish of Eccles, entered the following pleading in the Duchy Court: - “To the Right Honble. Sir John Gage, Knight. – “That where one Thomas Craven, Clerk, vicar of the parish of Eccles, & all his parishioners, by reason of an Ordinance made by Roger, then Bishop of the said Diocese (i.e. of Lichfield), A.D.1277, for discharging the duty of the said vicar in serving the cure of the said parish have not only appointed a convenient priest & chaplain to celebrate mass, matins, & other divine service within the said chapel of Dene, but have, at their own charges, paid him for his salary four pounds yearly at Michaelmas & Easter, by even portions, until now of late, that is to say, the 21st. November, in the 33rd. Henry the 8th (1541), when the King by Letters Patent, ordained that the said Chapel of Dene should from henceforth for ever be a parish Church and be free & distinct from every other Parish Church & Chapel, & - “should have the parish & parishioners to yt in tyme passed in mettes & boundes lymyted”, - & that within the said church of Dene there should be – “oon vicar ppetuall “ – to be presented by his [Page 74] Majesty, & instituted by the Ordinary of the Diocese, & that the said vicar should have the cure of souls, say mass, & administer the sacraments & bear the charges belonging to the said Vicarage, provided always that the said vicar should not receive of the King any higher stipend than the late chaplain had. After the making of the said Letters Patent, plaintiff was presented by the King to the said Vicarage of Dene, & instituted vicar there, & received no other salary than the said four pounds; yet notwithstanding the said vicar of Eccles, wishing to disburden himself of the payment of the said four pounds by colour that the said vicarage is now separate, refuses to pay to plaintiff the said amount wch is now two years in arrear.” – “A Privy seal was directed to Thomas Craven, Clerk, to appear in the octaves

of Trinity next. – “Hereupon a Commission to Geffrey Shakerley, Esq^{te}, Peter Anderton, Lawrence Asshawe, & Thomas Massey, Gentlemen, to take answer & to examine him upon certain interrogatories.

“The answer of Thomas Craven, vicar of Eccles. “Defendant says that the said pliant is only brought by plaintiff with the help of his parishioners to – “fatigate” – defendant, & put him to cost as has been lately done by bills taken into the King’s Court of the Tenths & First Fruits; & also before Sir Thomas Audley, Knt. late Lord Chancellor of England, out of wch two Courts defendant has been dismissed without being compelled to pay plaintiff the said four pounds. – “Defendant says that true it is that about three years ago the Church of the Deyne was a Chapel, belonging to the church of Eccles, & that defendant had the cure of souls there, & that the priest was then nominated & removable at the pleasure of defendant, who paid him some years four pounds, & others a less sum. Then there arose a controversy between the parishioners of Eccles & those of Deyne about the building of the church of Eccles whereunto the parishioners of the Deyne had always contributed, & in order that the latter might be exempted from such contributions they obtained the King’s Letters Patent, whereby it appears that the said Deyne is now a church, & has a perpetual vicar, who cannot be nominated, admitted, nor removed by defendant, who is now dis-charged from the cure of souls there, without that any such ordinance was made, A.D. 1277, &c. &c.

Interrogators administered on the behalf of William Rothwell, vicar of Dene, against Thomas Craven, vicar of Eccles.”

The examination & deposition of Thomas Craven, taken by Geffray Shakerley, Lawrence Asshawe, Peter Anderton & Thomas Massey, at Elynbroke Chapel, on the 6th Oct., 36th Henry 8th (1544).

- (1) Deponent says that he has paid to Sir Thomas Strete four pounds yearly for two years at least, but for how many years he has paid that amount he knows not. He agreed with the said Sir Thomas for forty shillings in one year.
- (2) Sir Richard Brereton did not nominate the said Sir Hamlet Malbons as Curate of the Deyne; but he, Sir Thomas Craven put him in himself. **[Page 75]**
- (3) Deponent did not allow to Sir Richard Brereton four pounds yearly for the wages of the priest of the Deyne, but he has paid to the said Sir Hamlet five marks for one year’s service.
- (4) Deponent says, that as he may not now nominate a priest for Deyne, he has sustained loss by reason of all such weddings, burials, & purifications which came from the Deyne unto Eccles Church.

Geffrey Shakerley Peter
Anderton

Lawrence Asshaw Thomas
Massey

The decision of the Court appears to have been against the vicar of Eccles, & in favour of the vicar of Deane; as there is a certificate in the King’s Book, dated Michaelmas, 3rd Edward the sixth (1549) wch informs us that the vicar of Eccles had still to pay four pounds per annum to the vicar of Deyne for his stipend.

At a visitation of the Diocese by Doctor Bird, Bishop of Chester, in the year 1548, the staff of clergy ministering in the newly created parish of Deane were found to include the following: “Dominus Willimus Rothwell vicarious, Jacobus lathewytt, Adam robynson, Richardus Bullogh, Jocabus Edge, Jacobus Deveas & Richardus Clerke”. At the time this visitation was held, there were three Altars within the Parish Church of Deyn; viz^t – the High Altar, the Altar in the Hulton Chapel, & another Altar in the Farnworth Chapel; & at the same time there were three Chapels also in distant parts of the parish, viz^t – Smithills, Horwich & Westhoughton. The Vicar, together with Sir James Lathwayte & Sir Adam Robynson, ministered at the High Altar in the parish Church; two of the other Clerks served at the altar in the Farnworth Chapel; but as to the particular charge assigned to the other two clerks, nothing is known with certainty. The whole number of seven Clerks, has quite a collegiate appearance, altogether in keeping with the unreformed church, but not at all consistant with the state of things prevailing in this country during the reign of King Edward the 6th. It has been already shown (page 23), that Dr. Bird, Bishop of Chester, on the 12th Jany. 1548, made a return of the sale of church ornaments, plate, jewels, &c., within his Diocese; & the altars themselves, from wch these ornaments were mostly taken, were either then, or shortly afterwards removed: after wch removal, the priests who had served at those altars, were for the most part retained as pensioners only during the remainder of their lives. There is one circumstance concerning the above list of priests wch is very remarkable, namely, that five out of the seven were natives of the parish or neighbourhood. The Vicar himself was a member of an old Bolton family, of whom William Rothwell & Margaret, his wife, in the 34th Henry the 8th, claimed an estate in Farnworth from Robert Worsley, of Booths, Esq^{re}; & James Rothwell, of Bolton, married Margaret, the daughter of John Hulton, of Farnworth, Gentleman; whilst a cursory glance at the Parochial Registers will show that the Laithwaites, Robinsons, Bulloughs, & Edges, were all families of ancient standing & good position in the parish of Deane.

[Page 76] John Carlill, farmer of Heaton, by his will wch is dated the 20th Oct. 1550, - “gave to Sir William Rothwell, vicar of Deane, ijs.” This bequest at first sight, might easily be taken to represent a poor appreciation of the Vicar’s services; but it was not so by any means. For when we consider the Testator’s limited means of giving, & compare this gift with his other bequests, we find that it was a very liberal appreciation indeed.

Sir William Rothwell, vicar of Deyne, lambart Heyton, gent, Roger Makynson, James Crompton, & Raufe Edge, yemen, C’wardens, on the 30th Sept. 1552, were parties to an agreement with the King’s Commissioners concerning the safe keeping of certain Church goods wch were left in their hands; & this is the last record we have concerning vicar Rothwell; whether he lived to see Queen Mary seated on the Throne of her father or not we cannot be certain.

The name of vicar Rothwell’s successor at Deane has not been preserved for us, but that a successor was appointed immediately after his death there can be no manner of doubt; for – “Stephen, Bishop of Winchester, & Chancellor of Endland” – was not the man to allow a living in his disposal to remain long vacant; & that this nameless vicar of Deane, was a sincere member of the Church of Rome also, we may safely assume. At a meeting of the

Privy Council, held on the 29th Oct. 1553, a letter was ordered to be sent to the Earl of Derby, & other Commissioners for Church Goods in the co: of Lancaster, to restore the same goods to the Churches from whence they were taken; & on the 10th Dec. Following, a Royal Proclamation was issued, declaring that, according to the purport of a late Act of Parliament, no man should sing the English service, or communion, after the 20th of December instant; & that no minister that had a wife, should minister, nor say mass. And that every parish should make an altar, & have a cross & staff, & all other things necessary for mass & procession, as holy bread, holy water, palms & ashes. A further step was taken on the 13th March, 1554, when power was given for Stephen, Bishop of Winchester, & Chancellor of England; Cuthbert, Bishop of Durham; Edmund, Bishop of London; & three others, to deprive the Archbishop of York; the Bishop of Lincoln; John, Bishop of Chester; & the Bishop of St. David's; in consequence of their being married. This commission was quickly executed, for on the 19th March, the Queen issued her Congè de' élire to the Dean & Chapter of Chester, to elect Dr Coates Bishop there; & on the 18th April following, restitution of temporalities was made to George Coates, Bishop of Chester.

About the same time that Dr Coates was appointed Bishop, the Rev. George Marsh, a native of the parish of Deane, was apprehended upon a charge of – “preaching & openly publishing within the parishes of Dean, Eccles, Bolton, Bury & elsewhere within the Diocese of Chester, in the months of January & February, or some other time of the preceeding year (i.e.1552-4), directly against the Pope's authority, & the Catholic Church of Rome, the blessed Mass, & the sacrament of the Altar”. And after his examination before the Earl of Derby at Knowsley, Marsh was [Page 77] committed a prisoner to Lancaster Castle, where he remained until after Christmas. During that time, the new Bishop of Chester visited the whole of his Diocese, in order to ascertain whether the directions of the Royal Proclamation of the 10th Dec. 1553 were being obeyed; & when he arrived at Lancaster, though he refused to see Marsh, yet he took means to increase the rigour & severity of his confinement. His Lordship afterwards presided at the trial of George Marsh in Chester Cathedral, & at the conclusion thereof, sentenced the prisoner to be burnt at the Stake.

There was a general complaint that many of the parochial clergy in Queen Mary's time were poorly qualified for the office wch they held. Fuller writes – “As for the inferior clergy, the best that could be gotten were placed in pastoral charges. Alas! tollerability was eminency in that age. A rush-candle seemed a torch where no brighter light was ever seen before.”

Judging from the scant information we possess on the matter, we should not perhaps be justified in placing the nameless vicar of Deane on so low a level of capability; nevertheless, the following – “memorandum” – does not indicate that he was much above the average: - “In the time of Edward Pendleton, to whom Philip & Mary gave the vicarage of Eccles, (i.e. on the 26th June, 1557), the yearly value of the parsonage impropiate was the £300; of the vicarage £30; & the preacher was – “insufficient”. It is added – “whereunto annexed Deane Church, £10 – “no preacer” – idem est – one unable to preach”.

The change in the ritual of public worship wch immediately followed the accession of the Princess Elizabeth to the throne has been already noticed. The preamble to the Commission granted to the Earls of Shrewsbury, Derby, & others, for the purpose of carrying into effect her Majesty's Injunctions in the province of York set forth: - "That God having set the Queen over the nation, she could not render an account of that trust without endeavouring to propagate the true religion with the right way of worshipping God in all her dominions; therefore she, intending to have a general visitation of her whole kingdom, empowered them, or any two of them, to examine the true state of all the churches in the northern parts; to suspend or deprive such clergymen as were unworthy, & to put others into their places; to proceed against such as were obdurate by imprisonment, church censure or any other legal way. They were to reserve pensions for such as would not continue in their benefices on the account of religion, & to discharge them; & to restore all such to their benefices as had been unlawfully turned out in the late times".

The only thing wch this Commission appear to have found wrong in the parish of Deane, was - "That John Heton, of Deyn Church, was in danger of losing his house & goods for taking away a mass-book from the Curate of Deyn, sithen the Queen's Majesty's proceedings: All the books were burned". No complaint appears to have been made about the Curate himself; who [Page 78] probably conformed. Bishop Burnet informs us, that - "The visitors having made report to the Queen of the obedience given to the laws & her injunctions, it was found that, of 9400 beneficed men in England, there were no more but 14 Bishops, 6 Abbots, 12 Deans, 12 Archdeacons, 15 Heads of Colleges, 50 Prebendaries, & 80 Rectors of parishes, that had left their benefices upon account of religion; so compliant were the papists generally". And in like manner the probability is, that the unnamed vicar or Curate of Deane, swallowed his objections to the change of ritual now imposed upon him, & continued to hold the cure of souls there for the remainder of his days.

Strype writes of this period as follows: - "The church being now so slenderly provided of Curates & persons to officiate in the parishes, the bishops were forced to allow of many who had been popish priests but now complying with the present proceedings; wch indeed gave great distaste to many who considered not the necessity of the thing. So one of those that were brought before the Commissioners Ecclesiastical in the year 1567, to answer for their not going to the parish churches, said - "the minister of his parish was a very papist". And again - "Another inconvenience the want of clergymen now brought, was the ordination of illiterate men to be readers; wch likewise many were offended at. These readers had been tradesmen, or other honest, well-disposed men; & they were admitted into inferior orders, to serve the church in the present necessity, by reading the common prayer & the homilies, & orders unto the people. This was also cast upon the present governors of the church as a reproach, both by papists, & by some protestants themselves. Though this description of the unfortunate state of affairs existing in the organization of the Church may be correct so far as regards other parts of the country, yet considerable improvement is said to have been effected in the county of Lancaster, by efforts of the Rev. Alexander Nowell, Dean of St. Pauls, who visited his native county

during the early part of the year 1568: - “& by his continual preaching in divers places therein, had brought many obstinate & wilful people into conformity & obedience, & had gotten great commendation & praise (as he was most worthy) even of those that had been great enemies to his religion”.

The Rev. Richard Grimshaw was appointed vicar of Deane, in September, 1569. He was the first vicar appointed by Queen Elizabeth after her accession to the throne; he held the living for six years only, & these two simple statements appear to contain all the record we possess concerning this vicar. Immediately after the appointment of vicar Grimshaw to Deane, namely, on the 2nd March, 1570, the Bull of Pope Pius the fifth was published at London & Paris, excommunicating the Queen & all those who adhered to her, & absolving her subjects from their oath of allegiance. That was a horrible & lamentable action for the chief Bishop of a Christian Church to take, as the spirit which [Page 79] prompted that action was certainly – “not the spirit of Christ”. The effect of that action in England was greatly to encourage & embolden the more daring & disaffected of the Roman Catholics to rebel & conspire against the Queen & her ministers, & as a result of the increasing spread of treason & rebellion, the laws against Jesuits & priests of the Church of Rome required to be more stringently executed. On the 14th Nov. a proclamation was issued against harbouring seditious persons & rebels, & bringing into the country traitorous books & writings from abroad. In the year following (1571), an Act was passed making it treason to bring into this country any bull or other writing or instrument from the Pope; or to attempt to reconcile any of her Majesty’s subjects to the see of Rome; or to bring in any tokens, Augus Deis, crosses, pictures, beads, or such like vain & superstitious things from the bishop of Rome. In order to rid the Church of England from the presence of a considerable number of Romanizing priests who still held living therein, an Act was passed (13 Eliz: cap 12) – “requiring all persons having any ecclesiastical living to declare their assent, before the Bishop of the Diocese, to all the articles of religion comprised in the book imprinted, entitled – “Articles whereupon it was agreed by the Archbishops & Bishops, &c.” – being the thirty-nine Articles framed in the Synod held, anno 1562, & to subscribe to them”. Both the Queen & her Council had been seriously dissatisfied with the state of the Diocese of Chester for some time past. At a meeting of the Privy Council, held on the 12th Nov. 1570; a letter was directed to the Bishop, stating that – “whereas the Queen’s Majesty is informed of sundry disorders committed within his Diocese, especially in the co: of Lancaster, by such as refuse to obey the laws established by the consent of the realm for the use of Common Prayer & other ecclesiastical orders, & because her Majesty supposeth the same hath come to pass through his remissness, &c. his Lordship is required to make his repair thither:” And on the 14th Jany. 1571, the Council directed the Archbishop of Canterbury, & the Bishops of Winchester, Ely, & Worcester, to enquire into the matters objected against the Bishop of Chester. Doubtless the Bishop was prevented from putting the laws against recusants into execution by the influence of the old Earl of Derby, who was a Roman Catholic at heart, notwithstanding his seeming compliance. His Lordship died at Lathom, on Friday, the 24th Oct. 1572. At a meeting of the Privy Council, held the 26th July, 1574, a letter was sent to Henry, Earl of Derby, in answer to his touching certain Popish disorders committed in those parts; thanks are given for his pains & doings, & he is desired to do the like of his assistants; his respite to

make more full certificate is very well liked in respect that the same tendeth to root out the bottom of such abuses in that country, being the very sink of Popery, where more unlawful acts have been committed & more unlawful persons holden secret to them than in any other part of the realm. The Lords express gladness that his Lordship doth find it, thereby assuring the best & speediest means of redress & amendment, no less to his Lordship's credit than to the good quiet of the country".

[Page 80] The Rev. David Dee was appointed Vicar of Deane, on the 22nd October, 1575, by the Queen, on the death of the last Incumbent. He matriculated at St Mary's Hall, Oxford, where he took the B.A. degree, on the 19th Nov. 1568; & proceed M.A. on the 12th July, 1752. He entered the Church immediately after taking his B.A. degree, & was appointed to a living in Shropshire soon afterwards; but whether he resigned that living on his appointment to Deane, I am unable to say, for he does not appear to have had any objection to accept more cures than one, if they were offered to him. In the year 1577, the Rev. David Dee accepted the vicarage of St. Autholme, London [this may have been St Bartholomew, London] ; & on the 8th Feby. 1578, he had licence to marry Marcian Roper **[RootsWeb was searching for Martia Rogers]**, Spinster; by whom he had issue a son Francis, & other children. There is good reason to suppose the vicar was not residing upon his cure in Lancashire at this time; for in the year 1580, he received another appointment as vicar of Sherborne in Dorsetshire, where he was residing in 1582. In the year 1587, the House of Commons petitioned the Lords, complaining how many parishes, especially in the north of England, & Wales, were destitute of preachers, & no care taken to supply them. Archbishop Whitgiff pleaded, - "That there were in England 4500 benefices with cure, not above £10, & most of them under "8, in the first-fruits book, wch cannot be furnished with able pastors, as the petitioners desire, because of the smallness of the living". Lord Burleigh would allow a learned man to have two benefices, so they were both in one diocese, & not one in the diocese of Winchester, & another in the north, where the several diocesans would have no regard of them". These statements correctly describe the state of affairs at Deane during the time Vicar Dee held the cure there. He was evidently non-resident, & the necessary services at the parish Church were performed by a curate, who received a salary in all probability not much greater in amount than what the fees would produce. And this supposition is confirmed by the fact, that the vicar made a practice of being present himself yearly at the parish Church, during passion Week & on Easter Day, as is shown by the "Shuttleworth Accounts", thus -

March 1583	"geven to the vecar of Dane church"	ijs.
March 1587-8	"given to the vycer of the Dean, when he mynestrade the comunyone at Smytheles"	ijs.
March 1588-9	"the vecare of the Dean for his panes for mynesteringe the Sakeremente at Smytheles"	xjd.
March 1591-2	"given by my brother's appontemente unto the vicare & Clarke of the Dean church"	ijs vid.

The condition of the parish is recorded in the Visitation Book of William (Chaderton) Bishop of Chester, for the year 1592: - "Dean parish - The catechising of children neglected by the Curate & parishioners; no perambulations are made; no monitions given,

& the Comissary enjoined him diligently to catechise hereafter, to make the perambulations, & to publish the notice for Collectors (i.e. of contributions for the poor), upon the Sunday before Midsummer Day. Henry Cooper [Page 81] one of the Churchwardens appeared, & the Comissary enjoined him to walk the perambulations yearly, & to provide a special Collector for the poor, & also to levy xijd. Upon every parishioner who absented themselves on Sundays & Feast Days. Margaret Hilton & Cuthbert Hilton, her son; Mary Hilton, gentleman, & Elizabeth Hilton, her daughter, of Over Hulton, recusants, were excommunicated”.

The – “Curate” – of Deane, at the time was Rev. James Pendlebury, as is shown by the will of Robert Marsh, of Halliwell, made on the 28th July, 1590; in wch that Gentleman bequeathed – “to James pendleburie, clarke, curate at Deane Xs.” It will be remarked that the Comissary never mentions the vicar of Deane in the aforesaid report: In the year 1587, the Rev. David Dee was appointed Rector of St Bartholomew-the-Great, London; from wch living he was deprived in 1605; & as he ceased to be vicar of Deane before the appointment of his successor in 1593, he was deprived of the vicarage of Deane before that year also.

The Rev. Lancelot Clegge, instituted to the living at Deane on the nomination of Queen Elizabeth, on the 31st March, 1593; & admitted to possession thereof by the Bishop of Chester, on 31st May following. Like his immediate predecessor, this gentleman was a non-resident vicar, & with the exception of certain notices in the “Shuttleworth Accounts”, I am not aware that his name is ever mentioned in a single record of the Parish of Deane. The Steward’s Accounts at Smithills exhibit the following payments: -

1594 Mr. vicar off Dean for his paynes taken about ye coion ministered here	Easter Even last	ijs. vid.
1595 (May) Mr. vicar of Dean for his paynes taken about ye coion ministered here	upon the Thursday before Easter Day last	ijs. vid.
1596-7 (March) The vicar of Dean for his paines in the passion wyke		ijs. vid.
1599 (April) Mr. vicar of Dean, for his panes in the passion weeke when my Master	dyd receive (the sacrament)	ijs. vid.

As a matter of fact & record, the Rev. James Pendlebury, curate under the late vicar, continued to dis-charge the same duties at the parish Church during the remainder of the 16th century, & for 30 years at the beginning of the next century, also. His appointment as vicar of Deane, does not appear to be recorded, either in the Institution Books at the Record Office, or in the Bishop’s Books at Chester; nevertheless he is frequently so styled, both by the parishioners, & in Public documents of the period. In a certain - “Letter of Attorney” – executed by the Rev. John Albright, vicar of Bolton, on the 15th June, 1594, “the Rev. James Pendleburie” – is des-cribed as – “vicar of Dean”. Cysele Leigh, of Halliwell, widow, (sister to Robert Marshe, above mentioned), bequeathed – “to James Pendleburie, clerke, vis.[6 shillings, or 30p]”, by her will, dated the 2nd October, 1596. In a pleading entered in the Chancery of the Duchy of Lancaster, on the 24th Oct. 1598, James Worthington, of Snydle, & Anne, his wife [Page 82] claimed a moiety of the manor of Eccleston, as the right of the said Anne; but they asserted that Robert Dewhurst, Lawrence Bannester, & Thomas Heaton, their Attorney, - “having

practised with James Pendlebury, clerk, & minister of Deane Church, where Anne was baptised, to falsify the Register: Whereas Anne was christened on Easter Day, 1580, Pendlebury made it 1578, making Anne two years older, so as to give colour to the passing of a certain fine, to the utter undoing of the Plaintiffs". The nuncupative will of Robert Leigh of Westhaughton, Gentleman, who died on the 13th May, 1607, was sworn before – "Jacobus pendleburie, cleric, curate of Deane", videlicet – the xxi daie of March, in the year of Our Lord 1606", &c. Gyles Marshe, of Deane, yeoman (brother to Robert & Cicely), by his will made on the 9th Sept. 1615, bequeathed – "to James Pendlebury, vicar of Deane Xs. – to Mr. horrox, preacher of Deane, XXs. - & to Mr. Gornall, preacher at Bolton XXs." Henry Mort of Little Hulton, yeoman, by his will made on the 7th Feby. 1616, bequeathed to Elizabeth, daughter to James Pendleburie, Clerke, iij s iij d. This will is in the handwriting of James Pendleburie, who signed it as a witness, thus, **[Signature difficult to read]** .

Henry Downham & Ellen Seddon spinster, of the parish of Dean, had licence to marry granted by the Diocesan Offices at Chester, on the 14th July, 1621; & addressed to Mr James Pendlebury, Clerk.

James Smith & Anne Longworth, widow, of the parish of Bolton, had licence to marry granted at Chester, on the 22nd Dec. 1622; & addressed to Mr. James Pendlebury, Clerk, vicar of Deane.

Many other similar licences were granted between the years 1622 & 1630 wch were directed to Mr. James Pendleburie, clerk; it is plain, therefore, that during all these years, he was held by common fame to be the vicar of Deane.

In – "certain brief observations truly gathered, (by an unknown writer), partly by experience & partly from others, comprehending the whole estate of the Lancashire Clergy" – in the year 1604, Deane appears as a – "vicaridge; the Patron, the King, the Incumbent a lewde Minister, neither preaches himself, nor will suffer any other to preach". If these observations concerning vicar Pendlebury were "gathered by experience", they constitute a very severe condemnation indeed. For, though the word – "lewd" – was not at that time always used in the same sense as it is now; yet the statement that he was no preacher is probably correct, as a "Lecturer" was certainly appointed at Deane before the year 1620; & afterwards, Pendlebury's name gradually disappears from the record. Immediately after his appointment in the year 1636, vicar Hardy entered the names of several couples in the Register at Deane, who had then recently been married by Mr. Pendlebury, adding this note – "Others I have hard have privately been married by old Mr Pendlebury, but not lawfully, (because he had not been allowed by either God nor man, theirfore (all who have been so married are not entered by me)" This note seems plainly to imply, that vicar Pendlebury had some time before been legally suspended from the exercise of his cure at Deane.

[Page 83] The Rev. Alexander Horrocks, Curate & Lecturer at Deane, was a native of the neighbouring parish of Bolton, being the younger son of Mr. John Horrocks of Turton, yeoman. Nothing appears to be recorded concerning either the School or College where he received his education; yet, judging from his acknowledged abilities & position amongst his contemporaries, he must certainly have graduated at one or other of the universities; neither is there any record of his appointment at Deane. In the year 1604, Dr.

Vaughan, Bishop of Chester, was translated to the see of London, & Dr. Lloyd, Bishop of Sodor & Man, was translated to Chester; & soon afterwards we find Mr. Horrocks acting as Curate at Deane. Mrs. Ann Marshe, widow of Richard Marshe, of Halliwell, yeoman, by her will, wch was made on the 17th Jany. 1613, bequeathed – “to Mr. Horrocks, preacher at Deane, 20s.”; & Gyles Marshe, younger brother to Richard, by his will dated the 9th Sept. 1615, (as already mentioned), bequeathed – “to James Pendlebury, vicar of Deane, xs.; - “to Mr. horrox, preacher of Deane, 20s.; & to Mr. Gornall, preacher at Bolton, 20s.”, “ffardinando Heaton, of Heaton & Horwich, yeoman, appointed – “Alexander Horrocks, of Turton, Clarke, Rauffe Heaton, my brother-in-law, & John fforde, of Rumworth, chapman, the executors of his last will & testament”, wch was made on the 28th Jany. 1618. Dr. Lloyd, Bishop of Chester, died on the 1st August, 1615; & Dr. Bridgeman, his successor in that see, collected a loan from the clergy of his diocese for the help of Louis, Count Palatine of the Rhine, (the King’s son-in-law); & in the list of contributors to this Loan we find the name of – “Mr. Horrocks, curat of Dean” – set down for the sum of 20s.”. So he was at that time acting as Curate for the Rev. Jas: Pendlebury, vicar. The army of the unfortunate Count Palatine was defeated at Prague, on the 7th Nov. 1620; & a further contribution was levied upon the English clergy in the year 1622, towards the recovery of his possessions. To this contribution Mr. Horrocks gave the sum of 3£, being described in the Bishop’s list as – “Lecturer at Dean”. It thus appears that the puritan & Presbyterian parishioners of Deane at that time paid Mr. Horrocks a Salary to lecture for them in the parish Church; the vicar, no doubt, being either unable or unwilling to satisfy their craving for – “preachings”. In the same year, Mr. Gosnell, vicar of Bolton, bequeathed to Mr. Horrocks his – “Stuff cloak”, - a very necessary & appropriate article of apparel for a Puritanical Lecturer, & one wch he evidently made good use, as the Cavaliers testified in 1644; when, after taking Bolton, they expressed their regret that they had not succeeded in capturing – “that old rogue Horrocks” – that preaches in his grey cloak. John Tyldessley, of Westhoughton, Tanner (father of the Rev. John Tilsley, vicar of Deane), by his will made on the 27th August. 1628, - “gave to Mr. Alexander Horrocks” – the sum of xs. About the year 1630, we find that Archbp. Land was complaining to the Council of Dr. Bridgeman, Bishop of Chester, for permitting two non-conformists, one within a mile of the Bishop’s House at Great Lever on the one hand; viz^t Mr. Horrocks of Deane; & another on the other hand, viz^t the Rev. John Angier, curate of Ringley Chapel. In a conversation with [Page 84] latter, recorded by the Rev. Oliver Heywood, the Bishop said – Mr. A: I have a good will to indulge you, but cannot, for my Lord’s Grace of Canterbury hath rebuked me for permitting two nonconformists, the one within a mile on one hand (that was good Mr. H: at Dean church), another on the other, yourself; & I am likely to come into disfavour on this behalf. As for Mr. H: said he, my hands are bound, I cannot meddle with him, (‘tis thought he meant by reason of some promises to his wife), but as for you, Mr. Angier, you are a young man & doubtless may get another place”. Whether Mr. Horrocks laid aside his grey cloak at this time, & so far conformed as to preach in his black gown we do not know; but in the years 1634, 1635 & 1636, he contributed 3s. 4d. a year towards the repair of St. Paul’s Cathedral. The Rev. Rich^d Hardy was now vicar of Deane, & it is somewhat significant of the small esteem in wch he was held as preacher, when we find the mother of Oliver Heywood taking her son (then about 8 years old), to hear Mr. Horrocks preach at Deane Church. He was evidently held in high esteem by another

great Lady of the neighbourhood, viz^z – Dame Dorothy Leigh, of Worsley; who, by her will, dated the 8th Feby. 1638-9, bequeathed – “to Mr. Alexander Horrocks five pounds”; whilst she only left Mr. Jones, vicar of Eccles, & Mr. Johnson, curate of Ellenbrook, forty shillings a piece. Mr. Alexander Horrocks, Minister of Dean Church, preached one of the funeral sermons at Manchester Collegiate Church, in August, 1643, on the death of the Rev. William Bourne,, a veteran champion of Presbyterianism; & one of the Fellows of that Church. On the 9th Dec. following, he was appointed by the House of Commons to decide on the orthodoxy & maintenance of the Lancashire ministers. He was reported to have been killed by the Royalist troops at the taking of Bolton, on the 28th May, 1644, but that report proved to be untrue; & on the 13th Dec. following, by an ordinance of both Houses of Parliament, he was appointed, along with others, – “to ordain ministers, pro tempore, within the county of Lancaster. Richard Edge, of Edge Fold in Middle Hulton, by his will made on the 14th Jany. 1645, - “gave to” – Mester Horrocks xs. If he preach at my buriall & not otherwise”.

By the Act passed on the 2nd Oct. 1646, establishing the Presbyterian form of Public Worship in the county of Lancaster, “Mr. Horrocks, Minister of Dean”, was appointed one of the clerical members of the 2nd Classis, wch division included the parishes of Bury, Bolton, Midleton, Rochdale Radcliffe & Dean. Is conduct in the fulfillment of that position is somewhat remarkable: for when we remember the earnest support wch for so long a period he had given to the puritan cause, we might reasonably have expected him now, when that cause was in the ascendant, to have entered upon the duties & priviledges of this newfound position with energy & determination. But he did nothing of the kind. He attended the first meeting of the Classis held at Bury, on the 25th March, 1647; he was absent from the 2nd meeting; & then he attended the 3rd, 4th, 5th, & 6th meetings in succession; after wch time he [Page 85] only attended two more meetings, viz^t – one on the 13th April, 1648; & another on the 15th June, 1649; at each of wch meetings he was appointed Moderator of the Assembly. It is true, he was getting advanced in years & may have been unable to ride to Bury with ease on the occasion of every meeting; but his frequent & continuous absence gives rise to a strong suspicion, that though he might be a decided puritan, he was not a very earnest Presbyterian after all. He had been educated in the tenets of the episcopal church, & he had spent the greater portion of his life in the service of that church, & it is more than probable, that, though he gave an outward show of compliance with the Presbyterian form of church government, yet he was still more or less an episcopalian at heart, even to the end of his days. At the 2nd meeting of the Classis abovementioned, certain inhabitants of Blackrod petitioned for the appointment of Mr. Gerrard Browne, an – “orthodox divine”, to be appointed minister there: - Mr. Horrocks, also of Dean certified on his behalf as follows: - “Reverend Brethren – You shall this day have Mr. Browne preacher of Blackrode come before you to desire your approbation that he may be preech^t there as for his preaching I heard him lately at Houghton Chappell preach very well & honestly but he hath a certificate from ye classis at Ormse Church both of his life & doctrine for divers years he needeth not therefore my commendation onely this much I say if I weare y^u I should give him my hand upon triall of himselfe for halfe a year for ye p^{re}sent & soe forth upon his behavio^r, & thus leaving him unto yo^r grace consid^{er}acon I rest yo^r broth^r & friend.

Alex^t Horrockes.

There does not appear to be any record as to when Mr. Horrocks was appointed minister of Westthoughton Chapel, but it is probable that he was appointed Incumbent there soon after the Rev. John Tilsley became Vicar of Deane, in the year 1643. That he should have been passed over by the House of Commons in making the latter appointment is not easy to understand. He was a puritan, a supporter of the Parliament, & he had served the parishioners of Deane faithfully & acceptably for the long space of 30 years, & why he was not given the vicarage of Deane at that vacancy is wholly unaccountable. However, he continued to discharge his duty as Lecturer at Deane honestly & conscientiously for the remainder of his life. He died on the 27th July, 1650. Mr. Horrocks preached the Gospel at Deane during the Incumbency of three vicars, he was a true servant of his Lord & Master, & the effects of his consistent life & service upon the parishioners remained for several generations after his death. The Rev. Gentleman's Will reads as follows: - "The tenth day of July, Anno Doi'. 1650. I, Alexander Horrocks, preacher of God's word in the Deane parish, being aged & somewhat infirm in body, but of good & perfect understandinge, mynde & memory (blessed bee God) doe constitute ordayne & make this my las will & testament in manner & forme followinge. **[Page 86]** First, I commend my soule into the hands of Almighty God (my heavenly Father, Redeemer, & Sanctifier), being fully persuaded of his everlasting love wherewith toe find peace from eternity, & appoynting mee vnto salvation, & not vnto wrath, by the presence of Je: Ch: & my bodie vnto the earth from whence it came, to bee buried, yt it may bee in the parish Church of Bolton, in my ancestors buriall. And as for my poore worldly estate I dispose of it as followeth: - Imprimis, I give vnto Kathren Wood, my sister, that five pounds six shillings she oweth me. Item. I give vnto Elizabeth Holme, my sister, five pounds. Item. I give unto Elizabeth Horrocks my carefull nice & nource with whom I live, my watch, my black mare & black colt, with all my furniture, both in my chambers & study, my bed, livery, table, silver, presse, truncke & table, these to use during her life & abode at this house where she liveth. But after death or removal my will & mynde is that they should remain as heir-loomes to furnish the chamber & study whyles they will last. Item. I give vnto Thomas Horrocks, sonne of Christopher Horrocks, my nephew, one great arke standing in the barne att the late house of James Walmesleyes, & three pounds of moneyes to make his legacy five pounds. Item. I give unto Ralphe Holme, my nephew, my white mare, bridle, saddle, boots, spurs, riding coat, & my best suit of apparell. Item. I give vnto William Holme my grey mare, which bee at my sister's, Kathren Woods, byndinge him thereby to stay with my sister whyle shee lives. Item. I give vnto Jane Holden my nice a cow shee hath of myne. Item. I give vnto Margaret Almond my nice five pounds. I give vnto Elizabeth Horrocks, daughter of my late brother, James Horrocks, for the care that shee had of her late father, five pounds. And because I know not what myne estate may bee at my death, I appoint my executors hereafter named, after my debts (if there bee any) & funeralls beyng discharged (wch funeralls I charge them to bee after this manner; I give entertainment to such as come vnto the house, liberally, but nothing at all to the towne, for I am not able to do itt, and furthermore it is known to bee against my judgement to have any such doings), I say it is my mind & will that my exequitors after my legacies & funeralls discharged, keepe the rest of estate in their hands during the life of my sisters (if they survive mee) to lend vnto my sister Katheren or give vnto my sister Elizabeth something att their discretion if there be extreme need. Finally I now constitute & ordayne Thomas Horrocks, Ralph Holme, & William Holme,

my nephews abovementioned my true & lawfull Exequitors of the truth of this my last Will & testament, not doubting but they will perform the same as my trust is in them. And in testimony to the truth of this my minde written with my own hand I have hereunto put my hand & seale the day & year abovewritten. And whereas I had forgotten how to dispose of the remaynder of my estate after my sister's death: It is my mynde & will that my exequitors give vnto every one of my brother's & sister's children then living one pound, & the rest with them divyde equally amongst them if any remain.

Alex: Horrockes.

Witness of the sealinge & pronouncing of this, being my last Will & testament are those hereunder written.

John(his mark) Walker Thomas (T.M. his mark) Mather
James (his mark) Bleakley Thomas ffrankland

[Page 87] The Rev. Richard Hardy, M.A. was presented to the living at Deane by King Charles the first, on the 5th Feby. 1636; & admitted to possession of the profits by Dr. Bridgeman, Bishop of Chester, on the 1st March, following. Shortly before the appointment was made Archbishop Land & his party had been making great efforts to raise the ritual practices of the clergy to a higher plane of conformity than what had prevailed previously. Amongst many other things, communion tables were orderd to be removed from the body of the church, & placed in the chancel, up to the east wall, where the alter had formerly stood. The space immediately in front of the table was also directed to be railed off from the body of the church, & a low bench placed before the rail, upon wch bench or form the communicants were directed to kneel, when receiving the holy communion bread and wine. The enforcement of these orders was stubbornly resisted in many parts of the country; & although there appears to have been no outward demonstration of opposition at Deane to the novel practice now introduced, yet the neighbouring parish of Bolton was hardly so fortunate. On the 18th March. 1630, Timothy Aspinwall, Preacher of the Word of God, answered certain complaints exhibited against him in the Bishop's Court at Chester, as follows: - "That he did not persuade the churchwardens of Bolton to forbear to go alonge with him goinge to administer the sacrament, or not to take notice of them yt dyd not conform to the gesture of kneelinge, but sayeth that yt was in hys choyce to appoynt whoo shuld follow hym with the wyne, & p'suaded the Churchwardens to be careful if thire oathe & observe those yt were conformable & confessed: he sayd that in case they were incurried anie censure not following with the waine he would bere them out. And further sayeth he received the bread & wine from the Clark whom he appointed to carry yt after him, but doth not remember he refused to receive ytt from the Churchwardens: et alit^z negat. yt this underit should utter yt if they kept them in their seates or otherwise wnt oute of the churche & did not see who denyed to conform yt they were discharged of their oathe, & sayeth that to this effect he sayde, viz^t yt he noe question my Lo: Bpp: would determine whether they the Churchwardens were to follow with the wine. Timo: Aspinwall."

The few years during wch the Rev. Richard Hardy held the vicarage of Deane were years of trial & difficulty for every sincere & churchman; republicanism was gaining strength every day among the people, & at the same time the Bishops were daily becoming more

unpopular. The vicar appears on the whole to have acted with considerable caution during this period, for though he was a decided episcopalian himself, yet he seems to have deferred opposing the contrary tendency of his Curate & parishioners as far as possible; so that when the Bishop of Chester in the year 1638-9, asked for an aid from the **[Page 88]** clergy of his Diocese towards the expense of the war against the Scotch, neither the vicar of Deane, nor the curate contributed anything. Three years later, viz^t on the 23rd Feby. 1641-2, when the national Protestation was taken at Deane, the Clergy signed as follows: - Alexander Horrocks; Richard Hardie, minister; James Walton, minister; John Tilsley, minister". But shortly afterwards it pleased God in his mercy to deliver the vicar of Deane out of the power of his enemies, & his body was interred at the parish church of Bury on the 29th May. 1642.

The Rev. John Tilsley was appointed vicar of Deane by an Order of the House of Commons passed on the 9th Oct. 1643. He was the eldest son of John Tildesley of Westhoughton, a Farmer; who by his will wch was made on the 27th August. 1628; stated – “that his desire was, his eldest son John should be brought up to learning”. In accordance with this desire, Mrs. Isabella Tilsley, widow, & her co-executor sent young Tilsley to a good school (most probably Rivington Grammar School), from whence he proceeded in due course to the University of Edinburgh; where he took the M.A. degree on the 22nd July, 1637, being then barely 19 years of age. This fact may be taken to indicate that he was possessed of good natural abilities, wch he had turned to good account by patient application to study; & in some measure justifies a portion at least of Calamy’s panegyric, viz^t – “that he possessed uncommon abilities, a retentive memory wch made whatever he read his own; a solid judgement, a ready invention, a fluent delivery, & warm affectious.” According to the same authority – “after he left Scotland, Tilsley preached with Mr. Horrocks at Deane Church”. This statement may be correct, for church discipline was at a low ebb, & we are by no means certain that the Rev. John Tilsley ever received episcopal ordination either as a Deacon or a Priest. He signed the – “national Protestation” – with the rest of the inhabitants of Deane, on the 23rd Feby. 1641-2, as – “John Tilsley, minister”; and on the 4th Jany. 1642-3 – “John Tilsley, preacher of the Word of God”, was married at Manchester Collegiate Church, to Margaret, daughter of Ralph Chetham, Gent. By whom he had issue three sons, who all died in infancy; & five daughters, who all survived. Twelve months afterwards, viz^t – on the 6th Feby. 1642-3, we find him accompanying the Parliamentary forces under the command of Sir John Seton, on their march to the assault on Preston; from wch town on the 11th inst. he wrote as follows to – “an eminent Divine in London: Worthy Sir, - Be pleased to accept this poor rude paper, it is a messenger to tell you good tidings, we have assaulted & taken Preston, a town very considerable, & wch much tends to the advancement of the publick work in this county, & not so altogether impertinent to the kingdom. We were about 900 or 1000 Firemen, horse & foot, & about 600 Bill-men, Halberdier’s & Club-men; our march in the night was tedious, especially to many who had marched the night before, & to accommodate us in that, God gave us a fair night, such as had not been for a space before, yea & indeed the day forerunning threatened us a very foul night; this was of God. **[Page 89]** Our men assaulted a little before sunrising, in an hour’s time they were masters of it; it was well fortified with Brick walls, outer & inner; our men (but especially three companies that came from Manchester) fell on with

notable resolution: Captain John Booth scaled their walls, bidding his soldiers either follow him, or give him up, but they forgetting their own safety followed him. The garrison fought it out stoutly; they kept their inner works with push of pike, & also the breach they kept within their swords, wch aggravates the matter.

“We have not lost above three or four men (very strange) falling upon them in their works. Of theirs I saw lying in one street end at least five or six, besides other parts of the town several, & many in the houses not calling for quarter. And as if men have been singled out for slaughter we could have scarce picked out better, the Mayor, (that was resolute to desperateness in the cause, that had of ten times been heard to swear – “He would fire the town ere he gave it up, & begin with his own house”) was slain, & that very day he had appointed to constrain the well affected, or to have seized on their estates; Sir Gilbert Houghton’s brother, a Captain, & a desperate papist, Mr. Westby, a Physician, & a desperate papist; a serjeant to the freehold, that lately came out of Ireland, a most wicked wretch, were of the number of the slain.

“Several of our men are shot, but none mortally (it’s notable), many are shot in two or three or four several places, & neither to death nor dangerously; we have taken some prisoners of note, Captain Farrington, Sir John Talbot’s son, one Fleetwood, & they say Anderton of Clayton, if so, I assure you he is one of the most considerable men for estate & activity in the county, & many others with many arms, & a large part of things justly (alas, that that, it is so much lamented but most hard to be prevented) seized on: more prisoners of note we had been possessed of, but that honest flight rescued them. The fruit of this design is not yet perceived, but will shine forth more & more, I am confident. It blocks up the way that all the north east part of Lancashire, where were the chief malignants & cream of the Earl’s forces; yea & indeed they will come in (I am persuaded & partly perceive already), to the propositions.

“So soon as matters were settled, we sung praises to God in the streets, (Sir, it was wonderful to see it) the sun brake forth & shined brightly & hot, in the time of the exercise, as if it had been midsummer.

“Truly Sir, we owe (subordinate to God), a great deal to Sir John Seaton: things are artificially & methodically done, past what they were before, he is a man of wonderful care & unwearied industry, only rather too harsh for our northern knotty rigid dispositions: had he the meek spirit & smooth tongue of S.M. Sparrow, he were peerless, & without paralell doubtless. Sir I am in haste just come from Preston, & the post about to take horse, pardon my rudeness & brevity, only I beseech you to assist us in praises, that we may not loose God for want of praises, & pray for us that plunder cry not louder for justice than prayer for mercy. Remember my love & service to your wife. Farewell is the wish of your humble servant & respective Friend – John Tilsley
Preston. Feby 11. 1642.

[Page 90] This letter gives what is apparently a very fair account of what actually took place at Preston, on that Wednesday morning, in the year 1643. It does not appear that the writer was in any way officially connected with the parliamentary Army; he simply

followed them out of sympathy with the cause for wch they were fighting, & he does not seem to have ministered in any way whatever to either the material or the spiritual wants of the combatants. He did indeed “join in singing praises to God in the streets” – for the wonderful victory wch had been granted to them; & he immediately ascribed the fitful bright shining of the sun in a February morning, as a providential token of favour to their cause. But alas, this sanctimonious young – “Preacher of the Word of God” – when forced to notice the plundering of the citizens of Preston by the soldiery, makes a poor & halting apology – “a large part of things justly (alas that that, it is so much lamented, but most hard to be prevented) seized on”. If it was – “just” – for the Parliamentary soldiers to plunder the goods & money of their fellow countrymen, why should it be lamented at all? The fact is plain, that John Tilsley had no conscientious objection to the slaughter & plunder of his fellow countrymen, if they were Royalists: & hence we find him accompanying the Parliamentary Army again to Wigan, on the 1st April, 1643; when Lieut. General Sir John Seton with 2000 foot, for the most part musketeers from Bolton, & the rest Club-men & Bill-men took Wigan. The town was defended by 1400 men according to the victor’s report; of whom 800 were made prisoners, & 500 more quite routed, with great loss of arms, ammunition & money. This is the Parliamentary report of the action, but in the Royalist report it is added – “that the Manchester troops took & plundered to the very utensils & Plate of the Communion table, wch one of their Puritanical Teachers, one Tyldesley, hung round him as the Spoils & plunder of a popish Idol.” It would be very interesting to know what the Rev. Alexander Horrocks, Lecturer at Deane, was doing during the early part of this year 1643? We have no record that he ever at any time followed the Parliamentary Army from one place to another, but we know that he had preached the Gospel in Deane parish for more than 30 years; & yet now, when a vacancy occurred in the vicarage of Deane, his long & good services were passed over, & the unscrupulous young Curate, for his support to the Parliamentary cause was rewarded with the appointment. “An Order for Sequestering the Rents & Profits of the Rectory of Deane Church, in the co: of Lancaster, from Christopher Anderton to the use of Mr. John Tilsley, a godly, learned, & orthodox Divine; who is hereby appointed & required to be vicar of the said parish Church of Deane; & to preach there every Lord’s Day; & take care for the Discharge of the cure of that Place, in all the duties thereof; & shall have for his pains Sixty pounds per annum; & to the several Chapels of Houghton & Horwige, in the said Parish, to either of them Twenty pounds per annum. Which said sum of one hundred pounds shall be paid upon the 1st day of February, & the 1st day of August, by equal portions, out of the Sequestration of the said Rectory of Deane Church, by those officers that are appointed for receiving of the profits of the said Sequestration, &c.

[Page 91] Calamy tells us that Tilsley was to Horrocks at Deane – “as Timothy to Paul, a son in the Gospel”; but I venture to suggest that it would be much nearer the truth to say – that Tilsley was to Horrocks, as Jacob was to Esau – a supplanter, rather than a son. Little is recorded concerning the actions of the Rev. John Tilsley during the three first years of vicariate; what he did with himself whilst the Royal Army under the command of Prince Rupert & the Earl of Derby occupied the neighbourhood in May & June, 1644, we do not know, but it is hardly likely that he could have been found in the parish of Deane that while. An Ordinance of both Houses of Parliament was enacted on the 13th

Dec 1644, empowering 21 ministers, of whom Alexander Horrocks & John Tyldesley were two, to ordain ministers, pro tempore within the co: of Lancaster; & as the result of the labors of that Committee, Tilsley was able to say in 1646, “that in no congregation in the whole country was the Book of Common Prayers on Ceremonies in use & exercise, nor had been of a long time past. The committee for plundered Ministers at a meeting held on the 21st Nov. 1645, - “Resolved that the House of Ralph Heaton, within the parish of Deane church, heretofore parcel of the Glebe of the said church, & now sequestered from the said Ralph Heaton, shall be settled upon Mr Tilsley, vicar thereof, for the habitation of the said Mr Tildsley, his means being very small.”

Vicar Tyldsley was at this time was strenuously endeavouring to promote the establishment of the Presbyterian form of public worship in this country. An Ordinance of the two Houses of Parliament was adopted on the 25th Feby. 1645, wch directed that the Presbyterian form of Church government should be at once set up throughout the country by the election of elders in every county; & this ordinance was confirmed by a Bill dated the 19th August following; but the change was so great; & the parties interested were so obstinate & intractable, that another year elapsed before this authority was acted upon, & then only in two instances – Lancashire & London. On the 20th Oct. 1646, the House of Commons approved of the division of the co: of Lancashire into nine classical presbyteries represented from the said county: the 2nd classis to contain the parishes of Bolton, Bury, Middleton, Rochdale, Deane & Radcliffe: & the ministers fit to be of the 2nd classis, Master John Harper of Bolton; Mr. Alexander Horrocks, Mr. John Tilsley & Mr. James Walton, of Deane, & six more: Others fit to be of the 2nd classis, Ralph Worthington, of Snidle, Esq^{re}; Gyles Green of Westhoughton, yeoman; Henry Molyneux of Westhoughton, Gentleman; Henry Seddon of Heaton, yeoman; & sixteen others. The measure received no further constitutional sanction, but was promulgated as an Ordinance of both Houses. By the authority of this ordinance, each congregation in the various parishes of Lancashire were directed to be ruled by its own Presbytery; every such Presbytery was composed of teaching elders, who were regularly ordained, & of lay or ruling elders; the former being usually described as ministers, whilst to the latter the title of elders was especially assigned. The Presbytery of the parish of Deane consisted of [Page 92] Messrs Alexander Horrocks, John Tilsley & James Walton, ministers; with the following ruling elders: - Ralph Worthington, Charles Leigh, Gyles Green, Henry Molyneux, Henry Seddon, Roger Walmesley, Hugh Parr, William Tonge, Thomas Leigh, John Munkes, Richard Mather, John Ashley, Giles Edge, Robert Hunte, Abraham Bolton, John Roscoe, Peter Rilance, John Pendlebury, Edmund Ogden, & Ellis Brooke.

The record of the 2nd Presbyterical Classis ceases with the account of the meeting held at Bolton, on the 11th May, 1657; but the Minutes of the 1st Classis were continued until the Restoration of the King in the year 1660. So far as regards the ecclesiastical affairs of the parish of Deane during the rule of the Presbyterians, the government of the Eldership though severe & intolerant in many respects, appears to have been on the whole fairly successful. There were only two appeals from the decisions of the parish Eldership during the ten years that rule continued. The first of these occurred in Jany. 1647, when the Vicar appears to have been unable to induce the elders to enforce the discipline of their church against a parishioner for – “certain miscarriages” – with wch he was charged, &

consequently he appealed to the classis, but there is no further record about the matter. The second was a more serious affair, & it resulted so unsatisfactorily to the Vicar's mind, as to induce him to seek to be relieved of his charge at Deane. James Edge of Middle Hulton, a member of an influential family in the parish, had been accused by Jane Aspinall before the Eldership at Deane, with committing adultery with her: this accusation the Elders tried & decided to be proved; & consequently, in the exercise of their authority & duty, they had suspended Edge, & forbidden him admission to the Lord's table. Against this sentence, Edge appealed to the Assembly of the 2nd Classis at Bolton, on the 14th Nov. 1653. The investigation of the matter occupied the attention of the Classis for several meetings thereafter; but as they had no power to compel the attendance of witnesses, considerable delay appears to have occurred, before the facts of the case could be satisfactorily ascertained. At length on the 29th Jany. 1655, it was resolved – "That the evidence given to this Classe is not sufficient to prove ye said James Edge guilty of ye crime of adultery laid to his charge by Ann Aspinall, his suspension from ye Lord's supper be taken off by ye Congregational Eldership of Deane". But, nevertheless, they judged it convenient that the said James Edge, his wife, & John Edge, his brother, should appear before the elders at Deane, & satisfy them of their innocency of the said James in respect of the crime laid to his charge; & it was further ordered, that before his readmission to the Lord's Supper, the said James shall openly & solemnly, before the congregation at Deane, declare & profess his innocency. This was a remarkable decision for a Jury of Englishmen to arrive at, for if the accused was not found guilty – according to the rule of English law, - it ought to have been assumed that he was innocent. But on the contrary, the 2nd Classis assumed that he was guilty, & hence the degrading conditions wch they imposed, before re-admitting him to participation [Page 93] in the privileges of church membership. It is very probable that this wretched case was the cause, directly or indirectly, wch led the vicar of Deane to seek a fresh sphere of labour. At the meeting of the 2nd Classis, held at Bolton, on the 10th Dec. 1655, - "a letter was presented from the Classe of Newcastle-upon-Tyne, by their Delegates, desiring Mr. Tilsley might come to be Pastor of Saint Nicholas' parish there." – "The Classe ordered that Messrs Picke & Harper, Ministers, & Messrs. Andrews & Walmesley, elders, should attend the 1st Classe (at Manchester), to consult with them about the abovesaid notice on Dec 11th." At another meeting of the 2nd Classe, held on the 13th Dec: the Delegates to Manchester returned the mind & sense of that Classe under three heads, viz^t., - They do conceive it will be most for the Glory of God & good of the Church, that Mr. Tilsley do remove to Newcastle; & accordingly they do advise that consent may be given to his removal, &c.". Nevertheless, the Classe at Bolton refused to be guided by their friends' advice at Manchester, although they has asked for it, & at once – "voted Mr. Tilsley to stay at Deane". It is plain, however, that at this time Mr. Tilsley meant going to Newcastle, for he promptly – "appealed to the Provinciall Assembly"; & on the 10th March following, it is recorded – "that his appeal to the Provinciall Assembly was delivered in"; but nothing further is recorded". Walker in the 1st part of his – "Sufferings of the Clergy", writes – "The result does not appear in their proceedings; but the worthy Mr. Gipps, Rector of Bury, who communicated the papers to me, inserted this note with his own hand: - "Mr. Tilsley did go to Newcastle; but finding not the place so beneficial as was expected, returned back; it being not, it seems, to the glory of God for him to stay, when it was not to his own advantage". This is very likely a correct statement, for Mr. Tilsley was not present at any meeting of the 2nd Classis between the 13th Dec. 1655, & the 16th November 1656. [Section crossed out]

[Page 94] [Section crossed out]

The year 1650 was a time of trial & difficulty to Presbyterians in Lancashire. At the commencement of the civil war this party had been the chief supporters of the parliament against the king: but now, by one of those strange vicissitudes of warfare & civil strife, they had become suspects to the Council of State. On the 2nd March. 1650, Rich^d Bradshaw, mayor of Chester, wrote to President Bradshaw, - "I had hoped to give you a numerous account of subscribers to the Engagement within this city, but there being none here specially commanded to take subscriptions since the passing of the Act, & to give you the whole truth, there is not one justice of peace, mayor, recorder, or other, except Mr. Aldessey & myself, that I have either taken the engagement or given countenance to them that have; the commonalty, who are chiefly led by the example of their governors, have not yet subscribed. The reason of the people's backwardness is chiefly the frequent deterring arguments from Pulpits, whence the rigid Presbyterians shake the minds of men, setting the engagement directly in opposition to the covenant, charging covenant breaking & perjury upon all that have subscribed, & labouring to render them odious to the people; yet all is woven so cunningly that the thread appears not wherewith to bind up such zealots. I have questioned some, & their answer is, that they, by authority of Parliament, pressed the covenant upon their people; & now, being persuaded that the present engagement clashes with it, they are bound to warn the people of their danger. If under this pretence of duty they amuse the people, & some speedy course be not taken to restrain them, in this county & Lancashite, the prejudice may be great, if opportunity offers for the people's appearing, according to the principles daily instilled into them from such heights". Whether Mr. Tilsley took the "Engagement" – or not, I cannot say; but if he did not, then he contrived to escape the consequence of refusing, much better than his neighbour Mr. John Harper, vicar of Bolton.

An Inquisition was taken at Manchester, on the 19th July, 1650, by the oaths of Thos. Whitehead of Bury, Gent; George Chetham of Turton, Gent; [Page95] Rich^d. Meadowcroft of Brightmet, Gent; Thos: Boardman of Bolton, Gent; Thurstan Parr of Rivington, Gent; Henry Hart of Blackrod, Gent; Henry Seddon of Heaton, Gent; Barnaby Markland of Westhoughton, Gent; Willm. Greenhalgh of Horwich, Gent; & eight others when it was found – "That within the parish of Deane there is a vicarage presentative, & that Mr. Anderton of Lostock was Impropretor of all the tithes of the said parish of Deane, who now stands sequestered as a delinquent, & that Mr. John Tildesley (a painful godly preaching minister), who is present Incumbent at Deane Church aforesaid, receiveth (by virtue of an ordinance of parliament) all the tithes of the said parish to the value of £154-3-8 per annum; wch sum is to be disbursed as follows:

	£	s	d
To the Receiver for the State	40	0	0
To Mr. Horrocks, Minister of Westhoughton Chapel	40	0	0
To the Minister of Horwich Chapel	20	0	0
" Mr Tildesley for his own Salary	60	0	0
" D ^o reserved of old to belong to the vicar of Deane	10	0	0

And the said Mr. Tildesley is to be accountable to the State for the reversion of the said sum of £154-3-8, (if there be any such reversion). And also the said Mr. Tildesley receiveth more 13s. 4d. per ann: from Mr. Willm: Leigh, of Westhoughton, by way of

prescription for tithes worth in kind 20s. That the Congregation of Deane consists of these hamlets, viz^t Rumworth, Middle Hulton, Over Hulton, Farnworth, part of Hallywell & part of Heaton: And we do likewise & present that there are two Chapels within the said parish of Deane; that is to say, Horwich & Westhaughton; & that the said chapel of Horwich is distant from the parish church 4 miles or thereabouts; wch chapel is supplied ordinarily every Sabbath by Mr. Henry Pendlebury, preacher, who is a painful godly preaching minister, who hath not for the present any maintenance or salary, but only the benevolence of the inhabitants of the said town, but is to receive £20 per ann: out of the tithes now received by Mr. John Tildesley, incumbent at Deane; & that there was a donation of £100 heretofore given by the well affected of that Chapelry, for the use of the same, wch is in the hands of Richard Holte of Ashworth, who hath detained the same, & the issues & profits thereof for the space of 5 or 6 years last past, or thereabouts; & that Mr. Ellis Brooke, Willm. Greenhalgh & John Greenhalgh (in whose names the bond for payment of the same & interest thereof from the said Mr. Holte was taken) are in suit at present for the same. And we think fit that the said Chapel should be made a parish in regard it is 4 miles distant from its parish church, & to have belonging unto it about a third part of Heaton, & all the hamlet of Lostock, together with Peter Roscoes & Willm. Holdens within Halliwell & Mr. Anderton's of Anderton, Roger Rothwells & Willm. Rothwells of the same, lying near thereunto to be affixed & joined unto the same. That the said Chapel of Westthoughton is distant from the parish church of Deane aforesaid 3 miles or thereabouts, [Page 96] which is supplied by Mr. Horrocks, a goodly orthodox divine, & hath for his maintenance a donation of one pound, thirteen shillings, & four pence per annum from one Rauffe Holden for two lives, & five pounds in stock, given by George Marshe, & for the further maintenance of the said Chapel thee hath been £40 per annum paid out of the Tithes or Rectory formerly belonging to Mr. Anderton, & now under sequestration. And we do present the hamell of Little Hulton fit to be laid to Ellinbrook Chapel in Eccles parish, in regard it lyes 3 miles from Deane & near adjoining unto Ellinbrook. And the hamell of Kersley we present fit to be annexed to Ringly Chapel in Prestwich parish, it lying near thereunto, & being about 6 miles from the parish church of Deane aforesaid".

This report was distinctly inimical to Mr. Tilsley's interests in many ways; as it not only proposed to deprive him of the patronage of Horwich & Westthoughton Chapels, but it also advocated the taking away from other parts of the parish of Deane a further large area of country, thus greatly reducing the vicar's influence, & his income from fees as well. Shortly before the holding of this Inquisition, another untoward event had occurred, wch must have caused Mr. Tilsley considerable uneasiness; this was the death of Christopher Anderton, of Lostock, Esq^{re}, for whose delinquency & recus-ancy, the Rectory of Deane had been sequestered by the Commonwealth authority. But now, that is to say, on the 11th Feby. 1649, Francis Anderton, son & heir of Christopher petitioned for the discharge of his late father's estate from such sequestration; & on the 26th June following the sequestration was ordered to be discharged, in case he is not convicted of recus-ancy. At a meeting of the Committee for Compounding held on the 18th July, 1649, Francis Anderton Esq^{re}, having taken the oath of abjuration before them, was ordered to be allowed his rents, including, those due on the 24th June, last. Mr. Tilsley's income of £40 per annum, derived from the sequestration of the Rectory of Deane was clearly now

untenable, & he was in great jeopardy of losing it altogether. The steps he took to avert this loss are shown in the following document: - “On the 24th April, 1655, John Tilsley, vicar of Deane, petitioned the Commissioners for Sequestrations for the co: of Lanc: showing, that by an ordinance of Parliament of the 10th Oct. 1645, the sum of £60 per ann: was settled upon him as vicar of the parish church of Deane, in the co: of Lancashire, & to the several chapels of Houghton & Horwich in the said parish to either of them £20 a year, & the said whole sum to be paid half-yearly out of the Rectory of Dean church by the officers appointed for receiving the profits of sequestration there. That on or about the 30th July, 1651, petitioners petitioned the predecessors of the then existing Commissioners, setting forth that Francis Anderton, son & heir of Christopher Anderton, from whom the said rectory had been sequestered, by orders of the 16th June, 1651, & 18th July, 1651, was to enjoy the said premises then come to him free from sequestration, & to receive all arrears due & payable out of the premises since the 24th June then last. Whereby petitioner was disabled from receiving all that was in arrear to him for the time then past, & the sum of £100 due to him for that year, & wch he was to have received altogether at harvest [Page 97] then coming out of the tithes, & therefore prayed their order for receiving the said arrears due to him since August 1649. That the said Commissioners thereupon ordered that all the arrears of the said £100 per annum due to petitioner, & due to petitioner by virtue of the aforesaid ordinance out of the said rectory, & wch he had incurred since the 24th Dec. 1649, should be paid to him, he first taking the Engagement appointed by Act of Parliament. The petitioner not being satisfied in his conscience concerning the said Engagement did not take the same, & thus lost the benefit of the said order. That subsequently the Engagement was dispensed with generally, & as petitioner had not refused to take it from any disaffection towards the Parliament, & had engaged two ministers, who supplied the chapels of Houghton & Horwich, paying them £20 a year each, he prayed that an order might issue directing the Lancashire Commissioners to pay him what arrears were owing according to the ordinance. On the 30th July following, an order was issued directing payment of the arrears of the £100 a year, from Dec. 24th, 1649, “he first taking the Engagement”, & as it is not likely that he ever did – “declare & promise to be true & faithful to the commonwealth of England as the same was then established, without King or House of Lords,” – so it is improbable that he ever received the arrears of his salary. On the 30th Sep. 1633, Francis Anderton, Esq^{re} petitioned the Committee for Compounding against the levying on him of the alleged arrears of fee-farm rents, wch had been regularly paid from the rectories of Eccles & Deane, sequestered for the recusancy & delinquency of his late father; & the Committee made the following very ambiguous order – “That no fee-farm rents be levied while the estate was sequestered”.

When Mr. Tilsley did recover his salary it was on a reduced scale of £30 a year. His Highness Oliver, Lord Protector of this Commonwealth of England, Scotland & Ireland, & the Right Honourable his Council, at a meeting held on the 9th August, 1655, for providing maintenance for preaching ministers, decided to continue the grant of £30 a year, to the minister of Deane Church in the co: of Lancaster. At another meeting of His Highness & Council, held on the 5th June 1656; it was ordered that the yearly sum of £30, be hereby granted to the minister of Deane church, in the co: of Lancaster; be paid unto Mr. John Tildesley minister of the said Church, out of the profits of the impropriate

rectory of Wharton in the county aforesaid, for such time as he shall discharge the duty of minister of the said place. And on the 23rd Dec. 1659, the Council of State ordered – “Whereas the vicarage of the parish church of Deane, in the co: of Lancaster, doth not exceed the yearly value of £10, in pursuance of an order of the Committee for Plundered Ministers in that behalf it is ordered that the yearly sum of £20, be added to the yearly sum of £30 already in pay to the minister of the said parish church, & granted to & for increase of the maintenance of such godly & pious preacher of the Gospel as shall be from time to time settled minister of the said parish church & duly approved of, as by the said committee is directed; & that the same be paid out of the rents & profits of the tithes of Rochdale in the said county to Mr. John Tildesley, present minister [Page 98] there, to hold from the 25th day of December last, for such time as he shall continue faithfully to discharge the duty of the Minister of the said place, or further order; & that Mr. Robert Stockdale, receiver, do pay the same unto him accordingly.”

Taking into consideration the great difference in the relative value of money, between the middle of the 17th century & the end of the 19th, vicar Tilsley enjoyed a larger Salary at Deane under the Commonwealth authorities, & while Bishops were suppressed, than any of his successors have done since, under the rule & administration of Kings & Bishops. In the year 1647-8, Mr. Tilsley had an assistant – “preacher” – at Deane, a Mr. Huxley, who then sought ordination at the hands of the 2nd Classis; & doubtless he had other assistants of the same class afterwards, for he appears to have undertaken a large amount of labor outside the cure of the parish. Thus in the year 1653, Mr. Humphrey Chetham died, (Mrs. Tilsley’s uncle), who by his will – “gave & bequeathed the sum of £200 to be bestowed by my Executors in Godly English Books, such as Calvins, Prestons, & Perkin’s works; comments & annotations of the Bible or some parts thereof; or such other books as the said Richard Johnson, John Tildesley, & Mr. Hollinworth, or any of them shall think most proper for the edification of the common people; to be by the discretion of my said Executors chained upon desks, or be fixed to the pillars, or in other convenient places in the Parish Churches of Manchester & Bolton-in-the-moors, & in the Chapels of Turton, Walmesley, & Gorton, in the said county of Lancaster, within one year next after my decease”. “Of the three persons chosen (writes Chancellor Christie), to select the books, Johnson, as preacher at the Temple, would spend most of his time in London, & his share in the matter seems to have been that of buying the books, & Hollinworth & Tilsley divided between them the work of selecting the books for the several libraries, Hollinworth selecting those for Manchester & Gorton, & Tilsley those for Bolton, Turton & Walmesley. The division of the £200, giving £50 to Bolton, £30 to Turton, & £20 to Walmesley, did not give satisfaction to Tilsley, & the people of Bolton, as appears from the following letter, wch also shows the narrow & bigoted spirit displayed by Mr. Tilsley in his selection of books. The letter is addressed – “ffor ye Reverend my much honord Br. Mr. Hollinworth Minister of ye Gospell at Manchester, These at his house in ye Milngate, Manchester”. “Reverend Sir – Yrs of March ult. I received Wherein you call for a Catalogue of Books for Bolton, Turton, Walmsley. Truly Sir if the proportion must stand after 50^{li} [Libre = pounds] only to ye parish Church & 50^{li} to ye two Chapels, I have little stomach to meddle at all in the business: 80^{li} would lay a foundation for a pettie (stock) at Bolton: And if I dye without sonne I should be willing to add to it at my decease wth many other such like occasions w^{ch} might come to amount to somewhat. I spoke to Mr.

Norris & Mr. Okey on the matter, who said that they were meerely passive in the case, & are very sollicitous for an alteration; they say moreover that they never heard of lesse than 60^{li} for Bolton, & that the executors, not feoffees were to dispose, & that they seemed inclinable to have more at Bolton, & were not tentations for ye Chapels. We desire to have the benefit of the [Page 99] yearely meeting on Easter Monday ere the books be bought or the proportion fixed p'emptorily, to see if it may be altered to our mind. I have sent a catalogue inclosed of bookes enough for twice soe much moneys as is to be bestowed. Mr. Johnson may take such as hee thinks meete: I spoke with some chiefe of Bolton, whoe desire to have no erroneous Authors or that I have any tincture thereof, though mixed w^h never so much other good matter for feare of infection: Particular ly by all means they would not have one Independent writer in all the number, by any means how excellent soever for feare of any of there falling in love with the way for the man's sake. This makes I have purposely omitted many excellent authors, e.g. Tho. Goodwine, Mr. Burroughs, Greenhill, Caryl, Bridge,, Shepheard. As alsoe upon the other accompt Dr. Jerem: Taylor, Hammond, Chillingworth, Baxter. Noe more till I see you, but my & my wifes respects & soe w^h many thanks for your last paynes I comend you in your present condition w^h yours to our rich great good God & Rest.
Deane Ch: Apr. 5, 1655
Yor meanest & unworthiest – Br. Jo: Tilsley

This letter supplies a fair illustration of the narrow & intolerant spirit wch ruled Mr. Tilsley's actions, & it is in keeping with his usual conduct in the discharge of his public duties. The people of Bolton were not to be allowed to read Dr. Jeremy Taylor's works, nor Rich^d Baxter's – "Saints' Ever Lasting Rest" – because the writers were not Presbyterians; neither might they read – "one Independent writer by any means, "how excellent soever" – for fear of any of them falling in love with the way for the man's sake". It was fortunate indeed, fore the beneficiaries of Humphrey Chetham at Bolton, that the other two members of this trust were men of more just & liberal minds than Mr. Tilsley, or they would have been denied the privilege of reading some of – "the most Godly English Books" – ever written.

From the year 1657 Mr. Tilsley attended the meetings of the feoffees of Chetham's Hospital & Library, assisted in the formation of the latter, & the administration of the former excellent charity. At a meeting of the leading ministers of the Presbyterian & Independent bodies held at Manchester, on the 13th July. 1659, certain – "Propositions foe accommodation" – were agreed upon & signed; John Tilsley being one of the signatories. The Rev. Henry Newcome records the substance of Mr. Tilsley's address at that meeting thus: - "I remember Mr. T. said that Episcopal principals he could rather accommodate with than the congregational, & with their persons & practices for life rather than the other. But this accommodation was set on foot by them; & what we now agreed upon was referred to a further meeting. Thoroughly sick & tired of republican & revolutionary government, all sober Englishmen were now beginning to draw together in the desire for a restoration of the monarchy; & from the time when the Convention Parliament met in April, 1659, the Presbyterians & Episcopalians appear to have joined their forces with a honest intention of restoring the King to his throne; & when the movement was ripened for carrying into effect, John Tilsley signed the address to his Majesty from the Lancashire Ministers, congratulating him upon his [Page 100] happy

return. But the King's restoration did not turn out so favourable to men of Mr. Tilsley's position & character as they expected; for when the Act of Uniformity came into force on Saint Bartholomew's Day, (24 August), 1662, somewhere about seven thousand Ministers subscribed to its conditions, & about two thousand refused, Mr. Tilsley being one of the latter number. Henceforth, though he had no longer any claim upon the vicarage of Deane, yet he continued to reside in the house belonging to the Glebe estate, wch had been legally vested by the parliamentary sequestrators in the hands of trustees for the use of Mr. Tilsley himself. The year 1663 was unfortunate for Mr. Tilsley; his wife died on the 28th April; her burial being thus recorded in the Register at Deane – "Margaret Tilsley, the wife of John Tilsley, Clarke, of Deane in Rumworth, buried the 29th April, 1663." We hear little more of Tilsley's doings for several years: According to Calamy – "tho' he forebore preaching, he continued in the house adjoining to his church, wch being in the hands of trustees, was still allowed him. When the excellent Dr. Wilkins became Bishop of the diocese, (i.e. in 1668), he allowed him to preach in his church again as lecturer, when the new vicar (Angier), read the prayers." Unfortunately for Mr. Tilsley, Dr. Wilkins died on the 19th Nov. 1672; & soon afterwards he left Deane, & went to live with his daughter Mrs. Partington, at Strangeways, in Manchester. He was much in request for funeral sermons; & the local Incumbents allowed him to use their churches. On 4 May, 1674, he preached at Eccles, at the funeral of the Rev. Edmund Jones, the text being 2 Tim: iv, 7,8. Again he preached at Deane, 16 Dec., 1674, at the funeral of Thomas Topping, whose house was licensed in 1672 for a Presbyterian meeting-place. On 2 March, 1676-7, he preached at Bolton at the funeral of Richard Heywood, Oliver Heywood's father. On Thursday, 20 June, 1677, Mr. Tilsley, Mr. Newcome, Mr. Eaton, Mr. Finch, Mr. Scoles, Mr. Richardson, & Mr. O. Heywood kept a fast at Hulme Hall with Aunt Mosley. In 1679 & 1682, the Rev. O. Heywood records visits to Mr. Tilsley at Manchester. Adam Martindale calls him – "my cousin Tilsley of Manchester; & in 1683, Tilsley was persuading Martindale to write a pamphlet against Mr. Smith, the Lecturer of Bolton, author of "The Patriarchall Sabbath", in wch Martindale detected many things of – "bad consequences". The Rev. Henry Newcome in his Diary under the date of Friday, 12 Dec: (1684) – writes – "At night my dear friend, Rev. Mr. Tilsley, died. Went with him to his grave at Dean, Dec. 16th. I after (as he desired) preached to his children upon Hebrews xiiij. 7,8": The entry of his burial in the Register describes him as – "Johannes Tilsley de Manchester et oline de Deane Presbyter".

Mr Tilsley's will reads as follows: - In the name of God Amen. The 25th day of November in ye year of our Lord God 1684, I, John Tilsley of Manchester, in the co: of Lanc: Clerk, being sick in body but of perfect memory thanks be to God for the same, & calling to mind ye uncertain Estate of this transitory life, I do make, ordain, constitute & declare this my last Will & testament in the manner & forme following (that is to say), first & principally I Commend my Soul to Almighty God my Creator, assuredly believing **[Page 101]** that I shall receive full pardon & remission of all my sins by ye precious death & merits of my blessed Saviour & redeemer Jesus Christ; & my body to ye Earth from whence it came, to be buried in such decent & Christian manner as to my Executors hereafter named shall be thought meet & convenient. And as for & concerning such worldly estate as God of his Infinite Goodness hath bestowed on me, I do order & dispose thereof in manner & forme following. First, it is my will & mind that whereas I

am concerned with my Brother-in-law John Cunliff touching ye maintenance of my Brother-in-law George Chetham (Mrs. Tilsley's brother, a man "erary, hippish, & much dejected", commonly called "mad Chetham"), that as well what shall be due to him for my proportion thereof with what else shall be due to him by me upon account as all other debts wch of right or Conscience I shall happen to owe to any person or persons whatsoever at ye time of my decease, together with my funeral Expenses & Charges, shall be first paid, disbursed out of my whole Estate as well Real as personall by my Executors hereafter named. All my Lands, Tenements, Rents, Reversions & Hereditaments whatsoever, within ye Kingdom of England or Elsewhere, I doe hereby give devise & bequeath to my Executors here after herein named, to be by them sold & converted into moneys to the best Advantage & as soon as Conveniently may be, upon this trust that they shall dispose of ye money to be raised by such Sale, & also my personal Estate to such uses behoofs intents & purposes, & upon such provisos & conditions as are hereafter herein in that behalf mentioned & expressed (that is to say), The Sum of £50 to my daughter Partington in consideration of ye time I lived with her, Item, the sum of £100 to be kept in the hands of my Executors hereafter named, the benefit & improvement thereof to be for the use of my said daughter during her life in consideration of filling up what Accrington Miln fell short of £400. But this only Conditionally & in trust that she secure £300 of ye £310 that she received for Accrington Milne for the use & benefit of John Partington her son or his issue if he hath any after her decease, & this I desire my Executors may see performed by Said Daughter according to or in lieu of a certain Covenant of hers made to me under hand & seal wch may be found amongst ye papers in my Desk. Further my will & mind is that the Sume of £600 be placed & put in the hands of my Executors hereafter herin named, & for the uses, behoofs, intents & purposes, & indent upon the trusts & Limitations hereafter Specyfied, declared & appointed (to wit), the Sume of £200 w^h ye benefits & Improvement thereof to ye use of John Hooper & Mary Hooper son & daughter of Joseph Hooper my son-in-law, & to the issues of their Several bodies & for want of such Issue to ye Survivor of them & his or her Exors. & Adm^{rs}. Item. The Sume of £200, part of ye aforesaid £600, with ye benefit & Improvement thereof, to ye use & behoofe of John Ogden & Mary Ogden, son & daughter of Edmund Ogden my son-in-Lawe, & ye Issues of their several bodys, & for want of such Issue to ye Survivor of them & his or her Exors. & adm^{rs}. Item. I do hereby give devise & bequeath to Richard Percivall my **[Page 102]** son-in-law, his Exors. & Adm^{rs}: the sume of £300. Item I do give to Robert Worthington of Wormley in Hartford Shire, my nephew, the Sume of £10. Item to my Sister Ruth Hindley, the sume of £5, & to John & James Hindley ye Sonns, & to Ann & Elizabeth ye daughters of my Said Sister Ruth, to each of them ye Sum of £5. Item to my sister in law Elizabeth Croston (sister to Mrs. Tilsley) 20s. to buy her a ring withal & to Elizabeth Croston my neice £5. Item to Mr. Henry Newcome Senior ye sum of £5, to Mr. Henry Finch the Sume of £3, & to Mr. Jeremiah Schoals the sume of £3, & to Robert Eaton Clerk the Sume of 20s. to buy him a Ring withal. Item to Katherine the wife of John Pike 10s. To Ann Dagle 10s. to Mrs. Elizabeth Bowker 10s. To Ellin Robinson widow the Sume of 20s. to buy her a ring withal. To Mary the wife of George Holt 40s. To Hannah Aspinwall widow 20s. To Mr. Adam Martingdale, Mr. Aspinwall late of Cronisall, Mr. Malison of Melling, Mr. Rich^d Bradshaw of Rainford, William White, Richard Harrison of Heaton, Marjery Morris of Rumworth, & unto Sarah Wilkinson widdow each of them 20s. apiece. Item to Elizabeth

Guest 40s. & to Mary Lees £3 Item I do hereby give to ye poor of Manchester £10, & to the poor of Salford five marks to be distributed at ye discretion of my Executors hereafter herein mentioned, &my will is that there be no doal at my funeral. Item to ye poor of Deane parish ye Sume of £20, to be distributed at ye discretion of my Executors hereafter herin named, especiall respect being had to the poor of Westhoughton & Rumworth, &further my will & mind is that ye overplus & remainder of Such my reall & personal Estate (I fancy (if any) such there be) be equally divided amongst so many of my grandchildren as shall be living at my decease. Further I doe hereby make, ordain, constitute & appoint Richard Percival my said son-in-Law, & my said daughter Mary Partington, Executors of this my last will & Testament. And Lastly I doe hereby revoke & annull all former Wills & Testaments by me heretofore made, & doe hereby make, publish, & decree this my las Will & Testament. In witness where of I habve hereunto set my hand & Seale the day & year first above written. Joh: Tilsley
Sealed, signed, &published & declared in ye presence & sight of us Jn. Wilcoxon,
Thomas Wilcoxon, John Rydings. Proved at Chester, 13 June. 1685.

Pages 103 to 108 are missing from the copy held by Deane Church and 103 to 109 from the original held at Chetham's Library.