

Cambridge University Press
 978-1-108-06791-1 - The Journey from Chester to London
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 Excerpt
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THE
 J O U R N E Y
 TO
 L O N D O N.

IN MARCH 1780, I began my annual journey to *London*. At *Chester* some improvements had taken place since my last account of the city. A very commodious building has been erected in the *Yatchfield*, near the *Watergate* street, for the sale of the *Irish* linen at the two fairs. It surrounds a large square area; on each side of which are piazzas, with numbers of shops well adapted for the purpose.

IN digging the foundation for certain houses near the street, were discovered some *Roman* buildings, and a large *Hypocaust* with its several conveniences; and some other antiquities, particularly a beautiful altar, dedicated *Fortunæ Reduci et Esculapio*. Much of its inscription is defaced; but the rudder, cornucopia, rod, serpent, and various sacrificial instruments, are in good preservation.

Engraven in *Moses Griffith's* Supplemental Plates to the *Tours in Wales*, tab. X

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BOUGHTON. CHRISTLETON.

ON leaving the city, I passed under the fine arch of the East Gate : a work owing to the munificence of Lord *Grosvenor*.

BOUGHTON. *Boughton*, a suburb in the parish of *St. Oswald*, a little disjoined from this part of the city, had before the dissolution an hospital * for poor lepers, as early as the beginning of *Edward II*. From an eminence, the retreat of the unfortunate brave, is a view of very uncommon beauty ; of two fine reaches of the *Dee*, bounded on one part by meadows and hanging woods ; on the other terminated by part of the city, the ancient bridge, and over it a distant view of the *Cambrian hills*.

ADJOINING to that part of *Boughton* which is within the liberties of the city, is the township of *Boughton*, in the county of *Chester* ; the inhabitants of which appear at the court of the dean and chapter of *Chester*, and pay there a chief rent : but usually claim and dispose of the wastes.

NEAR the two miles stone I crossed the canal to *Christleton*, a pretty village, seated, as usual with those of *Cheeshire*, on the freestone rock. *Cristetone*, as it is called in the *Doomsday* book, was held before the Conquest by Earl *Edwin*. At that event, probably, it had a chapel, or very soon after. This manor had been bestowed by *Hugh Lupus* on *Robert Fitz Hugh*, one of his followers, who gave the chapel of *Cristentune*, with the land belonging to it, and the land of a certain peasant, with the peasant himself, to the abbey of *Chester* †. His great great grand daughter *Isabel*, wife of Sir *Philip Burnet*, joined with her husband in suing the abbey for this, and some other contiguous manors. It is probable, that the monks might have taken an advantage of a fit of

* *Tanner*, 65.† *Dugdale Mon.* i. 201.

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remorse for some crime, or the weakness of an illness, to obtain this gift from her ancestor. They thought fit to compromise the matter with her; and on payment of two hundred pounds received, in 1280, the ninth of *Edward I.* a confirmation of the grant: and at the same time full liberty was given to the abbot to make a reservoir of water, and to convey it to the abbey.

IN the year 1282, *William de Birmingham* had *free warren* given him of all his demesne lands in this village; but it is apprehended he was only an inferior lord to the paramount privileges of the abbey. In the *Saxon* times, every man was allowed to kill game on his own estate, but on the Conquest, the king vested the property of all the game in himself, so that no one could sport, even on his own land, under most cruel penalties, without permission from the king, by grant of a chase or *free warren*. By this, the grantee had an exclusive power of killing game on his own estate, but it was on condition that he prevented every one else; so that, as our learned commentator* observes, this seeming favor was intended for the preservation of the beasts and fowls of *warren*; which were roes, hares, and rabbits, partridge, rails, and quails, woodcocks and pheasants, mallards and herons, for the sport of our savage monarchs. This liberty, which they allowed to a few individuals, being designed merely to prevent a general destruction.

FREE WARREN.

Christleton passed from the *Birminghams*, in *Richard II.*'s time, to *Sir Hugh Brower*: *Sir Hugh* lost it by his attachment to the house of *York*; and *Henry* the IVth, in the fourth year of his reign, bestowed it on *John Manwaring*, of *Over Peover*, an attendant on his

* Judge BLACKSTONE.

CHRISTLETON. TARVIN.

son, afterwards *Henry V**. *Manwaring* having no lawful issue, bestowed this place on Sir *Thomas le Grosvenor*, lord of *Hulme*; but it passed immediately from him to *John de Macclesfield*, in the 10th of *Henry V*. One of his descendants alienated it, in 1442, or the 21st of *Henry VI*. to *Humphrey* (afterward Duke) of *Buckingham*. *Henry Lord Stafford*, son to *Edward Duke of Buckingham*, sold it to Sir *William Sneyde*, of *Keel*; and Sir *Ralph Sneyde*, to Sir *John Harpur*, of *Swerston*, in *Derbyshire*; one of whose descendants sold it to *Thomas Brock*, Esquire, the present lord of the manor. The living is a rectory, in the disposal of Sir *Roger Mostyn*: the church dedicated to St. *James*.

FROM hence I took the horse-road across *Brownbeath*, by *Hockenball*, formerly the seat of a family of the same name. The rising country to the left of this road appears to great advantage, opposing to the traveller a fair front, beautifully clumped with self-planted groves.

PASSED over a brook, and reached the small town of *Tarvin*, which still retains nearly its *British* name *Terfyn*, or the *Boundary*, and is so to the forest of *Delamere*. In *Doomsday book*, it is stiled *Terve*: the bishop at that time held it. It then contained six taxable hides of land. The bishop kept on it six cowmen, three radmen, seven villeyms, seven boors, and six ploughlands. The first were to keep his cattle; the second to attend his person in his travels, or to go wheresoever he pleased to send them; the third, by their tenure, to cultivate his lands; and the fourth, to supply his table with poultry, eggs, and other small matters. The *ploughland*, or *caruca*, was as much as one plough could

* *Leicester*, 333.

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work in the year. This shews the establishment of a manor in those early times; which I mention now to prevent repetition.

IN *Henry VI.*'s time, the village and manor were estimated at £. 23 a year, and were held by *Reginald*, bishop of *Lichfield*, in the same manner as they were held by his predecessors, under the *Prince of Wales*, as earl of *Chester*. They continued possessed by them till the reign of *Queen Elizabeth*, when they were alienated to *Sir John Savage*, who procured for the town the privilege of a market. The church is a rectory, and still continues part of the see of *Lichfield*; being a prebendary, originally founded about the year 1226, by *Alexander de Stavenby*, bishop of that diocese. It is valued at £. 26. 13s. 4d. the highest endowment of any prebend in that cathedral. It is called the prebend of *Tarvin*, which presents to the living.

THE same prelate also bestowed this church on the vice-prebendal church of *Burton*, in *Wiral**; and formed out of its revenues an hospital for shipwrecked persons. This hospital was probably at *Burton*, *Tarvin* being too remote from the sea for so humane a design.

AGAINST the church-wall is a monument, in memory of *Mr. John Thomafine*, thirty-six years master of the grammar-school. The epitaph deservedly celebrates the performances of this exquisite penman, as "highly excelling in all the varieties of writing, and wonderfully so in the *Greek* characters. Specimens of his ingenuity are treasured up, not only in the cabinets of the curious, but in public libraries throughout the kingdom. He had the honour to transcribe, for her Majesty *Queen Anne*,

* *Anglia Sacra*, i. 446.

" the

“ the *Icon Basilike* of her royal grandfather. Invaluable copies
 “ also of *Pindar*, *Anacreon*, *Theocritus*, *Epietetus*, *Hippocrates’s*
 “ *Aphorisms*, and that finished piece the *Shield of Achilles*, as de-
 “ scribed by *Homer*, are among the productions of his celebrated
 “ pen.

“ As his incomparable performances acquired him the esteem
 “ and patronage of the great and learned ; so his affability and
 “ humanity gained him the good-will of all his acquaintance ;
 “ and the decease of so much private worth is regretted as a pub-
 “ lic loss.”

FROM *Tarvin* I travel on the great road, and at about two miles
 distance, leave on the right *Stapleford*, which retains the name
 it had at the Conquest, when it was held by *Radulpus Venator*
 from *Hugh Lupus*. After a long interval, it fell to the *Breretons*.
 In 1378, or the second of *Richard II.* it was held by Sir *William*
Brereton of the king, as earl of *Chester*. From that family it
 passed to the *Bruyns*, and was purchased by the late *Randle Wil-*
brabam, Esquire.

Two miles farther, on the left, stood *Utkinton Hall* : the ma-
 nor, with *Kingsley*, and the baileywick of the forest of *Delamere*,
 was given by *Randle Meschines*, earl of *Chester*, to *Randle de*
Kingsley ; whose great grand-daughter *Joan*, about the year 1233,
 conveyed it to the *Dones*. *Richard Done* was possessed of it in
 1311, the sixth of *Edward II.* He held it by a quarter part of a
 knight’s fee, and the master forestership of *Mere (Delamere)* and
Mottram, by himself, and a horseman and eight footmen under
 him, to keep that forest, then valued at £.10. 10s. 3d.

UPON the failure of issue male of Sir *John Done*, in the begin-
 ning of the last century, the manor of *Utkinton* came to his
 5 daughters,

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daughters, and has been since held by them, or persons claiming under them. *Mary*, the second daughter, married, in 1636, *John*, second son of Sir *Randle Crew*, of *Crew*; and *Elinor*, the younger, to *Ralph Arderne*, Esquire.

THE *Dones* of *Flaxyard*, in this neighbourhood, were another considerable family, at constant feud with the former, till the houses were united by the nuptials of the heir of *Flaxyard* with the heiress of *Utkinton*. But at this time, both those ancient seats are demolished, or turned into farm-houses.

FROM hence I soon reached *Torporley*, a small town, seated on a gentle descent. It had once been a borough town, of which *Richard Francis* was mayor in the twentieth of *Edward I*. In the tenth of the same reign, *Hugh de Tarpoley* had licence to hold a market here every *Tuesday*, and a fair on the vigil, the feast-day, and the day after the exaltation of the *Holy Cross*; but he alienated this privilege, with his property, to *Reginald de Grey*, chief justice of *Chester*.

IN the eighth of *Richard II*. this manor was divided into two moieties; one of which was held by *John Done*, the other by *Reginald Grey*, of the family of Lord *Grey*, of *Rutbin*.

THE manor and rectory of *Torporley* are now divided into six shares: four belong to the *Arderns*; one to the dean and chapter of *Chester*; and another to *Philip Egerton*, Esquire, of *Oulton*.

THE living is a rectory in the gift of *John Ardern*, Esquire. The church is dedicated to St. *Helen*, the Empress of *Constantius*, the daughter of *Coel*, a *British* prince, a popular saint among us, if we may judge from the number of churches under her protection. That in question is of no great antiquity, in respect to the building;

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building; nor yet of beauty. Within is much waste of good marble, in monumental vanity.

THE best, are two monuments in the chancel, seemingly copied from half-length portraits, included in carved borders of marble, in imitation of frames. The figures are included in them in *mezzo-relievo*: the one of Sir *John Done*, Knight, hereditary forester and keeper of the forest of *Delamere*, who died in 1629. His figure is picturesque, in a laced jacket, and a horn in his hand, the badge of his office: which horn descended to the different owners of the estate, and is now in the possession of *John Ardern*, Esquire.

WHEN that *Nimrod*, *James I.* made a progress in 1617, he was entertained by this gentleman at *Utkinton*; “who ordered so “*wisely and contentfully*,” says *King* *, “his Highness’s sports, “that *James* conferred on him the honor of knighthood.” He married *Dorothy*, daughter of *Thomas Wilbraham*, Esquire, of *Woodbey*; who left behind her so admirable character, that, to this day, when a *Cheshire* man would express some excellency in one of the fair sex, he would say, “*There is Lady Done for you.*”

The other is of *John Crew*, Esquire, second son of Sir *Randle Crew*, of *Crew*, Knight, married to *Mary*, daughter of Sir *John Done*. His face is represented in profile, with long hair. He died 1670.

His lady, and her elder sister *Jane Done*, an ancient virgin, lie at full length in the *Utkinton* chapel, with long and excellent characters. One lies recumbent; the other reclined and strait laced,

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which give little grace in statuary. *Jane* died in 1662; Mrs. *Crew* in 1690, aged 86.

SIR *John Crew*, Knight, son of Mr. *John Crew*, lies reclined on an altar-tomb, with a vast perriwig, and a *Roman* dress, with a whimpering genius at head and feet. Sir *John* married, first, *Mary*, daughter of *Thomas Wagstaff*, of *Tachbrook*, in *Warwickshire*, Esquire; and for his second, *Mary*, daughter of Sir *Willughby Aston*, of *Aston*, Baronet. He died in 1711, aged 71.

I MUST not quit this place without letting fall a few tears, as a tribute to the memory of its honest rector *John Allen*; whose antiquarian knowlege and hospitality, I have often experienced on this great thoroughfare to the capital. From the antient rectorial house, at the bottom of the town, is an awful view of the great rock of *Beefton*, backed by the *Peckfretton* hills, tempting me to take a nearer survey.

THE distance is about two miles. In my way I crossed the canal at *Beefton Bridge*, and called at the poor remains of *Beefton Hall*, the manor-house, inhabited by the agent for the estate. This place was burnt by prince *Rupert*, during the civil wars. There is a tradition, that he had dined that day with the lady of the house. After dinner, he told her, that he was sorry that he was obliged to make so bad return to her hospitality; advised her to secure any valuable effects she had, for he must order the house to be burnt that night, lest it should be garrisoned by the enemy.

THIS manor had been part of the barony of *Malpas*, and was held under the lords, by the family of *De Bunbury*; who changed their *Norman* name, *St. Pierre*, and assumed that of the place where they first settled.

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IN

B E E S T O N H A L L,

IN 1271, or the fifty-sixth of *Henry III.* *Henry de Bunbury*, and *Margery* his wife, gave it to their nephew *Richard*, who made the place his residence, and assumed its name. It continued in his family for many generations. *Sir George Beeston* possessed it in the forty-fourth of *Queen Elizabeth*. At length, by the marriage of *Margaret*, daughter of *Sir Hugh Beeston*, with *William Whitmore*, of *Leighton*, it was conveyed into that house; and as suddenly transferred, by *Bridget*, heiress of *Mr. Whitmore*, to *Darcie Savage*, second son to *Thomas Viscount Savage*, of *Rack Savage*; whose grand-daughter, another *Bridget*; brought it by marriage to *Sir Thomas Mostyn*, Baronet, with the lordships of *Peckfretton*, *Leighton*, and *Thornton*; in whose house they still remain. This lady was a *Roman Catholic*. Tradition is warm in her praise, and full of her domestic virtues, and the particular attention that she shewed in obliging her domestics, of each religion, to attend their respective churches. Her husband and she were lovely and pleasant in their lives, and in their death they were not divided: they died within a day or two of each other, at *Gloddaeth*, in *Caernarvonshire*, and were interred in the neighboring church of *Eglwys Rhôs*.

At a small distance from the hall, is the great insulated rock of *Beeston*, composed of sand-stone, very lofty and precipitous at one end, and sloped down into the flat country at the other. Its height, from *Beeston Bridge* to the summit, is three hundred and sixty-six feet. From the summit is a most extensive view on every part, except where interrupted by the *Peckfretton* hills. The land appears deeply indented by the estuary of the *Dee* and *Mersey*, and the canal from *Chester* appears a continued slender line of water from that city to almost the base of this eminence. To this place