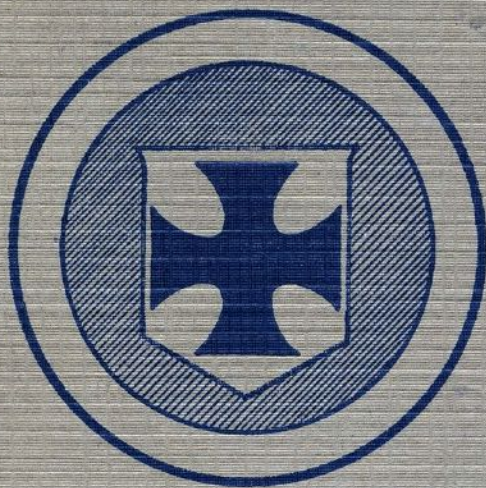


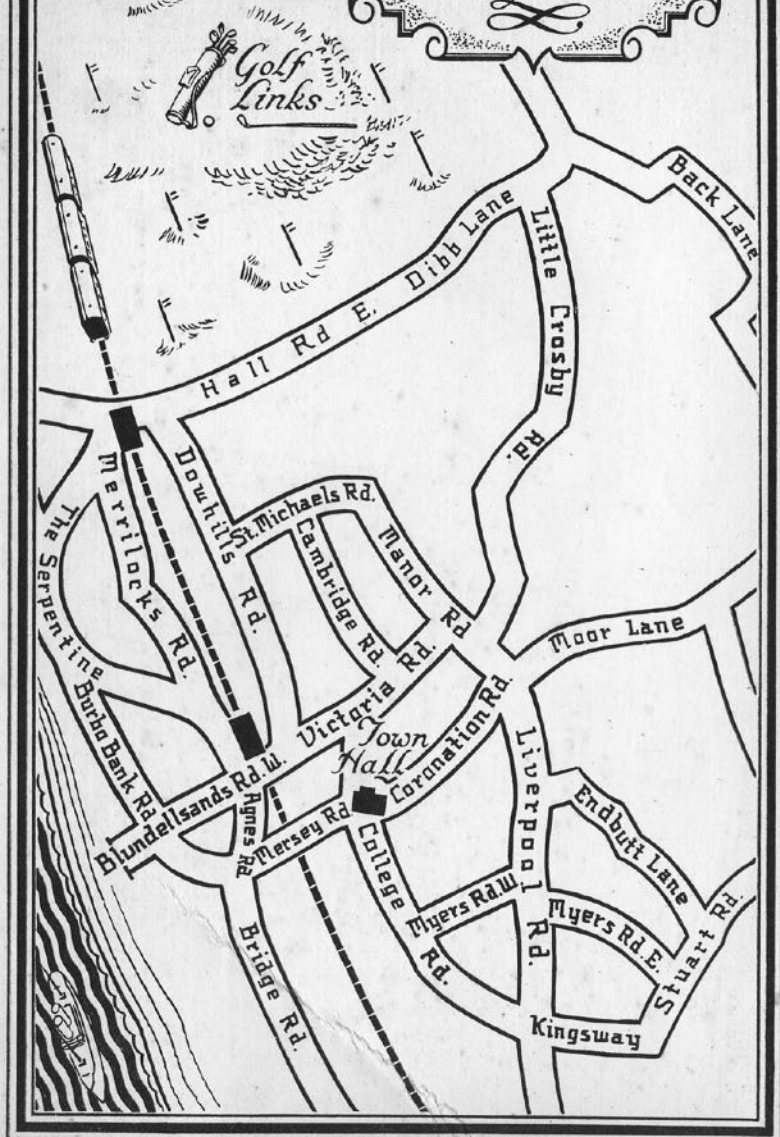
THE STORY OF CROSBY

WATERLOO-WITH-SEAFORTH
LITHERLAND AND SEFTON

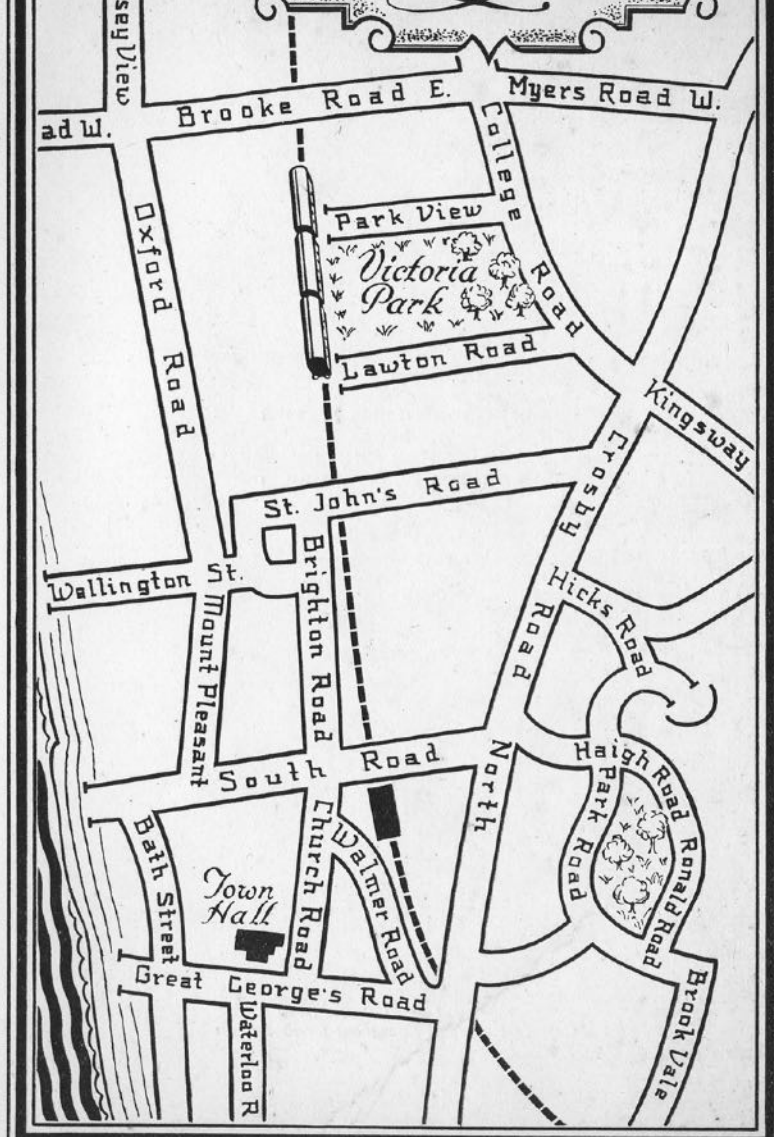


CHARLES L. LAMB

GREAT GROSBY



WATERLOO



THE
STORY OF CROSBY

WATERLOO-WITH-SEAFORTH,
LITHERLAND AND SEFTON.

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CHARLES L. LAMB

HON. TREASURER, HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION,
LIVERPOOL AND DISTRICT BRANCH: AUTHOR OF
"THE STORY OF LIVERPOOL."

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C. L. LAMB
ASHDALE ROAD, WATERLOO
LIVERPOOL 22

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1936

CONTENTS.

Chapter	Page
I. THE ORIGIN OF THE SITE	11
II. THE FIRST INHABITANTS	13
III. THE EARLY HISTORY OF CROSBY	25
IV. A LITTLE ABOUT SEFTON	43
V. THE "MERCHANT TAYLOR" AND HIS SCHOOL	52
VI. A BRIEF ACCOUNT OF LITHERLAND	61
VII. THE EARLY HISTORY OF SEAFORTH	70
VIII. THE EARLY HISTORY OF WATERLOO	79
IX. WATERLOO-WITH-SEAFORTH U.D.C.	89
X. RECENT YEARS	94
PLACES OF INTEREST	100
DATE CHART	101
"WATERLOO" (from "The Waterloo Cracker")	106
INDEX	108

LIST OF ILLUSTRATIONS.

	Page
MAP OF CROSBY	2
MAP OF WATERLOO	3
THE BOULDER STONE, CROSBY	10
THE CROSBY MILL, MOOR LANE	32
OLD COTTAGE, CROSBY	39
SEFTON CHURCH	45
THE STOCKS, THORNTON	47
MERCHANT TAYLORS' SCHOOL	55
WAR MEMORIAL, WATERLOO	83
WATERLOO LIBRARY	91
M.V. "GEORGIC"	97
MAP OF SEAFORTH	112
MAP OF LITHERLAND	113

LIST OF AUTHORITIES CONSULTED.

1. The Crosby Boulder Stone : *T. Mellard Reade.*
2. The Victoria County History of Lancashire.
3. Geology of the Country around Liverpool : *G. H. Morton.*
4. The Battle between Land and Sea : *Ashton.*
5. Roman Britain : *Collingwood.*
6. Place-Names of Lancashire : *Ekwall.*
7. Place-Names of the Liverpool Area : *Henry Harrison.*
8. The Norman Manor : *Miss L. C. Lathom.*
9. The Past at Our Doors : *W. W. Skeat.*
10. The Blundell Diary : *Nicholas Blundell.*
11. In a North Country Village :
Mrs. "M. E. Francis" (Mrs. Blundell).
12. Old Catholic Lancashire : *Dom. F. O. Blundell, O.S.B.*
13. Crosses and Holy Wells of Lancashire.
14. History of Lancashire : *Baines.*
15. History of Liverpool : *Ramsay Muir.*
16. The Story of Liverpool : *Lamb and Smallpage.*
17. John Harrison and His School :
Merchant Taylors' School for Girls.
18. Address to Local Government Officials :
George Wilkinson, Esq., Clerk to the Council, Waterloo-with-Seaforth.
19. Prize Essay : *Harold Newcombe, Esq., Waterloo.*
20. Lecture on Seaforth : *Miss Quant (Mrs. Hemmons).*
21. My Life and Work : *E. K. Muspratt, LL.D., F.C.S., J.P.*
22. Life of Gladstone : *Morley.*
23. "History" : *the organ of the Historical Association.*
24. Notes : *by the late J. C. Parker, Esq., sometime Headmaster of St. Thomas's Schools, Seaforth.*
25. Life of Wellington : *Greig.*
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FOREWORD

In May, 1935, I published "The Story of Liverpool." In June, Miss Kate Fearnside suggested to me that I should write the story of Waterloo; the Headmaster of one of the schools made the same suggestion at the same time; and this book is the outcome of that suggestion. But I found that Waterloo was linked with Seaforth, and then that both were part of ancient Crosby and Litherland, and I therefore had to consider the histories of those two districts. They in their turn proved to have formerly been parts of the very ancient parish of Sefton. So, in the end, it became necessary to link together the histories of all these areas in order to obtain a clear idea of the whole story. Even little (but interesting) Lunt—and Thornton, Ford and Orrell—as, on consideration, one might perhaps expect—also came into the picture during the course of the narrative.

I had two objects in view during the writing of the book—one, the educational value of such a volume to the school children of the area (including Crosby, Waterloo, Seaforth, Litherland, Thornton, Sefton, Lunt and Netherton) in the presentation of the story of their birthplace; and secondly, its interest to the fathers and mothers of those children, who are the adult citizens and who comprise the general public of the area. For the story of Crosby and its neighbourhood contains all the essential elements of a historical training—including prehistoric, ancient, medieval and modern history—in its possession of the great boulder stone, the "submarine forest" remains, the old-time villages, the ancient Sefton Church and its memorials of Crusaders, the formation of the Urban District Councils, and the more recent expansion of the area into a large, busy and flourishing borough—in short, all the features necessary for the civic instruction of the rising generation.

But the text has not been made childish in its wording, for we have all been boys and girls ourselves, and we know that children do not like narratives which have been "written down" to them, no matter how useful or interesting the subjects

might be. It has been necessary, also, to consider all tastes—those of adults, as well as those of children. Lighter matter has therefore been introduced here and there, in order to avoid making the story too detailed, dull and dry. For the sake of the school children, too, the local story has been connected with our national history throughout. Thus it illustrates the settlement of this area (and of this island of Great Britain) by successive waves of immigrants or invaders—Iberian, ancient British, English, Norse and Norman—the changes in manners and customs down the ages, the political and religious disputes of Stuart days, the expansion of ideas during the manufacturing period of the nineteenth, and the transformation of urban districts into towns during the twentieth century.

But, as this is the first attempt that has been made at the production of a complete short history of the area, and as it has been compiled from the evidence of many different witnesses and sources, it may unavoidably contain some errors of fact. I shall be glad, therefore, to hear from anyone who is interested in the subject, and who cares to discuss points of fact, to supply additional material, or to correct errors of detail. There must be many old residents of the various parts of the borough who know of facts, more or less important, which have not yet been brought to the light of publication, and which might well be placed on record before they are forgotten and lost.

I must place on record my great indebtedness to Miss Kate Fearnside, Chief Librarian of the Waterloo-with-Seaforth libraries, who placed at my disposal all the resources of the Carnegie Library in order to assist in the compilation of this volume. Mr. George Wilkinson, Clerk to the Urban District of Waterloo-with-Seaforth, also showed the most kindly interest in its production, and allowed me to copy maps, notes and details from books and documents relating to the subject.

CHARLES L. LAMB.

21 Ashdale Road,
Waterloo.

March 1st, 1936

CHAPTER I.

THE ORIGIN OF THE SITE.

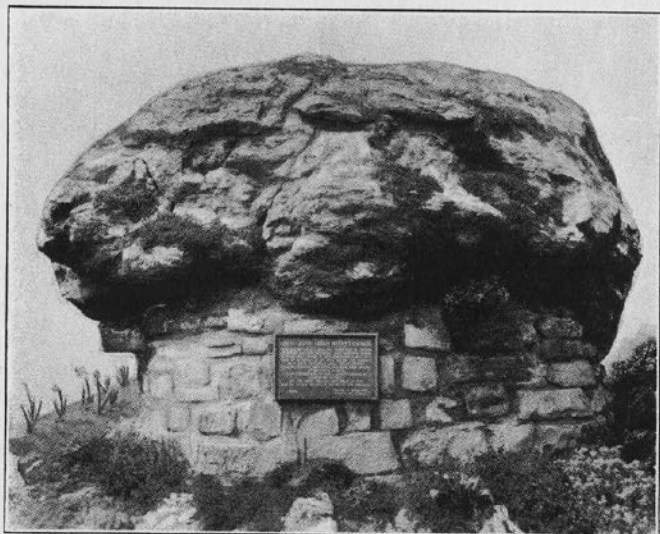
"And this our life . . . finds tongues in trees, books in the running brooks, sermons in stones . . ."—SHAKESPEARE'S *As You Like It*.

The above quotation from our great national dramatist applies particularly well to the earliest history of Crosby and the neighbouring townships. The trees in this case lie buried on the shore; the brooks are the Mersey and the Alt; the stones are the great boulder in the Recreation Ground, and the rocks in the quarry at Little Crosby; and the story which they tell is as follows:

In long-past ages, before ever Man came on the scene, a wide forest used to spread over all this area at the mouth of the Mersey, and at some time was submerged under the sea. Its remains are the peat beds and blackened trunks which may now be seen on our shore. Similar remains were found (1908) when workmen were digging sewers in South Road and Wellington Street, Waterloo. During prehistoric times the land sank, the forest was covered by blown sand, and "the weight of sand piled upon it in the form of dunes, hardening, consolidating and preserving the mass of trees and branches," formed the peat and forest beds "now washed daily by the tide at the Alt mouth."

The river Mersey has run, for the last ten thousand years at least, in its present channel to the Irish Sea. There is no evidence for or against the theory held by some people that it ever flowed into Wallasey Pool or the River Dee. The Alt comes from Aintree, and enters the Mersey at Crosby, but used to have a much more westerly outfall than it has to-day.

The very fine boulder stone, composed of gypsum in the form of alabaster, now to be seen mounted in the Recreation Ground, Coronation Road, also tells an interesting story of very ancient times. In primeval ages, during what the geologists call the Glacial Period (or Periods), a great sheet of ice covered a large part of what is now known as Great Britain, moving slowly southwards from Scotland, and stretching



THE BOULDER STONE

out from the coast over part of the present-day Irish Sea. The glacier brought with it not only clay, scraped up as it travelled along, but also large and small stones embedded in the clay, some of these consisting of granite from Scotland and the Lake District; while the southward direction of its progress was further proved to scientific men by the parallel scratches—"striations," as they are called—which it left on the rocks over which it passed. These striations have often been found in the Crosby area on stones mixed up with the glacial clays, and may be seen to-day on rocks in the Little Crosby quarry. As the climate changed and became warmer, the ice sheet melted and the clay and stones were left behind. The great block in the Recreation Ground, which weighed 18 tons, was unearthed by Mr. Edward Peters from his brick-field in Cook's Lane, in boulder clay twenty feet below the surface, and for a long time was an object of much interest to passers-by as it stood within its iron railing, on a pedestal in Liverpool Road at Islington,* near the post-office. It may have come from Whitehaven in Cumberland. It now bears the following explanatory inscription:—

GREAT CROSBY URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

This glacial "erratic" boulder, consisting of Gypsum (Hydrous Calcium Sulphate) and weighing about 18 tons, was found in 1898 embedded in boulder clay at a depth of 20 feet below the surface, in a field in Cooks Lane, Great Crosby, its longitudinal axle lying in a direction 48° east of Magnetic North. It was presented to the District Council by Mr. Edward Peters as the most remarkable relic of the Glacial Epoch hitherto found in this locality.

1926.

FRANK D. FOULKES,
Clerk of the Council.

The underlying strata of the area is sandstone (the "New Red Sandstone" of the geologists), which also underlies Liverpool, the Mersey, and Cheshire, but it is covered by the boulder clay brought down in the Ice Age, and by blown sand.

*Islington, with its hotel and row of little shops and houses, disappeared in 1935.

CHAPTER II.

THE FIRST INHABITANTS.

"The rude forefathers of the hamlet sleep."—GRAY'S *Elegy in a Country Churchyard*.

(1). THE ANCIENT BRITONS, AT INCE AND BY THE ALT.

To find out who were the first people who came to live in the Crosby area we must not only read our books of English history, but also go to those dictionaries, or books on language, which tell us the derivations of words. From them we find that the name of the River Alt seems to be Celtic and means "a stream" (Cf. Aled, the name of a river in Wales). Near by, also, is Ince, whose name probably comes from the Celtic *ynys*, "a water meadow"; and, as everybody knows, the low-lying meadows in this district are flooded each year in winter to the great enjoyment of thousands of skaters. Thus it is likely that villages of the ancient Celtic race known as the Britons existed here about the time of the birth of Christ or earlier, these being most probably a family of the tribe or nation of the Setantii ("dwellers amidst a waste of waters"), who occupied much of the region now called Lancashire which was then part of "Strathclyde." Wide marshes and pools filled a large portion of this area for many centuries, and prevented easy communication with other parts of the country. Thus these people could live here in quietness and safety, almost unknown to outsiders, and having little or nothing to do with other villages or towns.

If the derivation given above is correct, then the village of Ince (as also that by the Alt), in its earliest days, was a collection of huts made of "wattle and daub"—that is, interwoven branches of trees forming a lattice-work, plastered over with clay which filled up the interstices between the sticks—the group being surrounded by a strong stockade of tall posts, and that by a deep ditch. These ancient people, you see, knew how to select a good spot for defence, and how to defend it. The fire in each hut was made of dry twigs and branches of trees. Food was obtained by hunting in the neighbouring woods—which were very thick in this district in ancient times and for long afterwards—and by fishing in

the numerous pools, marshes and streams. The people up here in the north of Britain may have been very wild (like some described by Julius Cæsar in his writings), clothed in the skins of animals which they had killed. On the other hand, they may have been able to spin the wool of the sheep (on primitive distaffs) into yarn, and to weave on crude looms a rough cloth or frieze out of which to make the simple garments which they wore. They probably had such domestic animals as the horse, dog, sheep and ox, for we read that they used to go into battle in chariots drawn by swift horses, and it is recorded that they sold hunting dogs (in the south of Britain, at least) to traders from Gaul and perhaps Phœnicia. Their weapons and tools were made of, or tipped with, bronze or iron, and included spears, javelins and darts, of which specimens may be seen in the British Museum, London. It is said that they grew a rough kind of wheat—either “spelt” or “emmer,” or both—in the ground near their huts, and crushed or ground it into meal or flour by means of a “quern.” This was a hand-mill made of two stones, one turning—sometimes by means of a wooden handle—on top of the other, while the meal or flour fell on to a clean linen cloth or the clean-swept earth. From the meal (or flour) the women were able to bake loaves or cakes of barley-bread on the hearth. A specimen of the “quern” may be seen in the Liverpool Museums, William Brown Street, together with other ancient British relics.

The Britons were not, all of them, wild savages. You have only to look in the museums of our great cities to be convinced of this fact, for there you will see many artistic ornaments (brooches, armlets, clasps, buckles) and fine weapons (swords, spears, and shields) made by some of this supposedly savage and ignorant race.

Their religion was Druidism—the worship of the Sun, Moon, serpents, and gods of the Earth, Air and Sky—which was carried on in the deep dark groves of oak (and there were many thick forests in this area). The Druid priests sacrificed prisoners-of-war and slaves: they considered the mistletoe a sacred plant or charm, called it “All Heal,” cut it off from the oak-tree with a golden sickle, and hung it up in the huts of the people every Mid-Winter’s Day.* But, after the coming of

*This is the origin of our custom of hanging up mistletoe and holly on Christmas Day, December 25th.

Christ, the early missionaries and some of the Roman soldiers brought the knowledge of the Gospel to this land, and the Britons became Christians.† Thus for example, a large monastery sprang up near Chester, at Bangor-is-Coed (Bangor on Dee), which had more than 2,000 monks. In a great battle at Chester in the year 613, against enemies from the north-east of this country, these monks accompanied the British warriors to the battlefield, encouraged them by their cries, and were slaughtered with the fighting men by the victorious heathen. It is possible that the Britons of Ince and the Alt went to this battle—for upon it depended their survival in this region—crossing the Mersey at some point or other (probably the narrowest) in their “coracles”—round boats made of basket work, covered with skins or plastered with pitch—or in “dug-outs” (boats dug out of the trunks of trees)—for all the people of Mersey-side, Dee-side, and North Wales had gathered together to meet the menace of this dangerous foe. The bards were the minstrels of the tribe, and sang from memory musical narratives of tribal or heroic victories over their enemies. These are recalled in our day by Sir Thomas Malory’s story of the death of King Arthur,‡ and by Tennyson’s *Idylls of the King*; while periodically, in eisteddfodau held in Liverpool and Birkenhead, we may see the ancient Druid rites and ceremonies picturesquely reproduced in the costume of two thousand years ago.

(2). THE FIRST ENGLISH SETTLEMENTS AT THORNTON, NETHERTON (?SEFTON), FORD AND ORRELL.

During the fifth, sixth and seventh centuries after Christ—when the Romans were abandoning their dominion over Britain—the Angles, Saxons and Jutes invaded our island in greater and greater numbers, founding kingdoms and driving the Britons (who fought bravely and stubbornly) further and further west. But it was not until the seventh century that one of these sections or nations, an army of Angles from the north-east of this country, made its way to the mouth of the Mersey. Ethelfrith, the king of Northumbria, in defending and consolidating his kingdom, drove back the northern Picts, and then marched his forces west against the

†St Alban was martyred in the year 305.

‡That great piece of medieval literature known as *Mort d'Arthur*.

hosts of the Britons, who were drawn up to oppose his advance at Chester. He utterly defeated the Welshmen, slaughtered them remorselessly, and by this decisive victory gained the mastery of almost the whole of the region known at a later time by the name of "Lancashire," thus cutting off the Britons of Wales from their more northern compatriots of Strathclyde. Several colonies of his men then probably remained here, to settle on the most fertile lands near the Mersey; and the latter river became (most likely) the boundary between the English kingdoms of Northumbria and Mercia. The name "Mersey" is said, on good authority, to be Old English and to mean "boundary river." It is possible that Ethelfrith made the Britons tributary, though he may, on the other hand, have driven them out entirely and planted his Angles here in their stead. The Britons at Ince and by the Alt may have continued to live there, paying him tribute, and Anglian warriors may have taken British wives. At all events, many Britons remained in various parts of the country, for several centuries after this date.

The heathen Angles of Mercia may also have sent colonies to Merseyside when their fierce old king Penda defeated and killed the Christian king Oswald of Northumbria (where the priest Paulinus from Kent had converted king and people) about the middle of the seventh century. Many churches have been dedicated to St. Oswald. Penda himself suffered defeat in his turn, and was killed in the battle, when he fought against the Christian king Oswy of Northumbria about thirteen years later; and this overthrow of paganism allowed the light of the Gospel to flood the Midlands of England.

Whether they were of Northumbria or Mercia, these early Englishmen made many settlements on Merseyside, as is evident from the derivation of their names, a number of which have the well-known Old English ending *-tun*, meaning a village or hamlet, as Thornton "the *tun* or village with the thorn trees," Netherton "the nether or lower *tun*," and perhaps Sefton (which seems to be either A. S. *Seaf's tun*, or O. N. *sef "sedge" tun*), while some people believe Litherland to be Old English also (from A. S. *hlith*, "idle, lazy, stagnant"). Similarly, Ford is plain English and simply means "the ford" over the brook; while Orrell comes from O. E. *ora* "bank or margin."

The land near the Mersey was probably Northumbrian for

three hundred years. It was then over-run by King Edward the Elder, the able son of Alfred the Great, and was annexed—either by Edward or Athelstan—to the kingdom of Mercia; and English colonies from Mercia may have then come here. A hoard of three hundred silver pennies was discovered (in 1611) at Harkirk,* then between Crosby and Formby, some belonging to Alfred and Edward; and this collection was probably deposited there at the beginning of the tenth century: it may have been the war-chest (for the payment of the warriors) of a successful or defeated army.

Each man in the Old English village had a share in the corn-land near by, while around the little hamlet were the "waste" or rough pasture, the enclosed meadows for hay or the rearing of cattle, and the arable or ploughland divided up into strips. By thus living in villages such as Thornton, Netherton or Litherland—for the early English did not like living in walled towns—the people had their food supply close at hand, they could be almost entirely self-supporting in time of peace, and they could easily turn the hamlet into a camp (or escape into the recesses of the woods) when the loudly-blown horn of the watchman warned them of the approach of a foe. Fighters and field-workers—thegns (thanes), villeins, cottars and serfs, as the different grades of men in the *tun* began to be called, from the highest to the lowest—found the open village, with its distinctive boundary or "mark", and its common life and work, to be the safest and most suitable mode of existence. It was also the most convenient for control by the local authority, and for the administration of justice. Many centuries passed away, therefore, before our forefathers changed from their village life to the life of the town; and even now, in the twentieth century, a very large part of our country—even near Crosby—still consists of agricultural land.

The people in each *tun*, as Thornton and Netherton, had a regular routine of field work, Michaelmas—the period after harvest—being the opening of the agricultural year. Each township had two (in some parts of England, three) fields—these being the common property of the whole of the inhabitants, and shared out evenly among them—and the wheat

*"Harkirk" (probably O.N.) may possibly mean "the grey (hoar, or hoary) kirk or church"; or, perhaps, the church of a man named Harr, just as "Ormskirk" means the church of Orm.

field was ploughed while the other was left in stubble. After the ploughing, the winter wheat and rye were sown: the winter logs were stacked, the cattle housed for the cold weather, most of the beasts slaughtered (as there was little or no food for them, turnips and mangolds and similar root crops not being known in England then), their flesh salted down for winter food, and the grain threshed and winnowed. In February began the ploughing of the second field, ready for the spring sowing of peas, beans and vetches, or oats and barley. The ploughing lasted from Candlemas—February 2nd—to Easter, and the seed was immediately sown. About May the land was ditched and drained, weeding was done, and the sheep were washed and shorn. Building repairs were completed, folds and pens put up, and weirs made across the streams. The mill of the *tun*—a watermill—was repaired, and then came harvest in August and September, ending in October with a feast or “harvest-home.” This routine of field work on the soil of England, thus introduced by our ancestors, continued in every township, with little change, from those early times down to the sixteenth century (after which period, an “agrarian revolution” took place, that is, a remarkable change—and a great improvement—in methods of agriculture and the rearing of cattle). “In many rural parts . . . Saint’s days still mark the initiation of sowing or reaping in each season, a survival of the old pious customs to which we owe the terms Michaelmas (September 29th), and Lady Day (March 25th).”

But the many little kingdoms* (set up by the leaders of these early English sea-rovers) fought among themselves until one or other gained the greater power—as, at different times, Northumbria, Mercia, Wessex—and then these also battled and struggled until in the end one—the ruler of Wessex—became the “King of the English” (Egbert, in 827). During these changes of monarchy the King’s government became more and more distant from the little *tuns* of Lancashire—the monarch’s palace was not at York or Lichfield or Coventry, but much further away in the south, at Oxford, Winchester, Westminster, or London—and so, sooner or later, a general system of lordship grew up in England. Northumbria, Mercia and Wessex became earldoms under the later kings of this period, and the

*Kent, Sussex, Essex, Wessex, Northumbria, Deira, East Anglia, Mercia and others.

villages situated near the mouth of the Mersey appear to have been placed in that of Mercia. The lord, or great man, of each area, became the leader in war, and the guardian and protector in peace, of his people; while his lady was very often a Lady Bountiful to her humbler neighbours. The people repaid their lord, for his protection, by labour-service—that is, working on his lands and (or) the supply of provisions for his household. (The word “lord” comes from A. S. *hlaford*, loaf-warder; while “lady” is from A. S. *hlaf-doegee*, the loaf-kneader, or from *hlaf-weardige*, the loaf-keeper).

Thegns, villeins, cottars and serfs occupied the lands under the Earl (Edwin, Earl of Mercia, for example), the thegn being originally a freeman who held five hides of land, and a “hide” being the holding of one family, employing a team of eight oxen. The owner of a hide had forty acre-strips in each of the two fields of the township, for which he was called upon to perform three special duties—the repair of the bridges and of the boroughs, and service in the “fyrd.” The boroughs or *burhs* were the wooden forts, barricades, or fortifications—protected by earthworks—of the little *tuns*. The “fyrd” was the national armed force which could be called up in those days by the King to repel the attacks of such invaders as the Danes—who, as our history books tell us, were a great trouble to Alfred the Great and other kings of England from about the year 800 to nearly 1050. Each area of five hides in the kingdom had to provide “one heavy-armed soldier” for service with the “fyrd,” and each of these five hides had to give the soldier 4s., for his food and pay for two months. The penalty for refusing to serve with the “fyrd” was sometimes the forfeiture of all the thegn’s land to the king, and sometimes (perhaps in later years) a “fyrd wite”—a money fine of 4s. to his lord for the payment of a substitute. The term “thegn” was sometimes applied to the heavy-armed soldier himself, which may mean that it was the thegn himself who went off to the wars. Thus we can imagine the thegns of Sefton, Thornton, Netherton and (perhaps) Litherland going off to range themselves under the Earl’s or the King’s banner, as possibly at Harkirk, while their villages supplied them with food and stores for the campaign.

The “villein” received two oxen, one cow, six sheep, and seven acres of land from his lord, together with tools for his

work, and utensils for his little home ; but if he ever thought of leaving his lord—as began to happen centuries later—the law was that he had to leave most of these articles behind. They were his lord's property, allowed to be used by the villein only as a tenant on this land. Thus the villein, though a freeman, was so closely bound to his lord's estate by these various ties that in practically every case he never left it. Usually, in those days, he was born, he lived, and he died, in one and the same township. In return for this assistance of his lord, the villein was usually bound to work two days a week on his lord's own land throughout the year ; to work three days a week at harvest ; to work three days a week from Candlemas (February 2nd) to Easter ; from ploughing to Martinmas to plough one acre each week, and to prepare the seed in his lord's barn ; and to give six loaves of bread to the swineherd when the latter drove the pigs of the village to mast (that is, to the acorns and beech-mast* fallen from the trees, on which these animals fed in the near-by woodlands). The home of the Thornton or Netherton villein was merely a hut of wattle and plaster, roofed with boughs or thatched with straw : it had no chimney ; and the smoke from the wood fire filled the hut or escaped through crevices and holes. The only furniture consisted of a trestle board used as a table, and some home-made benches for seats. The bed was the earthen floor, perhaps covered—especially in winter—with a layer of ferns or straw, while perhaps the skins of wolves or deer were used (before the days of rugs and blankets).

The "cottar" had five acres in his holding, and had to work every Monday on his lord's land, and at harvest-time three days a week.

The thegn was, as may be seen, the most important man of the area, and the largest landholder under the lord of the estate. He wore a long tunic or cloak of wool, with a girdle or belt at the waist ; cross-gartered hose on his legs ; "shoon" or sandals of cloth, leather, or skin ; and a hood that covered his head down to his shoulders. His wife wore a linen under-garment, a long cloak reaching to the feet—embroidered with coloured thread, and fastened with a pretty brooch—a simple head-dress, and a necklace of beads of glass or amber or crystal. Buckles were made for the girdles and belts ; and rings and brace-

*Beech-nuts.

lets were worn on the fingers and wrists. Children looked like little men and women, for they wore the same kind of dress as their fathers and mothers, though of course smaller in size. In battle—as at the battle of Chester—the warrior (as, perhaps, he of Thornton) wore an iron helmet, and a tunic or coat of mail, often made of cloth or leather or skin, with iron rings sewn all over it ; he fought with a spear, long sword, or battle-axe ; and he protected himself with a round or oval shield made of wood or ox-hide, studded with iron. These early English people made good pots and dishes of clay, hardened in the sun or perhaps burnt in the fire, and some of them had vessels (beakers) of glass ; while many made drinking vessels of the horns of the animals which they had killed for food.

Thus, with the gradual evolution of the different classes of the inhabitants, and their various but clearly-defined services and duties—from the lord down to the serf—a feudal system was growing up in this country and, as time went on, all their "customary services" were "set down in the rolls." These were made of skin, or parchment (when the latter writing medium came into use) ; the "rolls" became more detailed and complete as the knowledge of writing and reading became more common ; and it is in them that we have to look for our story of the period. (The "feudal system" began to die out—doubtless at Crosby and its neighbourhood, as elsewhere—during the Middle Ages, especially after the Black Death and Wat Tyler's revolt of the fourteenth century.)

In the seventh century—during the days of King Edwin of Northumbria—the land began to be divided up into "hundreds" each of these being an area capable of providing 100 men for service in the "fyrd," and each being a district of convenient size for the purposes of supervision, control, and the administration of justice. Every hundred had its own "moot-stow" or public meeting-place of the people, and the "hundred-moot" appears, according to the laws of Edgar the Peaceful, to have met once a month, at its head being the Hundred Man, who was chosen by the freemen of the Hundred. The area in which Thornton, Netherton, Sefton and Litherland lay became the very large and important Hundred of West Derby.

(3). NORSEMEN SETTLE IN CROSBY, LITHERLAND, LUNT, ALTCAR AND (?) SEFTON.

On a day in the year 900 (or at some time between 900 and

905), the sails of a fleet of Norse "dragons" were seen coming up the Mersey. In these vessels was a band of vikings from Dublin and the Isle of Man—which they had already conquered—under their leader Ingimund, who desired to settle here. The ruler of the area, from whom they asked leave to do so, was Ethelflæda, "the Lady of Mercia," the able daughter of Alfred the Great: she acceded to their request; and these sea-rovers made their homes on both sides of the river (here on the Lancashire coast, and across the water in Wirral) in many places which still bear names with the distinctive Scandinavian ending *-by*, meaning a place or village, including Irby, Greasby, Frankby, Whitby, West Derby, Kirkby, Formby, and our own Crosby, whose name means "The Place of the Cross." These newcomers were either Christians already, or were promptly baptised (just as King Alfred had insisted that Guthrum and his Danes should be baptised, when he made with them the Treaty of Wedmore, and allowed them to settle in the Danelagh). There are several crosses in Crosby; and all these facts put together make it very probable that a chapel stood here at a very early date. It may possibly, according to later evidence, have been dedicated to St. Michael. Another settlement of these Scandinavian wanderers seems to have been made at Litherland, for that name more probably appears to be derived from the Old Norse *hlitherland*, "the slope of land." Lunt, also, was founded by these sea-rovers: its name means "a grove," another indication of the well-wooded character of the region at that time. Altcar was another of their settlements—the "carr" or marshland beside the Alt, and Sefton (O. N. *sef* "sedge," and *tun*) possibly another. Each of the immigrants received a strip of ground sloping up from the river side to the higher and less cultivable ridges further inland, and here the settler erected his dwelling, cattle-shed, barn, and other necessary buildings, and surrounded them all by a "garth."

These people of ancient Crosby, Litherland, Altcar (?) Sefton, and Lunt probably lived at peace with their English neighbours*—building their own cottages of wood, clay, and thatch; ploughing the land, sowing the seed, reaping the corn, rearing the cattle, milking the kine, grinding the grain into meal or

*The word "neighbour" comes from *nigh* "near," and *gebur* "dweller."

flour in water-mills, and baking bread on the hearth; making their own stools, boards and trestle tables, their own tools and weapons (though, very soon, one man—the smith—began to do this for the whole village), and their own clothes; hunting the deer in the woods, and fishing in the rivers and pools. (The woodlands were thick and dense in those days, and were the home of hundreds of wild animals; and salmon, trout and herring were so abundant in the Mersey for centuries that they were often given as food to the swine). The people used the honey of their bees to sweeten their food and drink; and their wives brewed ale from the barley grown in the Town-field. (Thus we obtained the term "ale-wives.") They brought their native methods of agriculture with them from Norway and Ireland, and may have improved the modes of tillage common in England—and especially on this, the west, coast—in those days.

We hear nothing of them for a century or more, and then we read that in the reign of Edward the Confessor (1042-1066), Little Crosby was held, under the King, by a man named Ughtred, who seems to have been a thegn (sometimes spelt "thane") and man of note, for he also held five other estates—Roby, Kirkby, Knowsley, Maghull and Aughton. Crosby was then a part of the West Derby manor held by the King himself, and this was the "capital manor" of the great West Derby Hundred. Litherland, also, was a part of this royal manor—as, too, were Thornton, Netherton, Sefton, Lunt, Altcar and Ince. Litherland was held by an Englishman named Elmer: three thegns held Ince (Blundell): a man named Asha held Thornton; and three thegns held Formby. Five thegns held Sefton (which included the hamlets of Lunt and Thornton). It is possible that some of their descendants still live in this part of south-west Lancashire.

NOTE.

No Saxons settled in this part of England. Their kingdoms were along the south and east coasts of Britain—in Sussex, Essex, Middlesex and Wessex—the homes of the South Saxons, the East Saxons, the Middle Saxons, and the West Saxons. None were up here in the north of England, none on Mersey-side.

Nor did the Danes settle here. The Danelagh (sometimes

spelt Danelaw) did not extend north of the river Mersey. The chief Danish settlements in England were on the east coast, in such places as Yorkshire and Lincolnshire—though, because the languages were closely related, many of their towns also bore names with the ending *-by*, as Whitby, Rugby and Derby.

CHRISTIANITY.—Tertullian, writing between A.D. 150 and 200, says that “even those places in Britain hitherto untouched by the Romans were subdued to Christianity.” In the year 305, the first British martyr, St. Alban, was put to death by the Romans in the persecution under the emperor Diocletian. Three British bishops attended the general Council of the Church in 314, and one at Nicœia in 325. The early English invasions (Angle, Saxon, Jute) beginning in 449 drove Christianity out of the greater part of Britain, but the Early Church survived in Wales and the north. Ireland, also, held to the ancient faith, and now had her share in the restoration of Christianity in England. Aidan and Columbia were famous names in the north of Britain, and much of northern and western Britain produced results due to their excellent influence. Meanwhile, Rome was busy, too. St. Augustine was the leader of the great mission of the year 597, and fulfilled his task with wonderful success, so that he was really the founder of the Christian Church in southern England which gradually spread outwards from his centre at Canterbury in the early English kingdom of Kent. The Celtic and Roman churches were reconciled and united by the statesmanlike efforts of St. Wilfrid of Ripon, who in the end induced them to acknowledge the Pope as the head of the Christian Church throughout the world.

CHAPTER III.

THE EARLY HISTORY OF CROSBY.

“Lives of great men off’ remind us . . .”

—LONGFELLOW'S *A Psalm of Life*

After the Norman Conquest, William I placed large parts of his new kingdom in charge of the great nobles and barons who had come to his aid in the invasion of this country; and the old records tell us that one of these—called Roger of Poitou, or Roger the Poitevin—held a large portion of what afterwards began to be called the “County” of Lancaster, including the Hundred of West Derby. But probably Count Roger made little change at Crosby, Altcar, Netherton, Thornton, Lunt, Sefton and Litherland, leaving them in the hands of their English holders, so that the thegns and peasants (villeins, cottars, and perhaps serfs) continued to till the soil as of old; but these had to send to their new Norman lord, as they had done to their old English one—either by their reeve, their thegn, or Count Roger’s shire-reeve or sheriff—the regular payments in corn, pigs, hens, eggs, or other produce of their holdings, which were customary in those “feudal” days and for centuries after. Money was not often used in Norman times for rents or similar payments; and the penny was cut into halves to make half-pennies, of which specimens may be seen in the British Museum, London.

The land which a man held was now called a “manor” (a Norman-French word meaning an estate), and, instead of attending the Old English folk-moot, the tenants of the estate had to go up to the Manorial Court with their complaints and disputes. In our case, this was at West Derby.

We find the name of Crosby in the Domesday Book, that great survey of England made by the officers of William the Conqueror, at the Royal command, in order to show the king whether all parts of his new kingdom were paying their proper taxes into the royal treasury, and to give him some indication of the size of the army which he might be able to raise, whenever he had to go to war (as he did on several occasions against opponents in Normandy and England). In that famous

volume—which may be seen by any of our readers on his (her) next visit to London (at the Record Office*)—Crosby is recorded as being one of the six “berewicks” dependent upon West Derby, a berewick being probably a village with a field belonging to it for the cultivation of barley, that is, a “barley-village.” This dependency continued long after the Conquest, and the manor remained under the king, and still attached to West Derby, until the year 1625.

In later Norman days, the lands and estate of LITTLE CROSBY went to another man, probably of Norman descent, who was the head of the Molyneux family of Sefton (he was also Constable of the castle at Liverpool), and this family held the manor in the early thirteenth century (1211): the earlier holder, the English thegn, Ughtred, probably became a villein. A Richard de Molyneux was chosen a knight of the shire in 1312. A little later, the manor was granted to Roger de Molyneux, the head of a junior branch of this family (1327). His son, Sir John Molyneux, left no children, so that Little Crosby became the property of Sir John’s sister, Agnes. She married, in 1362 or earlier, David Blundell of Great Crosby, and “the descendants of Agnes and David still possess the manor.” One of these, a Nicholas Blundell (who died about 1520), married Margery Scarisbrick, and “they lived happily together for sixty years, and never could either find fault with the other.” (In the original, the wording is:—“never oder could find fote noder with oder.”) During their later years they had a long and bitter dispute with the Molyneux family of Sefton, complaining that the latter had taken away the Blundell’s rights in waifs, strays, and wreckage; also their sporting rights and rabbit warrens; their chapel on the north side of Sefton Church; 20 marks rent; they had cast Nicholas and his son into prison at Lancaster for fourteen weeks; and finally “they daily lay in wait to kill and murder them.” The Blundells, however, regained their rights in the end (1526). Nicholas’s son, Henry, fought and fell at Flodden Field (1513). In 1592, Richard Blundell “adhered unflinchingly to the ancient faith, incurred penalties imposed by the laws for sheltering priests, and died in Lancaster Castle. His son and heir, William, who was sharing his imprisonment, was afterwards released, only to be arrested again and imprisoned for two years. After his

*See any good Guide to London.

return to Crosby, the Hall was again searched, but he escaped by flight: his wife, however, was taken and imprisoned in Chester for some time The old charge was revived, and husband and wife lived in hiding until the accession of James I, when a full pardon was obtained.” Some time afterwards he incurred a heavy fine for obstructing the sheriff of Lancashire at the Harkirk burial ground on his estate. This ground had been in use since 1611,* when, having heard that the law prohibited the burial of Catholics at their parish church, he enclosed a small piece of land within his own grounds at Harkirk. The sheriff came with a party of officers to enquire into this proceeding, and to seize the squire’s cattle, but the latter led a little group of men out on to the road to question them, with the result that a scuffle took place. (Harkirk was used occasionally for burials down to 1753.) The Star Chamber, that powerful court of Stuart times, took a serious view of this “resistance to lawful authority,” and imposed a fine of £2,000—afterwards reduced to £800. William Blundell died at Little Crosby in 1638, just before the troubles of Charles I’s reign began, which set one half of the men-folk of England at the throats of the other half.

His grandson William (whose father was dead) succeeded him, and, in the Civil War which now broke out, zealously assisted the cause of the King. He raised a troop of men—so that, very likely, Crosby men were among them—“but being wounded at Lancaster, and lamed for life,† had to retire from active participation in hostilities. He was four times imprisoned by the Parliamentarians,—the fourth time, at Liverpool (1657), which he described as a loathsome prison—and his lands were sequestered (taken from him) for seven years, after which he was able to repurchase them through the intervention of Protestant friends. After this, he went abroad, ultimately returning on the same ship with Charles II.” In a document which he prepared during the next reign, he describes Little Crosby at that time as a small manor of about forty houses, and says that it was remarkable in that “it had not

*The hoard of 300 silver pennies of Alfred the Great and Edward the Elder was found here at this time.

†At the siege of Lancaster Castle, his thigh was shattered by a musket shot.

a beggar, it had not an alehouse, it had not a Protestant in it."* In 1689 he was imprisoned at Manchester for some weeks; and he was accused of complicity in the "Lancashire Plot of 1694." Four years later he died, and was buried in the Blundell chapel in Sefton Church. His son William, who in 1694 had been imprisoned and tried in his father's stead, succeeded him and lived for about eight years, being followed by his son Nicholas. The latter was suspected, and his house searched, in 1715—the year of the Jacobite rising thence known as "The Fifteen"—and he had to hide, in his own house, in the "Priest's Hole" (a narrow cupboard or tiny room, under the roof or in the wall, often found in old houses, and constructed to be a secret place for any fugitive friend of the family when harassed by his pursuers), which, being very small, while the squire was a big, stout man, was "a strait place for a fat man," as he wrote in his diary. He then thought it well to go abroad for a year or two. In 1719 he helped to build West Lane House as a dwelling for the priest, and this was the chapel of Little Crosby from 1720 to 1847, when it was converted into the school. The old chapel windows, now bricked up, can be clearly discerned in the walls. This little chapel is the parent church of Great Crosby (1826), of Waterloo (1868), and of Blundellsands (1886). A typical and faithful old Jacobite, the Squire died in 1737, and the political and religious troubles of the Blundell family came to an end at the same time, a tolerant spirit in Parliament being found to be wiser than harshness in the government of this land. Nicholas Blundell's Diary is a most interesting volume, and a mine of information with regard to English country life and manners at that turbulent period of our national history. (The Squire took a personal interest in the first school established in Crosby—the Merchant Taylors' School—and often made merry with the Schoolmaster.)

"At a time when no Catholic Chapels except the Queen's and those of foreign Ambassadors were tolerated in England, the services of the Church were necessarily performed in secret in some obscure part of the dwelling. To this the tenants and neighbouring Catholics had access, and the priest attended to their wants with as much precaution as possible. All this was accompanied with great risk to the host, and still greater to

*This statement is still true. ("Old Catholic Lancashire," by Dom. F. O. Blundell, O.S.B., 1925.)

the priest, whose life was at the mercy of the meanest informant A frequent change of residence was very necessary, and we do not find that any Priests had a settled abode till the close of the Civil War." Thus, few notices of priests who found refuge with this steadfast and hospitable family of Crosby have been preserved, until the Jesuits were placed in charge of the mission about 1652. They remained until 1786, and were succeeded by the Benedictines, who, except for five years, continued until 1860. The present church of St. Mary, built and endowed by William Blundell, was consecrated in 1847. It has a burial ground attached.

The township of Little Crosby lies to the north of Great Crosby, Thornback Pool being the boundary on that side. Some of the present-day inhabitants are fishermen, who reap a harvest of shrimps, flukes and cockles from the sea. The land is so flat that the fields are usually separated by ditches (not hedges). Good crops of corn and potatoes are grown, while there are many meadows and pastures. Potatoes are said to have been introduced into England by the wrecking of a vessel, carrying a cargo of the tuber, on the coast near by, or at Formby. Poultry farming also provides a profitable occupation, the produce being readily saleable in the neighbouring city and residential areas. Little Crosby village, Crosby Hall, and the park are in the southern end of the township. A local board was formed in 1870. In 1894 this became an Urban District Council of six members.

Nicholas Blundell of the "Diary" (died 1737) was succeeded by his daughter Frances, who married Henry Peppard—a merchant of Liverpool—who assumed the name of Blundell on becoming the holder of the estate. They were followed by their son Nicholas, and he by his son William who bought the manor of Great Crosby in 1798. The latter was succeeded by his son Nicholas, and he by his son William Joseph.

The village is perhaps best described by Mrs. Francis Blundell ("Mrs. M. E. Francis") in her extremely interesting and popular book of social life, "In a North Country Village":—

"Within eight miles of one of our largest Northern manufacturing towns [Liverpool], on the main road between it and a fashionable watering-place [Southport], there is a certain sleepy little hamlet that I know of, which has remained un-

changed to all intents and purposes for several hundred years, and the inhabitants of which have lived there from generation to generation in undisturbed content.

"There is but one rambling street, if street it can be called, where the houses are of all shapes and sizes, and stand at irregular distances from each other and from the road. If you chanced to stroll through Thornleigh [Little Crosby] on a summer's noontide you would think the whole place was asleep—not even a dog in sight, except, perhaps, where here and there in a large farm-yard one may be seen blinking in the sunshine outside his kennel with his muzzle between his outstretched paws. Even the hens cluck drowsily to their wandering broods, and the cats sit sunning themselves on the snowy doorsteps, watching with lazy upturned eyes the swallows that circle and twitter over their heads, or the amorous pigeons that walk up and down on the tiled roofs opposite

"House walls, for the most part of time-worn stone, quarried from the 'delf' yonder [Little Crosby Quarry], roofs of thatch, or antique slabs of stone, lichen-grown, and irregularly set; here a cottage of brick, the red of which, however, is softened and mellowed by years, there one with walls washed over with ochre. Yonder stands the ivy-grown church placidly keeping watch over a goodly company of gravestones Up this beaten path to the right one can get a glimpse of the Hall. Not a very imposing building perhaps, with its low frontal and irregular architecture—a wing here, a tower there, windows at uneven levels, the very stones, where the ivy lets them be visible, of every conceivable shape and size. But if these stones could cry out, what a tale would they tell Certain of the records treasured in the Squire's study yonder tell us mournful and curious histories of the struggles it cost those stout old ancestors of his to cleave to their traditions. As Catholics and Jacobites, . . . how often ruin stared them in the face, banished as they were, and imprisoned and fined. But they held on their way still clinging to their ancient manor while their people clung to them. To this day the bond between squire and tenant is almost unique in its strength Perhaps no stronger proof of the harmony of relations between landlord and people can be cited than the fact that there are few leases on the property, most of the tenants holding their land by virtue of a verbal agreement."

Crosby Hall, the church and the village thus nestle together like a happy family. Throughout the centuries they have been friends, and, as the poet writes:

*Along the cool, sequester'd vale of life
They kept the noiseless tenor of their way.**

The township has six crosses, one of which stands in the village, on the left-hand side of the road going to Southport, and this was formerly the object of a pleasing village festival called "The Flowering of the Cross." Nicholas Blundell, in his inimitable diary (which speaks of the first quarter of the eighteenth century), makes annual mention of it, as having attended it with his family. At the beginning of the twentieth century, the township contained 563 inhabitants.

GREAT CROSBY, also, at the time of the Conquest, was part of the royal manor of West Derby, of which Prince John, son of King Henry II, became the holder during his elder brother Richard I's reign; and John, then Count of Mortain, granted Great Crosby, between 1189 and 1194, to Robert de Ainsdale,† his forester, at a rent of 100s. a year. (The earliest of this family to appear in the old records is Osbert de Ainsdale, living about 1160, one of whose sons was this forester of Prince John‡.) Robert de Ainsdale died in 1214, his son Roger five years later; and the latter was succeeded by his younger brother Adam de Ainsdale, whose son Robert was made a knight and was called Robert de Crosby and de Ainsdale. He adopted the name of Blundell, and this name has ever since been borne by his descendants. This Robert is said to have accompanied Edward I on his campaign against the Welsh in 1277. If he did so, then it is quite possible that he took some of the men of Crosby and Ainsdale with him to fight under his banner, for the King, among the mountains of Wales.

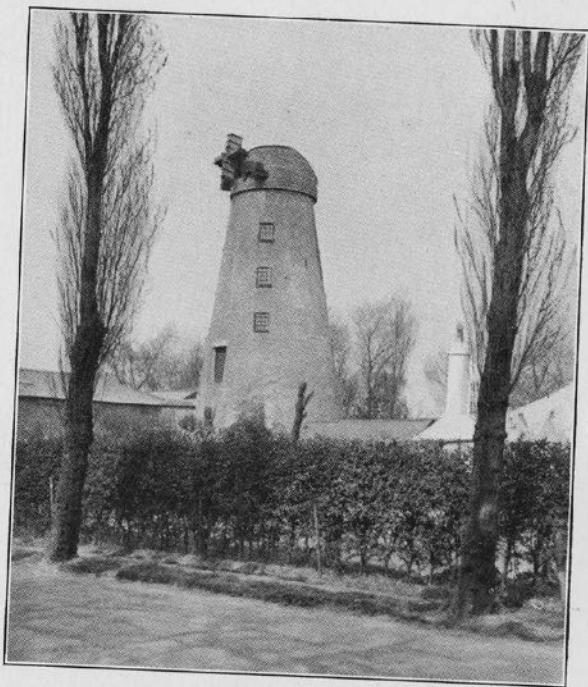
The greater part of the land of the manor was at this time still "held in villeinage," and a record of the year 1324 gives a list of the twenty-four holdings, the rent being 4s. 6d. for every five acres of land. The villeins had to reap their lord's meadows (the lord of the manor being the head of the Molyneux family of Sefton) and to carry firewood during their lord's

**The Deserted Village*, by Oliver Goldsmith.

†Ainsdale was a Norse settlement—"Einulf's dale"—of the same date as Crosby [900—905.]

‡When king, John founded the Borough of Liverpool (in 1207).

stay in the Castle at Liverpool, of which he was the Constable : no villein's daughter could marry unless her father made a payment to his lord ; and the villeins had to serve the "reeve" of Crosby without reward. The reeve was the chief man of the village, and was chosen by the villeins themselves : he



CROSBY MILL, MOOR LANE

supervised them when they went out to till and sow and reap the townfield. At the death of a villein, his eldest son had to make fresh arrangements with his lord for the holding of the land ; and the chattels (goods) of the dead villein belonged to the lord wholly, though the latter kept only one-third of them, returning two-thirds to the widow and children.

We have seen above that Agnes Molyneux of Sefton married

David Blundell of Great Crosby about the middle of the fourteenth century, and that the property is still possessed by the family. In the reign of Henry VI a dispute arose between Henry Blundell (lord of Little Crosby) and the tenants of Great Crosby as to the exact line of the boundaries. An arbitrator was chosen to settle the matter—and approved by Sir Richard Molyneux, who was steward of Great Crosby—and this official took sixteen tenants with him, rode round the village and set up boundary stones, after which Henry Blundell dug a ditch along the boundary to mark it out. Crosby manor was bounded by the sea, Thornton, and Litherland.

From an old record we know what officers the village had in Tudor times (1538), these being selected by the yearly assembly of the inhabitants to watch over its rights and privileges, and to keep good order. We find that they were a reeve, two constables, two ale-tasters, four sworn men (perhaps to sit on the jury and hold inquests or similar inquiries), and two supervisors of wreckage, of which there has always been a good deal on this shore, from early days down to our own times. "Ale-tasters" were officers in each town or village who examined the ale made in the township—by the ale-wives—and saw that it was of good quality and was sold at a fair price. People cheated in those olden days, just as some do to-day. A dishonest ale-wife would put tar at the bottom of the vessel which held the ale, and so give short measure. Sometimes she added water, and thus did not give the proper quality or the full value. In the olden days, the brewing industry was almost entirely in the hands of women, and medieval songs and ballads are full of references to the "brewster," this word being the old feminine form of our present-day "brewer." In one of these she is toasted as one

Who sells good ale, nappy and stale,

And always thus sings she :

"My ale was tunned when I was young

And a little above my knee."

Her ill repute is indicated in many of the old morality plays,* in which the ale-wife is often pictured as being thrust into the flames of everlasting punishment for watering her liquor or giving short measure.

*"Morality plays" were acted in the churches, and afterwards in the streets of medieval towns, and were excellent representations (for such early times) of scenes from the Bible. They thus formed an early step leading up to the theatre of to-day.

The baking and selling of bread were similarly controlled. Bread was apportioned out to the lord's retainers according to edicts (laws, orders, or regulations) which in Norman-French were called the "assizes," this particular ordinance being that of the "Assize of Bread and Ale." The adulteration of bread, or shortage of weight in this essential food, was in those days punished with the greatest severity. The criminal baker was either stripped and whipped at the cross roads of the town, or was drawn on a hurdle with the unsatisfactory loaf tied round his neck, and stood in the pillory. If he committed this offence three times, his oven was destroyed by the town's, or the lord's, officers, and he himself prohibited from ever trading as a baker again. One law especially condemned those bakers who put iron in their loaves to make them heavier.

We do not read, in the old records, of the existence or use of the pillory in this area—though very possibly there was one—but we still have a memento of the stocks (a seat, and a frame with circular holes in which to lock the legs of a misdemeanant). There is an iron replica of these at Thornton, near the sundial by the side of the road (now Water Street) opposite the Nag's Head hotel, and it is said to be a copy of those formerly in use at Sefton.

The court rolls of the manor, dating from the time of King Henry VIII, are kept in a box in the gallery of St. Luke's Church, and they may be viewed by anyone, but only in the presence of two official witnesses. They are written in "dog-Latin," but English translations have been made. Some of the entries tell of persons who were imprisoned in the stocks for their misdoings.

In 1625 the manor was sold by King Charles I for £12,000—in order to raise money for the expenses of the war which he was about to wage against the Parliament, which would not let him have his own way in the government of the kingdom—and, from the purchasers, it came into the possession of Sir Richard Molyneux (the first Lord Molyneux)*. From this time it remained in the hands of the Sefton family until it was bought (1798) by a trustee of the Blundells of Little Crosby. Races used to be run on the shore side of the village on a course of two miles "stooped out" by William Blundell at the request

*He had been made Viscount Maryborough. At a later date, the head of the family was created Earl of Sefton.

of Lord Molyneux in 1654. A large modern house named "Standfield," situated on the west side of Liverpool Road and now used as a preparatory school, is said to have been given this name from a stand in the field, which was in those days erected here to enable spectators to view these contests.

One of the leading families in the township in those days was that of the Johnsons, who gained their name from their ancestor John, the son of John (that is, John John's son) of Crosby. In 1666, the largest house in Great Crosby was the dwelling of Jane Johnson, and was called Moorside—doubtless because it stood by the edge of the moor which stretched away to the east of this area. It stood on the site of the present-day Moorside Road, and disappeared in 1934. (It may be noted that Moor Lane is now the main road to Thornton, and the boundary stone may be seen about half-way along its length. Brownmoor Lane, too, is near by.) Lawyer Johnson, educated at Oxford and Douai (France), executed in 1582, was the son of Richard Johnson of Great Crosby, and laboured for a short time in Lancashire.

The little triangular green of the village is now paved. Here is the ancient St. Michael's Well, which has been covered in, and is surmounted by steps and a wooden cross. It is named after the old-time St. Michael's Church, of which it is said to have been the font. This chapel was taken down after St. Luke's Church was built, and the present-day St. Luke's School was erected on the site. The very interesting custom called the Festival of the Cross used to be kept up each year on St. Michael's Day (September 29th), the Cross and Well being decorated with flowers, while games were played on the village Green. "This delightful practice was continued until a quite recent date." More robust pleasures of the eighteenth century were the cock-fights at the Punch Bowl Inn at Sefton, and bull-baiting at Crosby. Catherine Halsall's girls' school—then known as "The Mistress's School"—now St. Luke's Girls' and Infants' School in Cook's Lane—was founded by that charitable benefactress in 1758. There are sundials dated 1766 and 1795 at the Mulberries (where the mulberry trees may still be seen)—which now forms part of the reconstructed Merchant Taylors' School for Girls—and Crosby House, which is now a convent of the Sisters of Nazareth and is called "Nazareth House."

We may fairly suppose from its name, "The Village of the Cross," that there was a place of worship here in very early times (though the parish of Crosby formed part of that of Sefton). This is most likely quite true, but the first reference to a chapel is found in a record of the year 1564. This states that the sanctuary was a place of pilgrimage, the feast-day being St. Michael in *Monte Tumba*, 16th October. It was replaced in 1774 by a brick building with a tower, but still called St. Michael's. This was superseded in its turn by the present-day St. Luke's Church (1854), erected about a quarter of a mile from St. Michael's, and the older chapel was demolished ten years later, though the tower continued to stand until 1880. Its name has been revived in the new church of St. Michael, Blundellsands. St. Luke's has a large graveyard, and near by is the interesting old vicarage farmhouse, with the date 1668 inscribed over the doorway. (It is to be hoped that this quaint old building will be preserved from destruction for ever—as is done with similar ancient buildings in many other towns—even if this entails the intervention of the Council to defend it. It can be used as a Museum and Gallery, to hold flint weapons of the Stone Age, a picture and model of the Mill, models of the stocks and other features of the neighbourhood, a copy of the Blundell Diary and Mrs. M. E. Francis's works, pictures and photographs of Old Crosby, and a collection of similar memorials which would quickly be forthcoming from old and present-day inhabitants out of their chests and lumber rooms. A charge of 2d. per person—school children to enter free of charge—would easily pay for the initial outlay and annual upkeep).

Great Crosby Marsh was enclosed in 1816, the award being made at the Ship Inn, Great Crosby (Warrenhouse Road.) The old bullcroft (the field or enclosure in which the town bull was kept) stood in Marsh Lane, now called College Road from the Merchant Taylors' School or "college." Part of it became the charming park behind the Town Hall, while the Assembly Rooms were built upon another portion of it: these became the Alexandra Hall at a later date (so named after the Queen of King Edward VII), and then the Town Hall. In 1889 Colonel Nicholas Blundell gave $3\frac{1}{2}$ acres to the township to make the recreation ground in Coronation Road (so named from the coronation of King Edward VII), whose bowling greens, tennis courts, children's gymnasium, boat pond and

flower gardens are so much enjoyed by the inhabitants and their little ones to-day.

A notice in the Directory of 1824 states that "a boat will leave Liverpool for Bootle, Linacre and Crosby every day at 10 a.m., 4 p.m., and 7 p.m." This was the *Lancashire Witch*, a packet boat plying along the Leeds and Liverpool Canal, and people often came out by this method, a very pleasant one in those days, when the canal wound its way through green fields almost all the way. This well-known artificial water-way was surveyed in 1767, and completed in 1816. One record states that, in the height of the summer season, seven sailings a day sometimes took place.

In 1838, the Victoria Channel off the Crosby shore—so named after Queen Victoria who had ascended the throne in 1837—used as an important entrance to the Mersey, was formed.

In a map of 1850 (Ordnance Sheet 99), may be seen Stanfield Cemetery and Stanfield House, as well as Endbutts Farm, Endbutts Cottage, and Endbutts House. Endbutt Lane runs there to-day. A Pinfold Lane led to Cooks Lane, so that most likely the village pinfold or "pound" was there, in which any cattle and horses which strayed out of their fields were confined, until their owners came to reclaim them and to pay for their release. From the Green there ran Little Crosby Lane, diverging northwards from Cooks Lane and leading to Crosby School. School Lane led from this little seminary to Crosby Demesne—the private grounds of Crosby Hall—with Liverpool Lodge at the corner of the "Burying Ground Plantation," and Harkirk as the central portion of the graveyard. Ormskirk Lodge (at the Moor Hey Plantation) and Little Crosby Cottage were on Virgins Lane which ran to Quarry House. Three wells are marked, on the map, in Little Crosby (a one-street village), one, the Town's Well, being opposite the Mill Plantation and beside the town's Cross. To the north-west of the chapel was the great sandstone quarry (nowadays, often half-filled with water), on whose rocks the striation marks—made by glacial action—may still be seen.

The reaper and binder had not arrived at that time. Hay and corn were cut by the scythe. Boys had to work on the farm for eight and ten hours a day. There was no free education and very few could read or write. Tea at 4s. a lb. was a luxury for high days and holidays only. Sundays and holy

days were strictly observed: all toys and week-day books were put away. Neither the bicycle nor the motor-car was known. The Sabbath was very quiet: on that day "each man was his own master and his own servant." Week-day work and trade were leisurely—unresting, unfasting—but the hours of toil were often very long.

Crosby Road at first ended at what is known as Seaforth Corner, and people walking to Liverpool had to tramp over the sandhills until Great Howard Street was reached. The only public conveyance into Liverpool was by the Canal from Ford Bridge. The express passenger boats were called "flies" or "flyers," and had a kind of saloon built on the deck. They were drawn by two horses running tandem fashion, with a postilion who sounded a horn to warn oncomers, and to notify passengers when the stopping places were reached. The speed was about six miles per hour, the place of landing in Liverpool being Leeds Street. Amusing stories used to be told of these boat journeys, which all the voyagers seemed to enjoy. "The Crosby people walked down Endbutt Lane to the canal and boat—then Endboat Lane."

The road through Bootle into Liverpool—Stanley Road—was mainly laid out by the Earl of Derby, but he erected two turnpikes which were a heavy tax upon farmers. "The making of this road, however, opened a new era for this District, as a line of four-in-hand omnibuses* was immediately started, which became such a success that there were soon several competitors; the drive, with an uninterrupted view of the Mersey the whole way, was a favourite one for Liverpool people; the route was through the centre of Waterloo, with special stoppages at the Victoria and Bath hotels. These omnibuses were mostly swept away when the railway was constructed . . . The Railway had long been talked of; the original intention was to have brought the line from Waterloo to Crosby village, and thence on to Little Crosby village, but the route was opposed by the Blundell families, who eventually offered the Railway Company gratis all the land required if taken through the sandhills. This offer was accepted to the disappointment of Crosby, and the old village district had to remain stagnant." Among the chief houses in the area, mainly those of retired Liverpool business men, were Crosby House,

**Omnibus* is from Latin, dative plural of *omnis*—for all.

Enfield House (thus we now have Enfield Avenue), the Mulberries, the Moorlands, the Old House (Little Crosby Road), a large house on the Green (now Vermont House), and St. Michael's Villa. There was no shop worth the name. "The people baked their own bread, and their supplies of flour were obtained principally at the Wind-mill; it would astonish church



OLD COTTAGE, NEAR ST. LUKE'S CHURCH.

goers in these days to hear a notice read out during Sunday morning services to the effect that Mr. So-and-So would slaughter a cow on a certain day, and that beef would be sold at a named price per lb., yet such notices were common a century ago and served a useful purpose, as there was no butcher's shop anywhere near."

The Green was really the site of the present-day police station, and at one time possessed a Maypole. "The original name of Victoria Road was 'Out Lane,' doubtless meaning an outlet from the village, or possibly the road to the out-gaits* or common land. Its continuation, namely Blundellsands Road, was specially constructed by the Blundell family

*? Out-gates, or out-goings.

after the railway was opened." College Road, Great Crosby, was originally called Marsh Lane, and fifty years ago it was simply a muddy sandy track cutting across what was formerly known as Crosby Marsh. Liverpool horse races were at one time run on this marsh, and Standfield House (Liverpool Road) is said to be on the spot from which people viewed the sport. "With the exception of a few cottages at Little Brighton, and the Warren game-keeper's cottage, there was no house of any kind in Blundellsands when the railway was opened, the first railway station being the present Station-master's house by the overhead bridge," in Mersey Road. Warren Road and Warrenhouse Road are near by, at the present day.

A singular custom that may have had its rise in superstition was that, after the departure of a funeral from any dwelling in the village, a mug of hot ale and a piece of spiced cake were offered at the door to anyone who came along.

The Goose Feast was held in October and lasted for four days commencing on the Sunday after St. Luke's Day (Oct. 18th). Goose dinners were provided on the Sunday at the hotels—of which two were the Old Ship, a pleasing specimen of an old country inn whose demolition was regretted by many, and the George, which has been re-modelled in recent years—and were attended by crowds of people from Liverpool brought out by the omnibuses, while the remaining days were a sort of fair with stalls and roundabouts. This changed into a riotous gathering when rough and noisy people began to frequent the Feast, so that the police had often to be called in; and the old Festival died out.

As a writer said, in or about the year 1910: "The District Council has to be congratulated on the well-made and picturesque roads [such as the appropriately-named *Serpentine*], parks and recreation grounds. Altogether, the place has become very attractive, and before long will probably be the favourite suburb of Liverpool. This is all the more likely owing to the splendid service of trams (now motor-buses) and trains: it is doubtful if such facilities for business men exist anywhere else in the world."* A private park, to which the residents have keys, and which may not be built upon for ever, is a delightful pleasance of hill and dale, with flower beds, tennis courts, and fishing pond.

*From a very interesting and useful paper by W. Gregson, Esq.

"Within the last forty years (1830-70) Great Crosby has very considerably increased, having become a regular place of residence for Liverpool merchants; and the present proprietor of Great Crosby has appropriated a long track of sandhills on the coast for building purposes, under the name of Blundellsands." This pleasant part of Crosby, with its wide roads, large houses, and fine gardens, gradually spread inland to Cook's Lane. Here lived such leading families in the city of Liverpool as the Forwoods, of whom Sir W. B. Forwood was Lord Mayor in 1881, and the Rutherford, of whom W. Watson Rutherford, M.P., was Lord Mayor in 1903, and Charles Henry Rutherford in 1922. Some of the leading officials and business gentlemen of Merseyside live in Blundellsands to-day. But even in 1863 the district was still thinly peopled, Canon Armour—then the Headmaster of Merchant Taylors' School—estimating the population of Great Crosby at that date to number only about 4,000. A very interesting feature of the locality is the Pit Farm, with its large duck-pond at the side of Victoria Road, enclosed within iron railings through which the water is fully visible to the public, so that little children are able to satisfy their delightful instinct to feed the ducks with bits of stale bread. This farm has existed for 200 years.

St. Nicholas' Church originated in the school chapel of St. Barnabas down by the shore, licensed in 1864, but replaced by the larger and finer edifice erected some years later. The original chapel is now St. Nicholas' School in Warrenhouse Road. The Congregationalists have a school chapel near the village, built in 1884. Two years later, S. Joseph's Church in Warren Road was opened at Blundellsands. The Wesleyan Methodist Church in Blundellsands, with its tall and graceful spire arose in 1891. Seven years afterwards, the Presbyterian Church of England built their church there. SS. Peter and Paul's in Great Crosby was opened in 1894, the mission having been commenced in 1825: (the schools were built in 1927.) There are convents of the Sisters of Nazareth and the Sisters of St. Paul, the former occupying Crosby House (now Nazareth House). In the last year of the nineteenth century, St. Faith's Church was erected in Crosby Road.

A cotton mill erected in the field at the end of what is now Kershaw Avenue (so named after the owners of the mill) provided employment for a large number of workers, and led

to the laying-out of additional streets in this area, and the multiplication of houses and shops. After this development, it became a common experience to see lorries, loaded with cotton, going to and fro along the roads of Seaforth, Waterloo, and Crosby.

Hightown, a modern-built portion of Great Crosby, lies to the north, near the river Alt, and is a residential area consisting chiefly of large houses occupied by merchants and professional gentlemen of Liverpool.

The road to Little Crosby used, until about the 1930s, to run between two continuous hedges which divided it from the farmers' large fields on each side. To-day there is a ribbon of dwellings along both sides of the road, while short roads—as, for instance, Miller Avenue—are commencing to stretch out into the ancient fields. The open land on both sides of Moor Lane, used as a military camp during the Great War (by the Royal Welch Fusiliers with their white goat mascot, and the Notts Foresters, among other regiments) has similarly been covered with houses, and threaded by roads. All Saints' Church—a daughter of St. Luke's—is here, and a Methodist Church in Forefield Lane. Thornton, too, is growing, a large field near the Nag's Head hotel, and adjoining the newly-named Water Street, being criss-crossed with rows of houses completed in 1936. "There are 153 houses already built in Thornton, and we have plans for another 277 houses." The population is increasing so rapidly that even additional graveyard accommodation is needed, and provision is being made for another cemetery.

Little Crosby became a part of the Urban District in 1932.

A local board for the area (except the Waterloo portion) was formed in 1863. This in 1894 became an Urban District Council with nine members. In 1936, on amalgamation with Waterloo-with-Seaforth, the combined areas may be formed into a Corporate Borough.

GROWTH OF POPULATION.

	Great Crosby	Little Crosby	Waterloo- with-Seaforth	TOTAL
1901	7,555	563	+ 23,101	= 30,656
1911	12,273	—	+ 26,396	= 38,669
1921	13,721	—	+ 29,626	= 43,347
1931	18,285	—	+ 31,180	= 49,465
1934	22,809	—	+ 30,550	= 53,359

CHAPTER IV.

A LITTLE ABOUT SEFTON.

"Our voices shall with joyful sound
Make hills and valleys echo round."

MOTTO ON THE SEFTON CHURCH BELLS.

Sefton is a settlement of either the early English (Angles) of about the year 613, or perhaps about 642 (the name coming from Anglo-Saxon Seaf's *tun*, the village or hamlet of a man named Seaf), or was founded by the Norsemen who came to this area between 900 and 905 (Old Norse *sef* "sedge" *tun*, the place of the water plants called sedges). We can find nothing about it, in the old records, from that date until the time of the Norman Conquest. Then, in Domesday Book, we read that in the reign of King Edward the Confessor (1042—1066) "Sefton was held by five thegns." The church, dedicated to a favourite of the early English, Saint Helen, was certainly in existence before 1291, but the date of its erection is unknown. Some say that it was about or before the year 1204. In medieval times, the parish was in the diocese of Lichfield (or Coventry, when the bishop removed his residence), but when the diocese of Chester was founded, in 1541, it was placed in that See, and finally found itself in the new diocese of Liverpool when this was formed out of Chester in 1880.

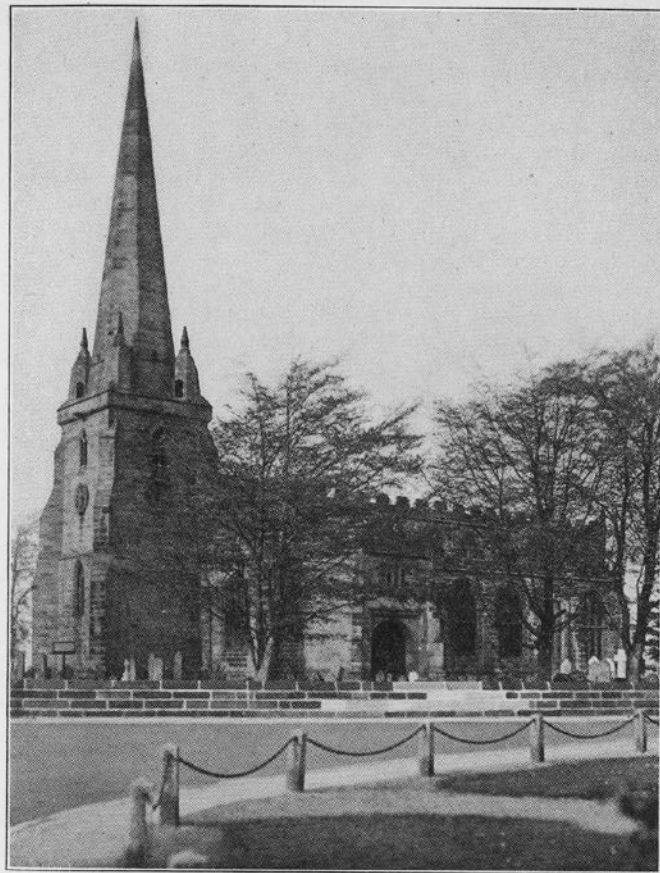
At about the time of the suppression of the chantries (1552), the church was entirely rebuilt—except for the tower and spire, the Molyneux Chapel on the north side of the chancel, containing the cross-legged figures and what is supposed to be the founder's tomb, and portions of the chancel and the north wall—by Anthony Molyneux, who held the family living (Sefton being the home of the Molyneux family) for twenty-two years, 1535—1557. Owing to his active vigour—a work of love and faith—the edifice became a graceful example of Gothic architecture, with a fine tower surmounted by a spire. "It is a very beautiful building, in the local freestone, and stands among the marshy fields and low wooded meadows—a landmark for miles around. It has several features peculiar to itself, the most noticeable of these being the revolving lych-gate through which one passes over the ancient tomb-stones that form the path."

"The oldest existing part of the church is the Sefton Chapel at the west end of the north aisle. Here is found in an arched recess an altar tomb, surmounted by the effigy of a knight, a piece of fourteenth century work; probably it is Sir Richard Molyneux, who was knighted in 1255, or, according to another authority, Sir William who was living in 1286. The other, a work of about 1325—40, is of a person unknown. To the west is the Blundell Chapel, which contains memorials to the Blundells of Ince and Crosby. Here was buried in 1698 William Blundell, the supporter of the Stuart cause, who wrote "A Cavalier's Note Book," with its interesting references to conditions and events during those stirring times.

"A chantry was founded in the church, of Margaret Bulkeley, daughter of the Sir Richard Molyneux who fell at the battle of Blore Heath; and it was dedicated to the Blessed Virgin Mary. Among the revenues which supported this chantry was the windmill at Thornton. A second chantry was founded by Edward Molyneux who held the living from 1509 to 1535; this was called the Molyneux Chantry. Both were suppressed by Henry VIII.

"The carving in Sefton Church, both on the chancel screen and on the pulpit, is remarkable for its beauty and interest; the pews, which are ornamented with carved letters, date from the fifteenth century. Four of the peal of bells were recast in 1601, and two others bearing the motto quoted at the head of this chapter were recently added. The pulpit, constructed in 1635, is a good example of the florid Renaissance work of the period. Strange is it to find the back of the screen of the Lady Chapel, facing the Communion Table, covered with names written by children in olden times, when the church was used as a school-room. At that time lack of accommodation compelled the priest to conduct his school in the church itself. Later a village school was erected, and here the 'hornbook' boys were prepared for John Harrison's Grammar School at Crosby." (Boys then learned their A B C from a "book" made on a board covered by transparent horn, such a book, and letters so covered, being very durable). The schools of Anthony Molyneux were to the north of the church.

"Later, in 1781, the church witnessed a wild scene when some sailors, pursued by the press gang, took refuge in the tower. There was a fierce struggle, and eventually the sailors were carried off to Liverpool to serve in the King's Navy.



SEFTON CHURCH (ST. HELEN'S).

"Yet, in spite of the ravages of time, Sefton Church survived and carried on its work over a very large area—at one time there were eight clergymen attached to Sefton—and continued to minister to many communities until the erection of other parish churches."*

In 1802 a storm destroyed part of the church, but this was repaired.

Sefton Hall existed in 1372 and was a large mansion surrounded by a circular moat, enclosing about a quarter of an acre of land. It stood opposite the south front of the church, but has entirely disappeared, except for a few of its stones. The Hall was the seat of the family until they moved to Croxteth in 1702. It appears to have survived as a farmhouse down to 1807. "A chapel was attached to this old mansion and was used for Catholic worship down to 1780, when it was dismantled and Netherton Catholic Chapel was built." An old mill is said to have been erected in 1595, "the course of the Alt being diverted for it." During the Civil War the font was destroyed by Cromwell, who however spared the rest of the church. A Cromwellian survey, held in 1650 at Wigan, describes the village thus: "Sephton, an ancient parish church and parsonage house and glebe lands, worth yearly 40 shillings. There is within the parish a little chapel named Great Crosby, fit to be made a parish." It was many years, however, before this latter suggestion was carried out. The Well of St. Helen springs near the first cottage in the Thornton road, beyond the Nag's Head Inn. In the adjoining ancient hamlet of Lunt several picturesque old houses stood, and a barn bearing the date 1693.

It is curious and interesting to read in the old books that in the eighteenth century, and the early days of the nineteenth, foxes' heads were worth a shilling apiece, and moles, sparrows and bullfinches were paid for by the score: *e.g.*,

1749. To several boys for 96 sparrows, 2s. 6d.

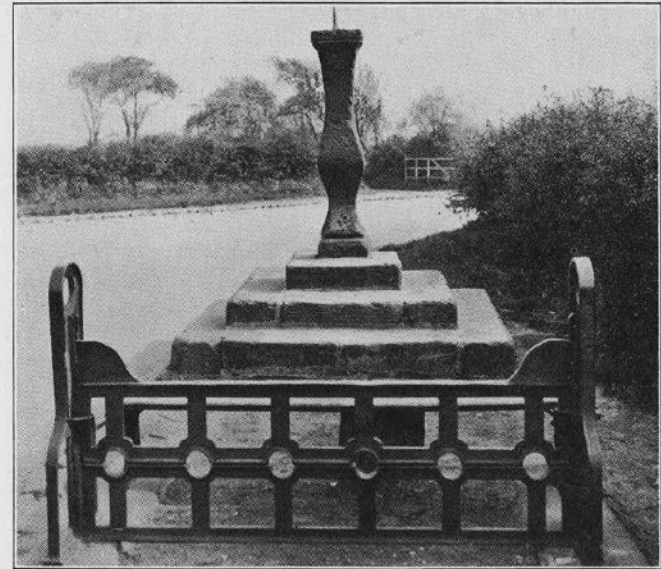
1805. To 3 bullfinches, 6d.

To Sparrows' heads at a halfpenny per head,
£1 1s. 3d.

For punishment there were the ducking stool and the stocks, the former being mentioned as being repaired in 1728, while the "ducking pond is still to be seen in Brickwall Lane at the

*This very pleasing description is from "John Harrison and His School."

junction of the second lane west of the rectory." Ducking was very often the punishment of quarrelsome women—"scolding queans." The "scold" was bound in a chair fixed at the end of a long plank placed on a swivel or fulcrum, at its centre, to project over a pond; and this was worked from the landward end like a see-saw, so that she was alternately ducked under the water and lifted out. This harsh treatment and



THE STOCKS, THORNTON

public disgrace usually sufficed to cure any shameless termagant. This poet Gay, in his "Pastorals," alludes to this custom in these lines:

*I'll hie me to the pond, where the high stool
On the long plank hangs o'er the muddy pool
That stood, the dread of every scolding quean.*

The stocks were renewed in 1725 and 1791. The dog-whipper, whose duty it was to drive out the dogs that entered the church

during divine service, was an officer who appears to have been retained till 1820. Sometimes he combined that business with the task of waking up any of the congregation who slept during the sermon.

Sefton was famous for its bowling parties in the olden days, and still of course carries on this ancient game. A letter of 1668 says, "The noble Countess of Southampton hath been here for four or five weeks among us, bowling on Sefton Green." Another says, "Once a week, a meeting of a dozen or fourteen gentlemen, or more, after dinner at Sefton, spend the afternoon at bowls. My Lord Molineux and his son (who is lately come out of Italy), Sir Edward Stanley, my cousin Scarisbrick and others, have engaged to meet at Sefton every week." Cock-fighting was also a very favourite pastime.

A very peculiar party of people who met at Sefton regularly during the latter half of the eighteenth century was the Mock Corporation. One of them was called the Mayor, two others were the Bailiffs, and there were a Recorder, a Town Clerk, a number of Aldermen and Common Council Men, a Sword-and-Mace Bearer, a Bellman, and a number of Free Burgesses (free citizens or ratepayers or voters, as one might say) all elected by the members of the "Corporation" themselves, just for amusement. This company met in a room which the members called the "Mansion House," in the old church inn which was afterwards divided into two cottages (which disappeared about 1888). After 1783, the Corporation began to meet in winter months in Bootle, at the "Coffee-House" near the canal bridge. (Coffee as a popular drink had been brought from Turkey into England, "coffee-houses" had become very fashionable, first of all in London and then in the other large towns of the kingdom which wished to copy London, and gentlemen went there to sit and sip and gossip, to read the newspapers which were then just beginning to be published, and to hear and discuss the latest news). The chief occupation of these gentlemen was to eat and drink and chat together, and to welcome visitors or elect new members, while on some occasions they paid a ceremonial visit to the church and made collections for various charities—the Liverpool Infirmary of that date, the Liverpool Blue-Coat School (a party of whose pupils came to the church on that day in their peculiar blue uniform dress), and the poor. The meetings of this mock corporation gradually died out in the early years of the nineteenth century.

About 1830-40 "it was customary for the two daughter churches in the parish, Crosby (St. Luke's) and Seaforth (St. Thomas's) to be closed on the three festivals, Easter, Whit Sunday and Christmas Day, and for their clergy and parishioners to repair to the Parish Church (Sefton) and officiate at its services." Alterations were made to the church when necessary, down to the nineteenth century.

A brief account of the remarkable and ancient family which held the manor of Sefton for so many centuries, and still hold it, may be interesting. A de Molines who came over with the Conqueror (and is thought by some to have been his nephew) may have been either the predecessor or the progenitor of the family. Soon afterwards, at all events, a de Molines or de Molyneux—whose coat of arms is the cross moline—is found in the old records to be in possession of Sefton, granted to him by the holder of the "Honour of Lancaster" (a noble named Roger de Poitou, or Roger the Poitevin), or, as we should say, broadly speaking, the lord of Lancashire. From that time onwards the men of the Molyneux family continued to be prominent in the history of the county. In 1256 Sir William Molines (Molineux), having more than 3,600 acres—a knight's "service"—was knighted by Henry III. Another Sir William Molyneux (grandson) was made knight banneret in Gascony—during the French wars of the thirteenth century—by the Earl of Lancaster, second son of Henry III. Another son, William, grandson of the last-mentioned, fought at the battle of Navarette under the Black Prince (knight banneret, 1367). Sir Richard Molyneux (grandson) living in 1397 was sheriff of the county of Lancaster (for life) and knight of the shire. In 1415 his son, Sir Richard, was knighted at Agincourt. Another Sir Richard (son) was in 1454 gentleman usher to Henry VI: he fell fighting under the Lancastrian banner at the battle of Bloreheath in 1459. A brother of this Sir Richard (Sir Robert Molyneux of Altcar) was captured in battle, and an old record of the year 1448 says: "An Indulgence of one hundred days for a year to raise 100 ducats for the ransom of Sir Robert Molyneux of Altcar, who has been taken prisoner in a battle with the Saracens and Turks whilst fighting for the Cross. He has been sold as a captive to serve most cruel men, and confined in a castle . . . in bondage of the Lord of all Turkey. They have tried in vain

by every kind of torture to oblige him to renounce his religion. At last they released him, he promising to pay them the sum above mentioned, and leaving his two brothers (he had five—Edmund, Henry, Gilbert, Sir Thomas, and John) as his hostages. He must return by a certain day, and if he is not then back, for each day of his absence they will cut off a limb of one of his brothers."

(Constantinople was captured by the Turks in 1453).

In 1513, Sir William Molyneux fought at the battle of Flodden Field, when the Scots were very heavily defeated by the English, and Lancashire men had a great share in the victory: he was a friend of Henry VIII. On the floor of the choir in Sefton Church is a brass (a design in brass) of this knight, dressed in armour, with two ladies by him, an inscription and coat of arms beneath his feet, while over their heads are two shields, one of which bears two banners crossed. We may read the inscription as follows: "William Molyneux, knight and Lord of Sefton, was thrice sent against the Scots when Henry VIII was King of England, but especially at Flodden, where he captured with his own hands two standards of arms of the Scots who were most stoutly resisting." The two banners on the shield are representations of those which Sir William captured. In 1553, Sir Richard Molyneux (son) was knighted at the coronation of Queen Mary: he was sheriff in 1556. Sir Richard, his grandson, was in 1586 knighted by Queen Elizabeth; he was sheriff, and was made a baronet when James I instituted that order of nobility in 1611. The second baronet, Sir Richard, was raised in 1628 to the Irish peerage as Viscount Maryborough. In 1651, the second Viscount, Sir Richard, was at the battle of Worcester, fighting by the side of Prince Charles when the Royalist forces were defeated by Oliver Cromwell—after which the Prince had to hide in an oak-tree (and at Boscobel House) before he could escape to France. Caryl, the third Viscount, assisted Prince Rupert to capture Liverpool in 1644, he was at Oxford and Worcester with his elder brother, was outlawed by the Parliament for fighting on the Stuart side, but at length "compounded for his fine" (was pardoned on paying a large sum of money): he was made Lord Lieutenant of Lancashire by James II. The family removed to Croxteth in 1702, but both Croxteth and Sefton suffered loss and damage when the head of the Molyneux family supported the Stuart

cause during the "Fifteen" and the "Forty-Five" rebellions on behalf of the waning Stuart cause, under the Georgian dynasty. In 1771, Charles William, ninth Viscount, was created Earl of Sefton. In 1831, William Philip, second Earl, was created a peer of the United Kingdom as Baron Sefton of Croxteth. The third Earl was Charles William, and his son, William Philip, was the fourth.

CHAPTER V.

THE MERCHANT TAYLOR
AND HIS SCHOOL.

You are to teach not only good behaviour but also good manners.—Directions to the Master.

Merchant Taylors' School, eminent not only in the examination room but also on the field of sport, has an interesting history. In 1570 we hear of a Thomas Harrison who, with other inhabitants of Great Crosby, had a dispute with the people of Litherland as to his rights to pasture his sheep on what some people called Great Crosby Marsh, and other people, Litherland Marsh, which then extended from the present-day Moor Lane to Litherland (over the land through which the Leeds and Liverpool Canal flows at the present time). It is said that Harrison won his suit. About the same time, a John Harrison, also a shepherd in Great Crosby, went to London like another Dick Whittington to make his fortune—and made it. For he became a rich merchant—a citizen and merchant tailor—and a member of the Merchant Taylors' Company, one of the important guilds of the capital (1558). His eldest son was also named John Harrison, and, as his father had been a member of the guild, so he became a member by succession (1591), attaining the high office of Warden some years later. He remembered Crosby, his father's old home in the north country, and in his will in 1618 (and codicil of 1619) founded the Merchant Taylors' Boys' School in this Lancashire village. He persuaded Sir Richard Molyneux—who was the leading gentleman in the area and lived near Crosby, while John Harrison dwelt in London—to help him with his admirable project: an area of about one and a half acres was bought: and the scheme was launched. The Will said:—

"I give and bequeath... unto the Company... of Merchant Taylors in London, whereof I am a Brother, £500 to the end that they... should erect and build up in Great Crosby in the parish of Sefton, in the County of Lancaster, where my father was born... one free Grammar School for the teaching, educating and instructing of children...

in the grammar and rules of learning for ever, which shall be called by the name of the Merchant Taylors' School founded at the charge of John Harrison."

Thus, when this good man died, the Company were able, with the advice and help of Sir Richard Molyneux, who doubtless rode down now and again from Sefton, to arrange that the School should be built. An inscription on a brass plate, with the date 1620, has the arms of John Harrison and the Merchant Taylors' Company upon it, with this interesting little rhyme:—

*Crosby now Much or Great we well may name
For by the School it doth receive great fame*.*

At last, in 1622, the building was completed, a Head Master was appointed at a salary of £30 a year, and an Usher to assist him at a salary of £20 a year. Rules were drawn up by the Company, a few scholars arrived, and the good work of John Harrison commenced. Among other regulations:

- (1) boys, only, were admitted into the school:
- (2) if a child was found to be slow in learning his grammar, his parents could take him away:
- (3) "if he be absent nine days together without leave or reasonable cause, then he shall pay six pence before he be re-admitted:"
- (4) "Your children shall have due and reasonable correction either for misbehaving themselves, or negligence in learning:"
- (5) "The children shall come to school at 7 o'clock in the morning, summer and winter, and stay until 11 o'clock; and at 1 o'clock in the afternoon, and there remain until 5 at night:"
- (6) "The Schoolmaster and the Usher shall never be absent from the School both together, and neither of them be absent above 21 working days in the year:"
- (7) "Every holiday (holy-day) or Saturday, the Master or Usher or both shall instruct their scholars in the principles of religion:"
- (8) "The Scholars shall not exclude the Master and Usher at any time before the Feast of the Nativity according as it hath been the fashion in some countries, but shall be willing to be dismissed by the Master a week or ten days before the time, according to his discretion."

*Spelling modernized.

This last provision was made in order to put a stop, if possible, to the custom which the boys in many schools then claimed as a right and privilege, of locking the Master out of his own school, and making him give them a present or grant a holiday, before they would let him in again.

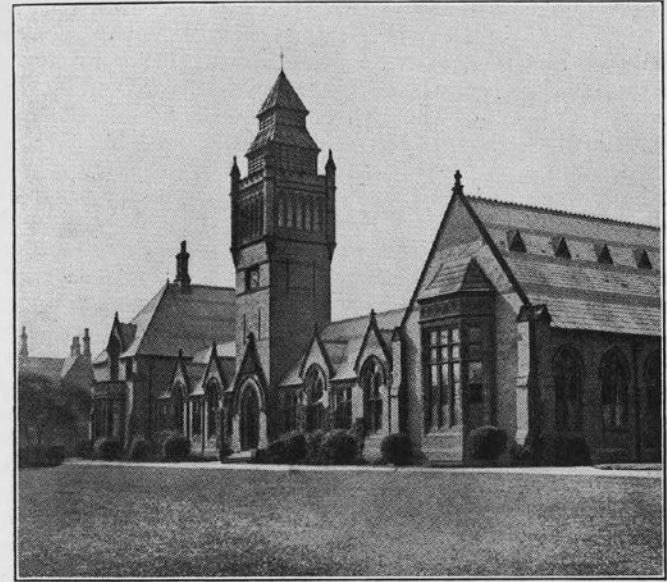
Thus the Merchant Taylors' School began its great work, with just a few of the village children for its first pupils.

"Among the books from which they learnt were :—Calepine's diction ; Cooper's diction ; Scapulae Lexicon ; Nizoly's diction ; Rider's diction ; Seneca Opera ; Titus Livius ; Licosthenis Apothegmata ; Textoris Epitheta ; and Valerius Maximus." Mr. Kidd, the Master, was also the vicar of the parish of Great Crosby, so that he had plenty of work to do in carrying out his double duties. Other masters followed him as time went on, and the School gradually made progress. Thus in 1654 the official Visitors to the building said :—"We are all in great hope that in a short time it will prove one of the most famous schools in the country. There are about three score scholars in it, four or five of whom, at least, are ready to go to the University . . . Many men of quality desire to place their children with the Master, but he hath no spare room to lodge them in, which doth much hinder the good of the School."

As there was such a demand for places, the Company made a grant of £50 for the enlargement of the Master's house, and the establishment continued its work until the Great Fire of London in 1666. The money for the upkeep of the School had come from the rents of half a dozen houses belonging to John Harrison in London—in Crane Court, in the parish of St. Augustine and St. Swithin—and in the Great Fire these were burnt down. Thus the Company could not now pay anything towards the maintenance of the School, the Master and Usher received no salaries, and the Usher left. The Master stayed on but lost many of his pupils. Almost thirty years later (1692) a Court of judgment, which dealt with losses caused by the Great Fire, decided that payments to the School should begin again, and fixed £34 9s. 4d. as the amount to be given for the salaries of the Master and Usher, and the upkeep of the premises. £34 9s. 4d. seems rather a small sum out of which to pay two teachers and the expenses of a school, but money could buy much more in those times than it can at the present day.

Thus the School re-commenced its career, and the new

Master—who, like his forerunners, was also the Vicar of Great Crosby—became a great friend of the Squire, Mr. Nicholas Blundell. They used to have a "goose feast" every year at the clergyman's house (between 1703 and 1711) ; they had pancakes on Shrove Tuesday, with a fiddler playing to make them merry ; they played bowls at Ince ; and the Squire "got



MERCHANT TAYLORS' BOYS' SCHOOL.

the schoolboys at Great Crosby leave to play (that is, he persuaded the Master to give them a holiday*)—we took Parson Waring (the Master and Vicar) to Nicholas Johnson's and treated him."

When "Parson Waring" died, his son was made Master in the father's stead at the age of about twenty-three (1711), and he, too, had many a good day of feast or sport with the Squire.

*As the Chairman of Governors often does, at Speech Day, to-day.

(One August 24th, they played a bowling main by moonlight and candle light). By the year 1752, also, the Master and Usher began to receive their old salaries again—£30 and £20 respectively—with £5 for the repair of the School. This better fortune continued, and the School carried on its work, until the middle of the nineteenth century.

But in 1849 we read that the Master had been dismissed, and "there was not then any Master, Usher, or even scholars of the School," so that evidently the establishment had gone utterly to decay. But there was plenty of money available to nourish the foundation, for rents of property in London had by this time risen considerably; so that Merchant Taylors' Company applied to the Court of Chancery to make fresh arrangements. These were made, and the old school was reopened, the Court providing for the admission of forty boys on the Foundation, and sixty beyond it, the former being given free education from the funds of the School, and the additional sixty boys paying two shillings and sixpence a quarter each. In 1863, a new Headmaster was appointed in Canon Armour (whose name is still remembered with veneration as in the name of Armour House to-day), the School commenced a new era, and it soon gained name and fame. Its progress was such that thirteen years later it was found advisable to remove from the original buildings: the Company bought ten acres of land at what is now the corner of College Road (probably so named because of the rise of this place of learning) and Crosby Road; and the boys and School began a new career there. In front of the fine pile of buildings is a large playing field, where many a good cricket and football game has been watched with interest by the errand-boys and passers-by. Old boys of the School have risen to the highest eminence in politics, the professions, business and sport.

But what of the ancient building? Was that "scrapped"? Oh, no: it was reserved for a much better fate. It became another Merchant Taylors' School—one for girls only. Since, in the olden days, girls were not supposed to need an education such as was given to the boys, and therefore the old School had no girls in it—but in the new world of the late nineteenth century women began to demand their rights, and among these was the education of their daughters—therefore the Merchant Taylors' Company in London felt that they could

best use old John Harrison's bequest, and carry out his heart's desire in the spirit of modern times, by founding another school in the ancient building, which should be for girls. Thus, in the empty classrooms, whose forms and walls were doubtless scored and scarred with the names of many old boys, new furniture was brought in, suitable alterations made, and the place prepared for tenants of the fair sex. The new School consisted of the renovated four classrooms and the "Birch" room of the older building, the long corridor and the four rooms opening off it, and the old headmaster's house which was joined up to the general fabric. The salary of the Headmistress was to be £120 a year (not, you see, the £30 of the early days), plus "head money"—so much per head—varying between £2 and £4 for each girl. Also, as there were "Harrison" and other scholarships and exhibitions in the Boys' School, so similar awards for merit and scholarship were now given to the girls. Thus another Merchant Taylors' School was launched, to the great benefit of the residents of Crosby and the surrounding neighbourhoods (1888).

The School began with fifty girls: the subjects were the same as those in the Boys' School, besides such feminine occupations as needlework and domestic economy; and the pupils were able to obtain the certificate of the Oxford Local examinations. Five years later, an enlargement was made by the construction, over the lower classrooms, of a large hall for assemblies, with an additional classroom: the girls began to play field games (hockey was begun in 1897); and by the end of the century the number on roll had reached about 130. Girls were not admitted until they were eight years old. When the Endowed Schools Act was passed, the Company was replaced in the control of the School by a Board of local Governors (1910), and the School is still supervised in this manner. More accommodation was soon required, the adjoining property known as the "Mulberries" was bought, the entrance hall was made to connect the old part with the new, and extensive reconstruction was carried out (1911). The garden showed the new trend of modern days in sport, for it was turned into tennis courts. Indoors, gymnastic apparatus was introduced for physical exercise and the healthy development of the body. In 1918 a Junior School had to be erected because of the pressing demand for the education of young girls preparatory to that of their

later years, so that a continuity of instruction was obtained. Four years later, further developments followed, including a uniform dress for the pupils, the formation of an active Company of Girl Guides, and many varied activities in charity and sport. In 1929, the School was again enlarged and brought up to date. Old girls have gained numerous successes at the Universities, in the professions and in business, and the number of pupils has increased to 400.

As a historian of the School has well said: "Once those old buildings stood in quiet fields, through which a footpath ran between the small town of Liverpool and the village of Much (Great) Crosby. Once the pupils were the sons of farmers and cottagers, come to study their Latin and Greek from Mr. Kidd and his usher. Now, beside the busy road that leads to the great northern port, stand two schools. Nearly a thousand boys and girls of Crosby and Waterloo come to John Harrison's Foundation. The Local Visitors in 1654 saw signs of promise in the School. Their words have been echoed and are still the wish of all who know and love the School: 'We are all in great hope that it will prove one of the most famous schools in the country.'"



The Latin motto of the school is *Concordia Parvæ Res Crescunt*, and means in English, on the best authority, "BY HARMONY SMALL THINGS BECOME GREAT" (a very suitable motto for a school which, from its small commencement, has now become such an important centre of learning).

STEVENS.

John Stevens, Headmaster (whose B.L. degree
Must be counted a worthy achievement),
Arrived when the School, most unfortunately,
Of John Kidd had just suffered bereavement.

He found the condition of things all askew,
And considered it could not be worse made;
The pupils were young, and so little they knew,
He was not so much master as nurse-maid.

A dolorous letter he presently penned,
Lamenting his awkward position,
And, when it was written, proceeded to send
It to London with all expedition.

"The barbarous folk among whom I reside
Have never enjoyed any schooling;
They wave all the old regulations aside,
And laugh at the Company's ruling.

"They ignore altogether our Founder's intent
To admit none but boys to his benches,
Though I've told them I cannot, and will not, consent
To supply education to wenches.

"Their sons cannot read, and will often affirm
That m's the same letter as w.
I've been teaching the alphabet most of the term,
So you'll not be surprised that I trouble you.

"Their anger and insolence add to my cares;
Each day I'm perceptibly sadder.
They recently threatened to pull down my stairs
(Which would force me to purchase a ladder).

"You'll allow, I am sure, that it will not be nice
If I'm driven these insults to swallow.
I beg you to give me immediate advice,
And to tell me what course I should follow."

To the master's epistle the Company gave
Very careful and serious attention;
They could see that the whole situation was grave,
And the statutes in risk of suspension.

But they only suggested the value of tact,
 And a talk with the local Committee;
 They could not, of course, let his troubles distract
 Them from business affairs in the City.

So he had to continue the battle alone,
 And conducted himself so discreetly
 That at length—how he managed it never was known—
 The natives surrendered completely.

A year or two later, it's pleasant to tell,
 The School had a high reputation.
 So here's to the memory of Stevens, B.L.,
 Who worked such a great transformation.

C.F.R.*

* Rev. C. F. Russell, M.A., the present Headmaster of Merchant Taylors' School, Great Crosby, by whose kind permission the song is printed.

CHAPTER VI.

A BRIEF ACCOUNT OF LITHERLAND

"They were but a few men in number; yea, very few, and strangers in it."—PSALM CV, 12.

Litherland lies between the crowded industrial area of Bootle and the open country of Sefton, and contains dwelling-houses, warehouses, shops, streets, farms and manufactories. It is on a slightly higher level than that of its seaward neighbour, Seaforth. The soil is for the most part sandy, with a layer of clay beneath. The geological formation of the north-eastern half of the township consists, like its neighbours, of the New Red Sandstone; that of the south-western, of the waterstones of the same series. These have been covered by alluvial soil* along the course of the Rimrose Brook, and by the blown sand which is found all along this coast.

The first inhabitants were probably—apart from prehistoric peoples, of whom we have not yet discovered any traces—the Norsemen in 900—905, the name of the township being most probably derived from the Old Norse *hlitherland*, "the slope of land," a very suitable designation. (The early settlers usually chose appropriate and descriptive names for the places wherein they made their homes).

While England was settling down into a unified kingdom, this area became a part of Sefton, and was called Down-Litherland to distinguish it from Up-Litherland in Aughton. As we have seen above, Domesday Book tells us that the last English holder in the reign of King Edward the Confessor was a man named Elmer. But, just as so many other parts of the country, after the Conquest—and after the English rebellions in the north, the north-west, the Fens, and the west—were given to Normans by William I, so within sixty years the whole of this township came into the possession of the Molyneux family, and has since descended with Sefton. One half apparently came to the Molyneuxes with Sefton itself, and the other half seems to have been granted in exchange for

*Alluvial soil is earth washed down by rivers, rains and streams (Fr., from Lat. *alluvionem* (nom. *alluvio*) from *luere*, to wash).

lands which this family held at Toxteth (then near, now in, Liverpool). Of this latter moiety (half), we read that half was held by a man named Robert de Walton, and half by Richard, son of Siward, each of these being an under-tenant of the Molyneux family (1212). About 1125, Stephen, count of Mortain (and afterwards Stephen "the Usurper," king of England from 1135 to 1154) had confirmed to the Molyneux family—Robert de Molyneux being then the head—their land in Litherland, for which they had to pay the King 14s. a year. Such payments or rents were common in those days whenever the King made a grant of land, rights, or privileges to a noble, a knight, or the inhabitants of a town.

One of the above-mentioned quarters of the manor appears to have been held by a "doom-man" or judge, and this official probably represented the lord of Sefton at the meeting of the "wapentake court" of the area—the ancient court to which disputes, questions and causes were brought by the people of the manor, this court being regularly held at the "capital manor" of West Derby. Some authorities appear to think that this quarter was Orrell—which was most probably a settlement of the English in the seventh century, its name being thought to be Anglo-Saxon and to come from *ora* "bank, or margin." Thus it had become—by inheritance, sale, marriage or grant—a part of Litherland, while the latter was part of the parish of Sefton. By the year 1346 the two halves had become one complete manor of the Molyneux family, and this was at that time held by Richard de Molyneux.

Thus it seems as if from very early times Litherland had consisted of three parts, one large and two small, and these may have been the Litherland, Orrell, and Ford of to-day. The last-named was most likely another settlement of the early English (the Angles, as so many books call them) of Northumbria or Mercia in the seventh century, at the time when Orrell, Thornton and Netherton were founded. Its name is plain English, and means exactly what it says—the "ford," the passage through shallow water across the brook.

In the sixteenth century we read that a man named Thomas Ashton sold his lands in the township of Litherland to the Molyneuxes. There was another family named Lee in the township, whose lands also came to the Molyneux family. But, as was usual, the lord of the manor let out portions of

the estate to others—as, for example, to Randle de Litherland (before the year 1212)—some families of the fifteenth century being named Ballard, Gorstihill, Linacre, Makin, Mercer Tristram, and Witlaw. The Moores of Bank Hall—an eminent family of Liverpool through many centuries—acquired a large part of the township, chiefly, it would seem, by buying it from some of the earlier owners just named. "In 1769, besides Lord Molyneux, the Earl of Derby (who bought up much of the Moore estate), William Bolton, Richard Tristram, John Wainwright, and others held small portions of the land."

Orrell lies to the south of Ford, and to the north of Litherland. It is not known when the two former were separated from Litherland to form a distinct township. Orrell lies on the borders of Walton, and contains the highest land in the Parish of Sefton. A pedestal of an ancient cross still exists, and there is a sundial at Springwell House. From 1894 the township had a parish council, but in 1905 it was taken into the borough of Bootle.

Ford occupies a corner between Litherland, Great Crosby, and Sefton: the road from Litherland to Sefton, and the Leeds and Liverpool Canal, pass through it. The ford from which it takes its name was perhaps one over the Rimrose Brook, which divides it from Great Crosby. A cemetery of 21 acres was opened in 1885, and has the Church of the Holy Sepulchre adjoining it, built in 1861. There is also a convent of nuns of the Good Shepherd, who have an asylum for women in distress, which was established in Everton, Liverpool, in 1858, and removed to Ford in 1867; their Church of the Sacred Heart, built in 1887, is open to the public.

The field names in a map of the year 1769 show that the Marsh was the district between the Rimrose Brook and the shore. East of the present Seaforth Station was the Holme, and to the north were Such Field and Whabs. The moss occupied the north-eastern part of the township: the moor adjoined it on the borders of Orrell. The Church Field was north of the old village, on the borders of Ford, but it is not known why it was called by this name.

The first church in Litherland—St. Philip's—commenced as a gathering of worshippers in 1859 in a room over the stables of the Litherland Hotel, the services being conducted by curates from Sefton Church. But the accommodation was

quite inadequate, and a committee of the people of Orrell and Litherland was able to obtain the erection of "St. Philip's, Orrell Hey, Litherland," which was commenced in 1861 and opened in 1863. The name also commemorates that of Philip, Earl of Sefton, who gave the site, laid the foundation stone, and allowed the committee to take stone from the quarry adjoining Litherland Park. At the consecration in 1864, the First Lesson was read by the Rev. W. Rawson, the first vicar of St. Thomas's, Seaforth, and the Second Lesson by the Ven. Archdeacon Jones, the well-known vicar of Christ Church, Waterloo (his son was Vicar of St. John's, Waterloo). Enlargements of the church, necessitated by the increasing population, were carried out in 1868-69. In recent years, three daughter churches have been erected in the parish—St. Mark's (Mission), 1899; St. Andrew's, Linacre Road, 1901 (replaced by the present-day building three years later); and the Church of St. John and St. James, 1911 (formerly St. James's, Orrell Hey). In 1927, the Earl of Sefton gave the church an acre of land, adjoining the grounds of the vicarage, for parochial purposes.

The Tannery Mission is very interesting as having commenced as far back as about 1866.

"The oldest non-conformist place of worship in Litherland is the Methodist Chapel in Wilson's Lane, which, one hundred years ago, stood in rural surroundings as a country outpost of the Bootle Circuit. The Chapel stood in the midst of cornfields and was approached by country lanes." The first Linacre Mission Hall was opened in Hartwell Street in 1900. The present-day Mission Hall in Linacre Road arose five years later. But new streets were being built, and houses multiplying in the district, and therefore, in 1914, the Mission bought some shops and houses in Linacre Road, demolished them, and erected the present-day block of buildings (accommodating Sunday School, gymnasium, and social clubs) on the site. In the chapel grounds in Wilson's Lane a new hall was built and opened in 1935.

In the year 1845, the Catholic farmers of the neighbourhood obtained a grant of land from Lord Sefton, and erected St. Joseph's School, built of local stone from a little quarry, now disused, at the end of Greenfield Lane. "This little building served the community for miles around for years before even St. James's, Bootle, had any school. It seems to have been

the only Catholic elementary school between Crosby and St. Anthony's (Scotland Road, Liverpool)." For many years the little mission continued its work in lonely isolation: but "Bootle overflowed its old boundaries," the population of Litherland increased, and further accommodation was needed. In 1930, therefore, a parish hall was opened, erected beside the school, and given the title of "English Martyrs." An indication of the growth of the district about this time may be seen in a statement with regard to this place of worship, to the effect that "Whereas in 1927 the parishioners numbered 300, in 1934 the number reached 960, and it is increasing month by month." In 1933 another 1½ acres of land were bought from Lord Sefton "In preparation for the new church, the future enlargement of the schools, and the erection of a Presbytery," and the Church of the English Martyrs was accordingly opened in 1935: it has a graceful campanile* rising to a height of 60 feet.

St. Philip's were the first day schools, and began in a very small way in 1863, in the room over the stables of the hotel. Four years later, new schools were built beside the church, the land being given by Lord Sefton. In 1881 these had to be enlarged to accommodate the increasing juvenile population. In time, even the larger building was found to be inadequate for the educational needs of the area; a school Board was constituted; and the first year of the twentieth century saw the erection of a "Board School" in Lander Road† (enlarged nine years later). Lander Road was named after Canon Lander, vicar of St. Philip's and first Chairman of the School Board. This school soon became over-crowded, and another—now Beach Road Council School—was opened in 1908. A demand arose, here as elsewhere, for higher education, and the Central School in Church Road was opened in 1928. "Meantime the Roman Catholic Church have provided educational facilities for their children at S. Elizabeth's School and Holy Sepulchre School." Still another elementary school arose in 1936 on land between Moss Lane and Church Road.

The Local Board for this area held its first meeting in 1863, in Moss Lane. (In this year, too, part of the district was taken

*Campanile: a bell-tower, usually detached and separate from the church itself (Italian, *campana* "a bell").

†Now Lander Road Council School.

out to form a new township extending inland from the shore, and called Waterloo-with-Seaforth). Summerhill Cottage in Sefton Road was afterwards used for the public offices, which were still later removed to Beech House, "and finally to Litherland House at the corner of Field Lane, the grounds of which have been extended to form a public park. . . . The War Memorial, which stands just outside the entrance gates, was erected by public subscription in 1924, and was unveiled by Viscount Molyneux (now Lord Sefton)."

The Leeds and Liverpool Canal which passes (from Liverpool and Bootle) through Litherland, was commenced in the year 1770, and this part of the waterway was completed soon afterwards. "Several of the larger houses in the district were built on its banks, as the canal boat was the chief means of conveyance to Liverpool for passengers and goods. A horn was blown by a man dressed in a red jacket, as a signal of the departure of the boat. About a hundred years later, the Lancashire and Yorkshire railway (since merged into the London, Midland and Scottish railway) was carried through from Liverpool to Southport, with a station for Seaforth and Litherland, where there was a level crossing. Later, the track was raised on an embankment, the present bridge and station being built about 1885. On either side of Bridge Road, where shops now stand, were fields or waste ground which stretched as far as Hapsford Road on the south side. A white-washed cottage stood in a hollow near the corner of Bridge Road and Linacre Road." The line to Fazakerley also passes through the township.

A footbridge across the canal was constructed in 1864, but was replaced by an iron one twenty-four years later. "The overhead bridge was also erected about that time." By the year 1933, "with the development of the district and the considerable increase of road traffic, it was found necessary to provide a stronger and wider bridge," and the present-day lift bridge was constructed.

"Cornfields formerly surrounded the church, with a farmhouse standing at the corner of Church Road and School Lane. In School Lane was the pinfold or pound, where stray animals were sometimes kept for a while. Another farmhouse in this lane has been occupied by the Harrison family for considerably over a century. Together with Pickering's farm in Hatton

Hill Road, it provides the last remaining evidence of the former rural character of the neighbourhood. The fields extended beyond the north-east boundary (having been originally reclaimed from moss land) until the years 1914-1918, when many of them were taken over for military camps. They have since been used for the development of housing estates. . . . About seventy years ago (1865) there was a windmill on the bank of the canal at the back of Mill Grove, while the village green and sundial at the end of Field Lane, near Litherland House, the present Council offices, date back 60 to 65 years."*

In 1882 the population was estimated at 2,514. By the end of the century it was over 10,000. During the first thirty-five years of the 20th century, it advanced to a total of nearly 17,000.

The area has been found very suitable—in earlier days because of the cheap transport facilities provided by the useful Leeds and Liverpool Canal, and in recent times owing to the construction of great arterial roads through south and west Lancashire—for the erection of factories. These now include the Diamond Match Works in Linacre Road, a large Boot and Clothing Factory in Beach Road, the two Tanneries in Field Lane (descendants of a very ancient industry), a tin-smelting works, and a Printing Works in Hawthorne Road. The geographical factors of the area are so favourable that these factories will probably be gradually augmented by others, and Litherland will become one of the most important industrial townships near the great seaport on the Mersey. It is already pushing out its tentacles, in the shape of houses and streets, into the fields beyond the factory in Beach Road, while a housing estate now covers what used to be a vacant space opposite St. Philip's Church and Schools. Modern improvements in transport, carrying people a long distance in a few minutes, are tempting the inhabitants of English towns to take up their residences further and further afield. Thus while the roads from Liverpool to Southport, Sefton and Ormskirk were the principal thoroughfares in Litherland in the olden days, the township has become threaded in modern times with numerous streets and roads.

An Urban District Council of twelve members was constituted.

*From "A Short History of Litherland."

tuted in 1894, and has continued the excellent and conscientious supervision (and development) of the area which was a characteristic of the old Local Board. The Chain of Office worn by the Chairman was presented in 1928, and the Medallion in 1934. "Both Chain and Medallion bear an interpretation of Hygeia, the Goddess of Health, as a maiden dressed in a long robe, feeding a serpent from a cup."

In recent years the density of the population has increased to such an extent that the tributary brooks and the sewers which carried off the surplus water have become quite inadequate to perform their task, and during heavy rains, or the melting of the winter snows, very troublesome floods have occurred in the low-lying parts of the area and caused considerable damage (to floors, walls and furniture), much hardship, and great distress. At last, in 1935, an adequate drainage scheme was prepared (costing £267,000) to solve this problem for all time. In order to carry it out, incidental measures were the transfer of part of Ford to Bootle (77 acres), part to Litherland (280 acres); part of Sefton to Bootle (260 acres), part to Litherland (76 acres); and part of Netherton to Bootle (73 acres), these areas consisting of land capable of drainage into the new great Rimrose Brook scheme. Thus a great amelioration of housing conditions will be accomplished in all this area.

Each of the affected areas pays its share of the annual cost of the scheme—Bootle Corporation, £6,750; Lancashire County Council, £3,750; Litherland U.D.C., £3,000; Waterloo-with-Seaforth U.D.C., £1,200; and Great Crosby U.D.C., £250; a Joint Committee or Board being proposed for the performance of the work.

One of the new items in the County Council's (1936) five-year road programme is a scheme for the provision of a new outlet for the heavy industrial traffic from the Liverpool and Bootle docks to the north-east of Lancashire. ". . . This will provide an entirely new road, nearly three miles and a half long with dual carriage ways, footpaths and cycle tracks . . . beginning at Church Road, Litherland, about four miles from Liverpool, and continuing in a north-easterly direction to link up with the Maghull by-pass on the Liverpool-Preston road near Dunnings Bridge." . . . The new scheme "has been chosen as offering a more satisfactory

solution of the problem than the mere widening of existing roads. The route through Sefton is narrow and tortuous, and the alternative route, *via* Aintree, is not only circuitous but involves the crossing of inadequate and dangerous bridges. The proposed road crosses an estate of the Earl of Sefton, who has agreed to give the land required for the improvement free of cost. Included in the estimated cost is a provisional sum of £15,000 for a new bridge to carry the road over the Liverpool and Leeds Canal."*

				Growth of Population
1882	..	..	..	(estimated) 2,514
1901	..	..	..	10,592
1935	..	..	..	(estimated) 17,000 nearly.
1936	..	..	..	( " ) 17,800

*The *Liverpool Echo*, Feb. 20th, 1936.

CHAPTER VII.

THE EARLY HISTORY OF SEAFORTH.

"He worshipped near this spot during his boyhood, and was a teacher in the Sunday School."

—*Memorial to Mr. Gladstone in St. Thomas's Church.*

Seaforth was really the discovery and creation of Sir John Gladstone, a rich merchant of Liverpool, who became M.P. in 1814. In 1813 he had decided to remove from Rodney Street (Liverpool) and to build a house on part of the Mersey shore in Litherland; and, having done so, he called it Seaforth House because his wife belonged to the McKenzie family whose head was Lord Seaforth. The next year, he erected St. Thomas's Church, and invited Mr. Rawson, the curate of Ellesmere in Shropshire, to become its vicar. (Thus Rawson Road obtained its name). The instructions which this clergyman received for the journey to Seaforth House were remarkable for the light which they throw on communications and modes of travel in those days. He was told to take a coach to Chester, and from that city to take a carriage to the Monks' Ferry at Birkenhead, where he would find Sir John's river boat waiting for him. When Mr. Rawson arrived at the ferry he found the boat manned by four men in the Gladstone livery, and they rowed him across the Mersey to the Liverpool landing stage. Here he found the Gladstone travelling-coach waiting with three horses. He was driven along ill-paved streets until they had left Liverpool behind: then the carriage had to make its way among sandhills; and at last the party reached the lonely Seaforth House. It is said that the clergyman remarked, as he stepped out of the coach: "Well, I don't know where I am coming to, but there is no fear of my dying of hunger"; for he could see hundreds of rabbits scurrying about in the sandhills.

"There was an organ in the church played by Miss Betsy Bell. Mr. Edward Park, who lived at Ford, at a farmhouse standing at the corner of the road leading from Gorse Lane to the Convent of the Good Shepherd, gave up his post as bassoon player (at) Sefton, in order to form and conduct a choir at St. Thomas's."

"Mr. Rawson married a Seaforth lady, Elizabeth Carson, living with her mother in Sandy Lane. One of their sons was drowned, with two other youths, while bathing on the shore. There is a memorial tablet to him in St. Thomas's Church."

"Seaforth was in the parish of Sefton, and Mr. Rawson had to preach in Sefton Church once a year (usually, Easter Sunday)." He "held the living till his death (for 56 years), and a memorial tablet to him and his wife was erected in the church by his children," and may still be seen. "He, his wife, and the three boys who were drowned, are buried in Sefton Churchyard." "St. Thomas's Church was not licensed for marriages until 1872. Before that date, marriages were solemnised at Sefton Church."

Mr. Rawson kept a small school for the young sons of English nobles and gentlemen, and here Sir John's own son, afterwards the Right Honourable William Ewart Gladstone, the great Liberal leader of British politics, and four times Prime Minister of Queen Victoria, received his early education, afterwards going on to Eton and Oxford. The famous statesman said, at a later time: "From my father's windows at Seaforth . . . four miles of the most beautiful sand that I ever saw offered the youthful rider the most delightful method of going into Liverpool." (For a time Mr. Gladstone taught in the Sunday School at St. Thomas's, and an inscription under the pulpit in the church still commemorates this interesting fact. It is not every school that has a future Prime Minister for its teacher.) The grounds of the estate, with its plantations, were extensive and stretched away to the shore. The house occupied a large area in the very heart of Seaforth—as this part of Litherland began to be called. It "stood facing Elm Road on the site now occupied by Cecil and Gordon Roads. Some of the farm buildings stood opposite Gordon Road where it joins Gladstone Road. The grounds extended to the shore. The Lodge stood at the entrance to that part of Elm Road once known as Crooked Lane. A fine plantation of elm and other trees extended from Rawson Road shorewards. This plantation was entered by a stile in what is now Claremont Road. Another plantation occupied the land now built upon for barracks. Crosby Road was not made. The (now) almost disused Waterloo Road was the coast road, across the Shore Field, to Liverpool."

"Seaforth Road, about 1820, was called Church Lane, and was then a country path shaded by overhanging trees. On the right, looking towards the shore, stood the church. On the left, in School Lane, stood the school: this consisted of a single room, but, later, the building at the corner, where the Bank is now, was the school." The rectory stood on the land now occupied by Beaumaris and Carnarvon Streets. No shops stood in Sandy Road. The buildings on the left-hand side were cottages standing back in their gardens. Shop fronts were added. On the opposite side stood the village smithy, and I have had several chats with the man who at that time was the village blacksmith, who is now 87 years old." (Written in 1907). For many years there were only two inns in the village. These are now named the Seaforth Hotel and the Railway Hotel, but were then known as, one, the Royal Oak and, the other, the Hen and Chickens. Water was obtained from a well in Seaforth Vale, by means of a pump. There was another well in Green Lane, while the Rimrose Brook was another perpetual fountain. "Thursday was known as brown water day, as on that day the water was polluted from the Tannery which from early times has been located in this neighbourhood." After the Bootle waterworks were opened in 1797, water was also obtained from this source.

The Rimrose Brook was the boundary between the estates of the Earls of Sefton and Derby. It rises near Sefton, where it is said to be called the Ditch, and could be seen at Brook Vale and alongside Sandy Road. It crossed Seaforth Road near the station, where it was spanned by the Lands-pool Bridge, "a portion of which still remains between the public-house and the joiner's shop" (written in 1907). Near this bridge was the Lock-up.

In the course of the construction of the Overhead Railway, another bridge was thrown across the Brook. Finally, it flowed under Rimrose Bridge, under the sea wall, and into the River Mersey.

When Sir John Gladstone removed to Scotland, fine houses began to arise in Seaforth—the residences of Liverpool merchants. "Bowersdale" was one, and survived until 1935, Bowersdale Park being laid out on the site. "Villas were built in Green Lane as summer residences. Field Lane, Litherland, was the meeting place of the hounds."

Gladstone Road, Ewart Road and Hawarden Grove also commemorate the association of this family with the early history of the township. The Gladstones removed to Scotland in 1830, and the next tenants of Seaforth House were the Paulets, one of whose visitors was the eminent author, Thomas Carlyle, the writer of *The French Revolution*, *Oliver Cromwell*, *Sartor Resartus*, *Past and Present*, and other works well known in English literature. In August, 1845, Carlyle was urged by his wife (Jane Welsh Carlyle) to hasten to Seaforth House in order to enjoy "the best bathing time throughout the year: the water is clear, and there is a nice sandy beach." Bathing vans then stood in rows on the shore: old inhabitants tell how they bathed from them about the year 1870; and the posts marking the standing places of these vans were removed as recently as 1911. Seaforth House was demolished in 1881: the site was covered by the dwellings in Cecil Road and Gordon Road; and, as has been said, where one of the Gladstone plantations used to grow, a large barracks was erected, this station being found useful not only as a good recruiting ground (equally near the crowded city and the farm-lands), but also to defend the Mersey mouth.

Another gentleman of wealth who came to live here in the early days of the township was James Muspratt, who removed from his house at Pembroke Place in Liverpool, and afterwards became a famous chemist and the "Father of the Alkali Industry in Lancashire." There used to be a tax on salt, and the removal of this impost induced Muspratt to set up a works in Liverpool in 1825 for the manufacture of soda-ash by the Leblanc process. (This was an outstanding event in the history of the British heavy chemical industry, and led to a great expansion in manufacture). When young, he "enjoyed the sight of the Mersey with its fleet of sailing vessels inward and outward bound, and early decided, when he had the means, to build a house on its banks." He therefore bought about twenty acres on the shore (1840), which had belonged to the Molyneux estates, erected a beautiful mansion in the classical style—naming it Seaforth Hall—and laid out equally beautiful gardens which stretched to the present-day Gladstone Dock. A famous visitor to the Hall was the great Victorian novelist, Charles Dickens, the author of *David Copperfield*, *A Tale of Two Cities*, *The Pickwick Papers*, and many other very popular

works. The house was demolished when the Mersey Docks and Harbour Board required the land for the extension of the great system of Gladstone Docks in 1924.

In 1836, the Clarence was the most northerly of the Liverpool docks—ten years later, the Albert Dock was constructed—and in 1859 the Canada Dock came into service. During this period there was a great increase in passenger traffic, and Mr. W. K. Fernie built a great hydropathic establishment on the shore ready for the many American visitors coming to Liverpool, who might be attracted by its nearness to the docks and its fine position facing the sea. The sea wall of Seaford, as the "hydro" was very appropriately named, cost three thousand five hundred pounds, and it is said that the building had 365 windows (one for every day in the year). Flower shows were held in the grounds, and even the band of the Grenadier Guards was once engaged to play there. But all was to no purpose. The scheme completely failed. The edifice was then taken over as a Convent of Sisters of the Sacred Heart of Mary, being used for the training of pupil teachers. The premises were bought by the Mersey Docks and Harbour Board, and the Convent removed to a still more pleasant situation in Liverpool Road (the continuation in Great Crosby of Crosby Road)—a fine building in its own spacious and verdant grounds which retains the old name of "Seaford," though it is rather far away from either the sea or the river.

"Potter's Barn" was built in 1841 by William Potter, a Liverpool merchant (of the firm of Taylor, Potter & Co.,) "who from his house on the Everton Hill could see right down to this shore, and conceived the idea of building a fine house and estate on this land." Unfortunately, a crisis occurred in the China trade, and the firm came to grief—just when he had completed his barn and coach-house—and he had to abandon his ambitious scheme. Above the entrance to the barn are the letters "W.P." and the date "1841." The style of the building is said to have been a copy of the farmhouse of La Haye Sainte on the battlefield of Waterloo. The land passed into the hands of Mr. Bibby and thus became known as "Bibby's land." It became a farmer's cornfield and, later, a pleasant public recreation ground with bowling greens and flower beds. The archway of the old Barn still stands, as an entrance to the gardens. A boating pool is near by.

Wrecks on the shore, from Crosby to Bootle, were common occurrences. The farmers in the district used the timber to fence their fields, and the inhabitants sometimes stole some of the cargo. "The barque *Dicky Sam* with a cargo of tobacco from Virginia was stranded on Seaforth Sands in 1845, and an attack on the cargo was made by the villagers."

St. Thomas's Schools were commenced about 1820 in a room in School Lane. Eighteen years later, a larger building was erected in Seaforth Road, in front of which grew a fine row of willow trees. For nearly forty years this building continued its useful work, and then, in 1876, Mr. Edward Hatton bought a site in Bedford Place, and erected the schools which still stand there. A few years later these became inadequate for the educational needs of the increasing population, and Mr. T. W. Cookson generously provided the building in Thomson Road, which became the Boys' School, while the older building was reserved for girls and infants.

Alterations also took place in the church erected by Sir John Gladstone. This had contained the old-fashioned three-decker pews and practically no chancel, but open seats replaced the former during the incumbency of the Rev. E. R. Wilberforce, afterwards Bishop of Newcastle; and the Rev. R. F. G. Smithwick (Vicar from 1882 to 1914) built a new chancel, erected the parish hall, and made many other improvements.

There were beautiful avenues of chestnut trees in the village in its early days, and perhaps these are remembered in the name of our Chestnut Road of to-day. The bullcroft was situated where Seaforth Vale runs at the present day. In 1824 there were only about a dozen households in the hamlet. A toll-bar stood in Seaforth Road, almost opposite the spot where now stands St. Thomas's Parish Hall.

Thus in its early days the area was a pretty village of fields and plantations, and many well-known gentlemen followed the example of the Gladstones, Muspratts, Fernies, Hattons and Cooksons, by building their houses and laying out their gardens here—among them those of Sampson-Smith, Barkeley-Smith (who is said to have stated that he could "square the circle," and whose name is seen in that of Barkeley Drive), Braxwell, Hornby, Sykes, Killey (who before his death became the "Father of the Council"), Cowie, Green, Sunter, Barrow, Mather, Moss, Lister, Stuart, Bower, Thacker, Stavely, Dr. Laxby Smith, Dr. Evans, and McCulloch.

A map of the year 1857 (Public Health Act) gives us a fairly clear conception of the growth of the hamlet by this time. It shows a few dwelling-houses along Crosby Road, especially on both sides of Claremont Place and round the corner along Church Road, with Seaforth House and its grounds in the centre. On the shore side of Crosby Road were Laverock Bank and Moss Bank, and Seaforth Hall with its extensive gardens. Chesnut Road and Berkeley Road had a few houses with their gardens, and from this point along Sandy Road there ran a line of dwellings to Bedford Place and beyond, until they reached Green Lane and Hicks Road. Church Lane (now Seaforth Road), from Seaforth School to St. Thomas's Church and Parsonage, with Crooked Lane, was fairly well filled—two houses being named Elmsley Villa and Elm Lodge—and completed the village of that date. Wide, untenanted spaces, probably consisting of pastures, gardens and cultivated fields, lay between. Crosby Road ran over Rimrose Bridge to continue as Rimrose Road.

When the railway came, and for some time afterwards, it was on the level, the signal box was near the gates, and the signalman rang a bell on the approach of a train. A horse bus ran from Rimrose Road to Crosby, and a one-horse cab plied for hire. The coming of the locomotive brought an increase of traffic, and led to a gradual increase in the number of houses; and it was in the "sixties" and "seventies" that the township began to make distinct progress. The first meeting of the local board of health was held in St. Thomas's first school-room in Church Lane—now Seaforth Road—in 1856. The Local Government District of Waterloo-with-Seaforth was formed out of Litherland in 1863 and in 1874 was extended to include part of Great Crosby. But a striking change—from a rural village of gentlemen's houses and large gardens to a busy, closely-populated township of hard-working middle-class people—took place after the opening of the Alexandra Dock (Liverpool) in 1884, and the erection of Seaforth Barracks in the same year. Houses and streets appeared as if by magic, and the population increased rapidly.

Our Lady Star of the Sea took its rise in a mission which was commenced in a stable in Crescent Road (1884) converted into a chapel; six years afterwards, a new school chapel was opened in School Lane; and eleven years later the present

church was erected in Church Road. With its large schools it occupies an important position in the life of the community.

The Congregational Church owes its origin to that of Waterloo, having been commenced in 1878. It used to meet from 1880 in a room near the railway station, but secured a site in Gladstone Road and Elm Road—on a portion of the old Seaforth House site, which was then being cleared—where the congregation erected a school chapel (1881), this ultimately becoming the commodious edifice of the present day, with its many societies and activities.

The Wesleyans commenced in a room over a stable in Green Lane about 1869, moved about five years later to a larger building beside the railway station, then to an iron structure in Gladstone Road, and finally to the present permanent chapel in 1888.

In the first year of the twentieth century, the electric tramway was opened from Seaforth to Crosby and did useful service until ousted—as in so many other parts of the country—by the ubiquitous motor-bus. In the same year, the Liverpool Overhead Railway (the first railway of this kind in the kingdom) installed a very clever device—the escalator, perhaps the first in the world—at its Seaforth Sands Station. One of the first Marconi wireless telegraph stations in England, in the early days of this marvellous invention, was erected near the shore in Cambridge Road.

Seaforth is now thickly populated. The streets are level on a sandy soil, the town being built on land once occupied entirely by sandhills. The shore belongs to the Mersey Docks and Harbour Board. The Rimrose Brook—which runs from Aintree (through Crosby, Waterloo and Litherland) to Bootle—passes through a district which has been fully developed for housing and industry, and discharges into the Mersey through an outfall under the Gladstone Dock.

The new great trunk roads of South Lancashire have also improved the facilities of the area. Seaforth Road is a Class A county road numbered A 567; Crosby Road is a Class A county road number A 565; and the latter is continued as Liverpool Road through Great Crosby, also A 565. Traffic passing along this road is able to continue its way inland by splendid new roads branching off from Moor Lane, Thornton.

We may conclude by saying that the area which attracted

Sir John Gladstone, and contained only 10 or 12 houses in the year 1824, housed at the end of the nineteenth century more than 13,000 people.

SEAFORTH		LITHERLAND	
1824	10 or 12 houses.		
1850			
1880		1882	2,514
1890		1891	4,441
1901	13,263	1901	10,592
		1935	17,000 (estimated)
		1936	17,800 (")

CHAPTER VIII.

THE EARLY HISTORY OF WATERLOO.

"Wellington and Blucher were acting in concert."—
Account of the battle of Waterloo, in Warner and Marten's
Groundwork of History.

The people who lived at Waterloo in early times were probably fishermen and field-workers of Litherland and Crosby, from which townships it was afterwards carved out; but for the story of this township itself we must come down to the nineteenth century. Tradition says that on the day on which Wellington defeated Napoleon in June, 1815, the building of a hotel near the shore was commenced, this being then named the Waterloo Hotel. In an early photograph of this place of refreshment, the name over the front is seen to be the "Royal Waterloo Hotel." To-day it is known as the Royal Hotel. The area around it had a population which numbered about five hundred, and was then called "Crosby Seabank." It soon began to be popular as a bathing place for people from Liverpool—then growing into an important seaport of England—and a coach commenced to run from the hotel to Liverpool every morning at 9 o'clock, returning at 6 p.m. in the evening to take the visitors and bathers home to dinner. Wealthy inhabitants of the great seaport admired the fine sandy shore and clear air, and some began to build residences here. These had their stables and "mews" behind them, and thus we have to-day the streets—behind the Esplanade—called "The Mews" (now Water Street because it is near the water) and "Brunswick Mews." The word "Brunswick" probably commemorates the Duke of Brunswick who fought with Wellington against the French, or the marriage of King George IV, when Regent, with the Princess Caroline of Brunswick in connection with whom there was so much trouble. The stable-boys, ostlers, and other servants had their homes near by: there were half-a-dozen cottages near the hotel: a few shops and houses arose, forming streets near the shore; and so, about the year 1830—Waterloo was born. The road to Liverpool was along Waterloo Road, now a rather deserted thoroughfare.

The names of South Road and East Street explain themselves, though they do not seem particularly appropriate at the present day: Bath Street reminds us of the natatory recreation which first induced the people of Liverpool to come to this shore; while the names of Wellington Street, Picton Road, Blucher Street and Murat Street, when they arose, retained the atmosphere of the great British victory. Murat was one of Napoleon's dashing cavalry leaders: Blucher was the Prussian general who came up in the evening of this epic fight to aid in the final rout of the French forces: Picton was one of the chief of our gallant and skilful English officers; and Wellington was of course the Iron Duke himself. Duke Street commemorates his title. Hougomont—seen in the name of Hougomont Avenue—was the chateau which covered the right of the British army on the field of Waterloo, and was the scene of numerous furious attacks by Jerome Bonaparte during the battle. Great George's Road was obviously named after King George III or George IV; York Street after the old-time York Hotel (and this after the Duke of York who died in 1827); and Albert Road after Albert, the Prince Consort, the husband of Queen Victoria. This great queen is remembered in the names of Victoria Road in Crosby and Waterloo, and Victoria Park in Waterloo. Canning Street reminds us of the great statesman, George Canning (died 1827).

As the little colony of newcomers increased in numbers, a place of worship was needed, and Christ Church arose in 1839 to provide religious services for the new inhabitants: it has since been rebuilt. (The earlier settlers had gone to St. Thomas's in Seaforth, or St. Michael's in Great Crosby, or to Sefton Church). In East Street were the Assembly Rooms, which afterwards became the meeting place of a little band of Presbyterians whose daughter church is that of St. Andrew at the corner of Great George's Road. The river front of course became the favourite place of residence, and the Esplanade, Brunswick Parade, Marine Terrace, and Beach Lawn, with "The Green" in front of them—which consisted of four strips of land, walled in from the drifting sands of the shore, enclosed within iron railings, and planted with grass—formed a row of four blocks of fine large houses of the best type. Adelaide Terrace was named after the Queen of William IV, the "Sailor King" who reigned from 1830 to 1837. "The business quarter

was in Bath Street and East Street," and "it is very interesting to-day to walk down Duke Street and East Street, where many of the old buildings still stand, and observe the old shop fronts." One of the six cottages near the hotel was built by John Ripley, a rich Liverpool merchant who founded the Ripley Hospital at Lancaster. Thus did a Waterloo man, in the early days of the watering-place, distinguish himself by his good works.

But "Waterloo hardly existed in 1835," and for the next fifty years it grew but slightly, and was almost entirely confined to the sea-front. It was simply the resort of rather wealthy people, living in a few large and well-built houses, and enjoying the quietness, the bathing, and the horse-riding on the wide expanse of sandy shore. South Road had only a few dwellings "dotted here and there on the north side, some of which still exist, running shorewards from the Westminster Bank." There were only three or four houses in Church Road—which led, and still leads, to the Church (Christ Church) and the church schools—and no buildings between Seaforth and Waterloo except Potter's Barn. There was a spring near the shore, and there were two pumps. (In 1857, the only building in South Road was the Liver Inn, which still survives).

Even the construction of the railway had at first little or no effect. A railway from Liverpool to Manchester—the first in England specially constructed to carry passengers*—had been opened in 1830: a railway "mania" set in, ten or twenty years later; and lines were laid down all over the country. One from Southport (a pretty watering-place on the Lancashire coast, which had been founded by William Sutton in 1792) was opened in 1848, but it terminated at Waterloo. Passengers who desired to go on to Liverpool had to do so by the coach from the hotel; and people who wished to come to Waterloo from Liverpool, perhaps on their way to Southport, had to come here by coach, also. "The old passenger station was where the coal siding now stands: the entrance was in Brighton Road, from which the hotel opposite was named the Railway Hotel." Brighton Road led to Brighton-on-the-Sands, where a map of 1848 shews a few houses, the Brooke House on what is now Brook Road (behind which ran a brook down to the shore, until the erection of houses there in 1935 drove it under-

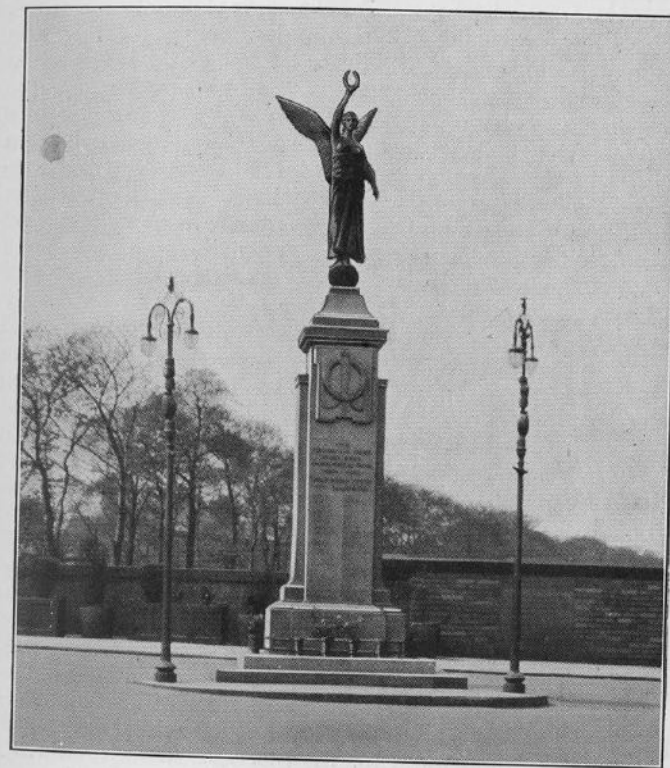
*The Stockton and Darlington Railway, the first in England, did not carry passengers, but only goods (especially coal) at first.

ground), the Sandheys estate, and some buildings that stood between Adelaide Terrace and the Ship Inn (at the end of Brunswick Parade) and extended from the river front to the railway line. The remainder—between Brighton-on-the-Sands and Liverpool Road—was, apparently, bare of any buildings worth notice, and, probably, therefore, consisted almost entirely of wide fields and pasture land. Dr. May used to ride down from his residence in Moor Lane, and leap his horse over the gates of the level crossing, when coming to visit his patients in Waterloo. The railway still runs over level crossings at St. John's Road and Manley Road, but overhead bridges have been provided in recent years in order to save people from the dangers incident to the rapid road traffic of modern days. Many motor cars and wagons are held up at the former (every hour of the day) so that very soon some kind of subway will probably have to be constructed to allow of their constant passage, for, in business, "Time is money."

In the 'sixties and 'seventies the population was increasing to such an extent that "Waterloo-with Seaforth" appeared on the map of England. A local government district of this name was formed out of Litherland in 1863; and in 1874, on the rectification of the boundaries, an area of 54 acres was taken from Great Crosby and added to the district. More places of worship were also needed and St. John's Church was built, the daughter of Christ Church, in 1865, the Congregational Church in 1866, St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church in 1875, St. Mary's in 1877, and S. Thomas' of Canterbury in the same year (a temporary chapel having been used from 1868). The Education Act of 1870 called public attention to the needs of the children, and led to the erection of schools at the corner of Oxford Road and Wellington Street, for the little ones of St. John's parish, in 1876. The original Town Hall was erected in 1861, but it was partly re-constructed—and considerably enlarged and improved—thirty-four years later, when the district was advancing by leaps and bounds (1894).

The present-day Victoria Park—named after the Queen—was part of the estate called Sand-Heys, meaning "the fields by the sands" (thus we have Sandheys Avenue) which belonged to Squire Houghton, who lived in a large house by the shore, the entrance drive being in Marsh Lane (which is now named College Road). The Urban District Council in later days

had to buy land in order to lay out Oxford Road through this estate. Several of Squire Houghton's estate lodges survived until recent years—at the corner of Hicks Road (still existing),



WAR MEMORIAL, FIVE LAMPS, WATERLOO.

at the entrance of Victoria Park (Mother Johnson's Cottage), Manley Road railway crossing (Mrs. Barton's Cottage, afterwards used as a residence for the park-keeper, and later as a store), at the corner of Manley Road and Oxford Road (still

existing), and one on the shore at the foot of the present-day Sandheys Avenue. Four ponds existed on the land between St. John's Road—then a sandy lane running alongside potato fields—and Brighton-le-Sands (as its name became), one being known as the "Frying Pan."

But, even in the 'eighties, Waterloo was still only a village. St. John's Road was now laid out and had houses on the south side, but was bounded on the other by fields which stretched north of Brighton-le-Sands, "and east of Crosby Road there was open country almost as far as the eye could see from Lover's Lane (whose site is now covered, practically, by Glenwyllin Road) to Crosby Mill in Moor Lane." (The names of Brighton-le-Sands—sometimes called Little Brighton—and the Brighton roads off South Road and College Road* are obviously copied from that of the famous seaside resort on the south coast of England, so popular with the Londoners. The inhabitants of the Liverpool area in the early nineteenth century evidently hoped that their riverside holiday resorts would one day rival the great and original Brighton itself, then so popular with the King and nobility. New Brighton, opposite Bootle, was so named for a similar reason.) In "Waterloo Park"—an area east of Crosby Road, which about this time was built up with a number of fine houses standing in their own grounds, under the shade of many tall trees—St. Mary's Church was erected in 1877. It was an iron church, a daughter of St. John's, but was replaced by an unfinished stone building, which rendered useful service until in 1900, on Easter Day, the congregation were able to worship in the completed edifice which stands there to-day. The houses of "Waterloo Park" were tenanted by the families of many of the leading business men and officials of Liverpool and Bootle, as the Rollos, Parrys, Crippses, Courts, and Vernons. One of these large residences ("Spetchley," the home of Mr. Vincent Murphy) afterwards became a valuable hospital for the district—founded in 1910, organized, supervised and attended by the Augustinian Sisters—and after many years of great service and successful working it was transferred by purchase to the public, as a voluntary hospital supported by benevolent subscribers, in 1936. An interesting old rookery, which had existed in the Park from time

*Brighton Road, off College Road, was re-named Jubilee Road in 1935.

immemorial, and whose denizens were seen and heard every day flying and cawing above the tree-tops, was destroyed when houses arose here, roads were laid out, and the Girls' Secondary School was erected (in 1921).

As time went on, the area began to change, houses being converted into shops, new roads laid out year by year, and fields covered by buildings of all kinds, many people coming here from other parts of Lancashire, especially from Liverpool and its environs. South Road was one of the first to be completed, consisting at that time chiefly of dwelling-houses: but these were gradually transmuted into shops, and branches of the leading banks, as the township grew. Thus the population which had been but 425 in 1801, had risen by the year 1870 to six thousand, and this to 9,000 in 1880. Horse buses began to run along Crosby Road in the 'eighties, but were replaced by tram-cars running along iron lines in 1898—which after twenty-six years gave way to the popular motor-bus of to-day. Waterloo was not without its men of note in its early days, for Thomas Huson, R.A., an artist of repute, and A. Hartland, a renowned landscape painter (one or more of whose works may be seen in the Liverpool Walker Art Gallery, William Brown Street) lived here. No doubt they found many suitable subjects for their pencils in the rural scenes around them, and many beautiful sky effects when they set up their easels on the sandhills of the shore, and looked across the wide estuary of the river to the passing clouds, the sun, and the blue empyrean above.

In 1894 the separate townships of Waterloo and Seaforth were created and joined to form the Urban District of the same name, under a Council of eighteen members: Waterloo is the part in Crosby. At this date, South Road had become the chief shopping thoroughfare of the district; but hardly half of the "—dale" roads off St. John's road were built; while a photograph of St. John's Road itself shows this—now almost entirely a shopping centre—to have then consisted of dwelling houses on both sides. The road lay lower then than to-day, and each house had steps up to the front door. The upper storeys of the present-day shops in this road indicate their earlier domestic use, and a few dwelling-houses (some of yellow brick, some of red) still remained in 1936, with their front gardens, standing among the shops. Some residents

gave up their front gardens to the Council, which then flagged the pavement. These facts will shew children how some English towns have been "born"—how it is that a pleasant land of green fields and sandhills is in time transformed into a busy and thickly-populated borough. (Oakdale, Ashdale, and the other, and parallel, "dale" roads were built up in 1895 and the following years).

Curzon Road used to be known as Mortimer Road, but was re-named when the great Viceroy of India, Lord Curzon, opened the Constitutional Club at the corner of this road and South Road. He was then the Rt. Hon. Nathaniel Curzon and M.P. for this constituency, and, as all students of the political history of the '90s know, was one of the most forceful statesmen of the time, at one period nearly becoming Prime Minister.

The Welsh Calvinistic Methodist Church in Crosby Road was erected in 1882, and has since been enlarged and improved. The Baptists first held their meetings in Oxford Road in 1891, where they erected a temporary chapel, but a new and permanent church and schools have been built in Crosby Road.

Mr. James Barrow was a most munificent supporter of Christ Church, and his widow followed his shining example by making many magnificent donations to Christ Church—among other things, she presented the church with its parish hall—and the Great Organ to the Liverpool Cathedral on St. James's Mount.

The introduction of the electric tramway, which ran from Seaforth Sands to Crosby along Crosby Road and Liverpool Road, led to an increase of building operations, and the growth of new streets, along this route. Vacant spaces, which had been left at the ends of the roads running eastward from Crosby Road (such as Winstanley Road and Galloway Road) were about 1910 and later covered by good houses. Their tenants needing the necessaries of life, a process of transmutation afterwards began to take place on the west side of Crosby Road, large dwelling-houses and their gardens being taken over by business firms and changed into shops.

The pieces of greensward along the river front were at first the common right of the inhabitants, but in 1816-1817 some owners of adjacent property contrived to obtain its transfer to them for a nominal sum, part being invested on trust, the land to remain open and unbuilt upon for ever. How-

ever, the Council—working under the Open Spaces Act of 1906—succeeded in obtaining powers to make beautiful gardens there, and at the same time to solve part of the urgent problem of the assistance of the local unemployed, Adelaide Garden, Marine Garden (1932), and Beach Lawn Garden following one another in their construction, and greatly improving the appearance of this part of the town.

"Bibby's Land" was obtained by the Council with some difficulty, the owner having contracted to sell it before the Dock Board bought it from him. However, the Council gained about seven acres of land running down from Crosby Road to the shore, with a frontage to Cambridge Road, and valuable shore rights. Part is used as a recreation ground, with bowling greens and pretty gardens, for the use of the public.

In the last year of the nineteenth century (1900), St. Faith's Church was erected and equipped by the generosity of Mr. Douglas Horsfall, on a site given by his cousin, Mr. Myers—after whom Myers Road is named. In 1921, the site of "Five Lamps," which illuminate the thoroughfare at the corner of Great George's Road and Crosby Road, was utilised for the erection of the beautiful War Memorial with its winged angel carrying the laurel wreath (seen by the passengers in every motor-bus and car travelling along Crosby Road), a very graceful monument indeed. It always bears at its foot a number of floral wreaths, placed there by relatives and friends in undying memory of their beloved dead.

There used to be a number of wrecks on the shore, and one remembers seeing a Scandinavian vessel named the *Matador* being driven one dark and stormy night high up on the sand, almost to high-water mark, so that one easily walked all round her dry-shod next morning (in one of the early years of the twentieth century); and for the proper supervision of such losses; and the assistance of such unfortunate vessels, a body of coastguards lived for many years near the river side in Mariners Road.*

"The District is bounded on the north by the Urban District of Great Crosby, on the south by the County Borough of

*At the moment of writing these lines, a poor vessel was being pounded by the seas off Formby—the *Bradda*;—five of its crew of six being drowned, and the survivor swimming through mountainous seas to shore and making his way, worn and exhausted to the lifeboat house.

Bootle, on the east by the Urban District of Litherland, and on the west by the Estuary of the River Mersey," this western limit being the line of low-water mark of the lowest spring tide. Situated on the northern border of the great industrial areas of Liverpool and Bootle, it is almost entirely residential in character. Thousands of its inhabitants travel by electric train, by motor-bus and motor-car each day to work in those two centres. The water-front still has the line of fine early nineteenth century houses built in terraces, and looking on to the large public gardens along the shore; "and there are many parts of the District where large houses with spacious gardens are still a feature." Nearly half of the township is covered by the sea at high water, for the boundary extends far into the estuary of the Mersey. At low tide there is a wide stretch of fine sands in front of the public gardens, the houses, and the terraces facing the sea.

The Gold Chain and Jewelled Badge, worn by the Chairman of the Council, were presented in 1902 by Mr. Joseph Williams, in commemoration of the coronation of King Edward VII.

GROWTH OF POPULATION :

Waterloo	..	1801	425
"	..	1815	499
"	..	1821	674
		1871	6,168
		1881	9,118
		1891	17,328
	..	1894	.. Formation of the U.D.C.
Waterloo- with-Seaforth	}	1901	23,101 (Waterloo, 9,839).
		1911	26,396
		1921	29,626
		1931	31,180
		1936	

CHAPTER IX.

WATERLOO-WITH-SEAFORTH U.D.C.

"And so the little band laboured on ungrudgingly."
—LYTTON STRACHEY'S *Eminent Victorians*.

The Urban District Council had but a comparatively short career. It was formed in 1894, and the District to be amalgamated with Crosby in 1936. But during those forty years it did good work; it supervised, controlled, and carried out many valuable improvements in the area; it saw the population increase from twenty thousand to thirty thousand; and, on handing over its powers to the larger authority, it was able to feel that it had served its public well. The Urban District comprised six wards, and there were eighteen councillors (three to each ward). A "ward" is a portion of the district or town or city, which has the power to elect councillors to represent it at the meetings of the local authority. The election of Borough Councillors takes place on November 1st in each year.

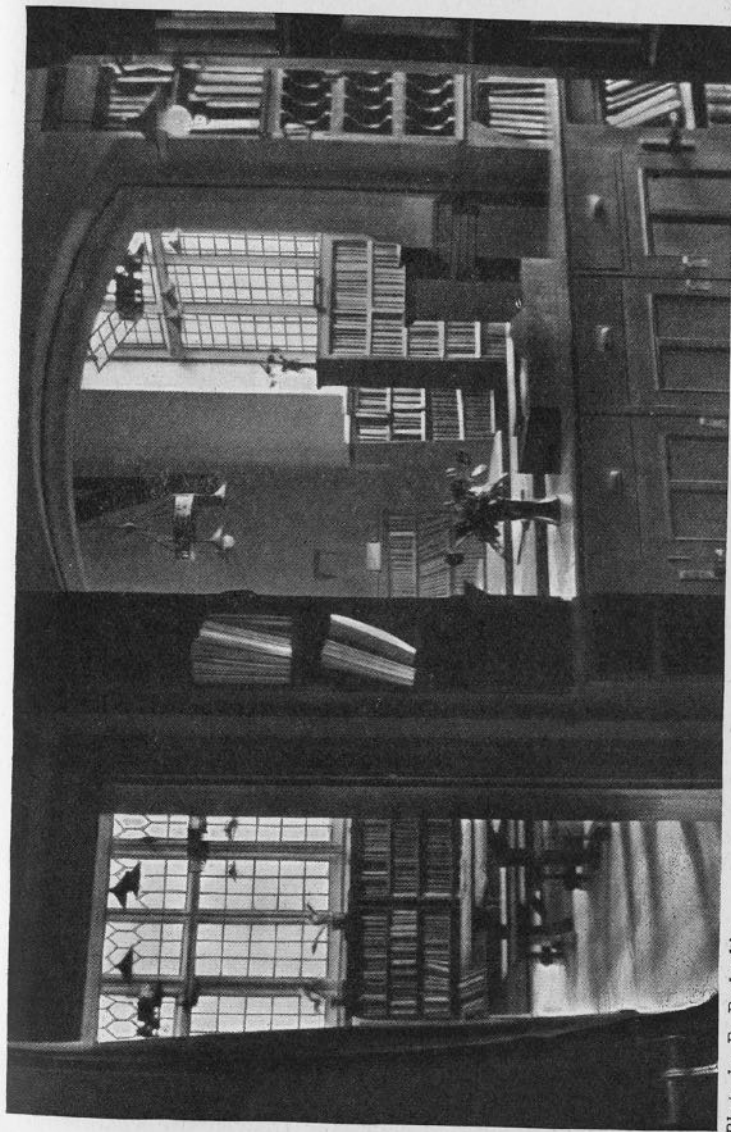
In 1902 the U.D.C. took over the management of six public elementary schools—provided and non-provided—while by the year 1936 these had grown to nine: St. John's, Christ Church, St. Nicholas's, St. Thomas's, S. Thomas of Canterbury's, Our Lady Star of the Sea, Crosby Road, Rawson Road and Crosby Road Central. A "provided" school is one which is provided by the local authority, and thus is usually now a Council school; a "non-provided" school is usually a church school—one which has been built by a church for the education of the Protestant, Catholic, or Wesleyan children attending the church. "Adequate provision in up-to-date buildings for handicraft and domestic science has been made by the Council. . . Provision is also made for the physical welfare of the children by an adequate School Medical Service. Such services include routine medical inspections, orthopaedic, ophthalmic, artificial light and dental treatment, tonsils and adenoids operations, and the treatment of all minor ailments." "Higher Education is well provided for in the form of two modern Secondary Schools, one for 400 boys, and the other for 300 girls. . ." The large secondary school for boys, now the

Grammar School, was opened in Cambridge Road in 1921. The large secondary school for girls, the Waterloo Park School, was built on the ground of the Northern Cricket Club, and this body of sportsmen moved out to Poplar Avenue, off Moor Lane, Crosby. The Waterloo Rugby Club, which had its ground in this part of the Park, moved out to their new ground at Blundellsands.

The Library had its birth in the Reading Room at the Town Hall in January, 1898 and books began to be lent out a few months later (October). In 1906 a Branch Library was opened in Seaforth. But it was quickly felt that a large Central Library was urgently needed; Dr. Andrew Carnegie, a Scottish-American millionaire with a great love for libraries, was approached; and in 1908 he generously provided a very fine building in Church Road for this purpose. A Museum was added to hold a valuable and beautiful collection of British birds, presented to the Council by the kindness of the late Colonel Echalaz, who also gave the Museum a splendid collection of British birds' eggs, many of which are shown in the very nests in which they were found. There is also a very interesting collection exhibit of shells, carefully set out and named by Miss Moore, M.A., Headmistress of the Rawson Road Council School. In 1912 a new Reading Room was added to the Seaforth Branch Library.

The rapid growth of the district caused a need for much larger public offices, and in 1932, by means of extensive additions to the existing building, a very fine pile resulted, roughly square in shape, on an island site, including the Carnegie Library, the Museum, the Police Station, the Welfare Centre, the Fire Station, and a large concert hall, all contiguous to each other.

In order to have proper and necessary control of the shore, and an oversight of the behaviour of visitors or others bathing or playing games on the sands, the U.D.C. made certain of their rights (previously sometimes questioned) over this important part of the township by purchasing it from Mr. Blundell, the lord of the manor of Great Crosby. Mr. Blundell's predecessors in title, the Trustees of the Will of Nicholas Blundell, had acquired the manor and the foreshore in 1798 by purchase from the Earl of Sefton, head of the Molyneux family. "In 1933 the U.D.C. purchased a portion of the fore-



JUVENILE LIBRARY FROM THE LENDING DEPARTMENT.

Photo by R. Derbyshire.

shore lying immediately south of the common boundary of . . . Great Crosby and Waterloo . . . with a sea frontage of about one mile."

The district is well supplied with electric light and heat and power (by the Liverpool Corporation), with gas, (by the Liverpool Gas Company), and with the purest drinking water (by the Liverpool Corporation).

During the later years of this period, especially in the 1930s, hundreds of houses were erected by local builders and contractors, and thus many new streets were added to the district, providing work for local tradesmen and artisans at a time of widespread national unemployment—as, for instance, near the shore at Sandheys Avenue, Oxford Road, Manley Road, along the railway line at Brook Vale, and in many spaces which had been left open for some years. (Low-lying fields and spaces—by the greyhound racing track, Brook Vale and the Whabs—were raised). These relieved the congestion which existed in many pre-war houses, and were tenanted as fast as they were built, and thus both the general population and the school population of the area increased. The latter fact led to the extension of school facilities noted above. When the amalgamation with Crosby was considered, the number of inhabitants was stated to be 53,359 in the whole (combined) area.

In 1936, the Council succeeded in arranging conditions under which the last of the four "greens" on the river front—"Beach Lawn," as it was called—should be acquired for the benefit of the general public. This completed a very fine piece of work spread over a number of years—one for which those responsible deserve the greatest credit—and made the shore of Waterloo, with these four pleasant gardens, a most enjoyable and attractive promenade.

In 1936, the building in Waterloo Park which had so well served the area by tending its sick and injured for many years, was transferred to a committee as a General Voluntary Hospital serving an area extending from Bootle to Formby and a population of about 70,000.

One might conclude, perhaps, with the words of an old record: "The sun is setting on the shore in a flood of golden light—far away the coast of the Isle of Man and the dim outline of Black Combe in the Lake District are visible and

clear, and nearer are the sharp-cut hills of Wales, the Point of Ayr, and the Great Orme's Head, with the grand, picturesque lines of Snowdon behind." The direction points of these places may be seen on the pedestal in Adelaide Garden, on the river front of Waterloo, and many of these interesting landmarks can be seen on clear days across the Mersey, as one looks over the water towards the Welsh Coast. This shore has long been famous for its beautiful sunsets, such as are depicted in the wonderful paintings of the great artist J. M. W. Turner, who indeed is said to have come here to obtain some of his fascinating sky and cloud effects.

GROWTH OF POPULATION.

1901	..	23,101	} Waterloo-with-Seaforth.
1934	..	30,550	
1901	..	7,555	} Crosby.
1934	..	22,809	

CHAPTER X.

RECENT YEARS.

"All the world's a stage, and all the men and women merely players; they have their exits and their entrances."

SHAKESPEARE'S *As You Like It*.

A great deal of trouble and expense has been caused in recent years by coast erosion at Crosby, and much loss has been sustained by property owners along the shore at Blundellsands, who have been compelled to leave their homes, and demolish them, because of the danger of the collapse of houses, stables and other buildings. The trouble has begun in each case with the washing away of the garden, and then the house itself has been undermined by the waves. But this phenomenon is no new one, as is seen if we look into the past history of this shore. The early coast line of Crosby was "probably eight or ten miles inland of the present coast." Formby was a port, with several vessels trading to Liverpool and other places, until the Alt became silted up with mud and sand. "As late as the year 1660, and down to about 1700, the river Alt had a wide funnel-shaped mouth which opened to the west." Down to 1859, boats could still be sailed to fishermen's houses two or three miles above the present mouth. The leaseholders under the Blundells of Crosby were obliged by a clause in their agreement to plant a stated quantity of star-grass every year, as this plant was found to be very useful in holding the sand together among its roots, thus aiding in the formation of sandhills, and preventing erosion. In 1742, an Act of Parliament was passed, making the destruction of star-grass a criminal offence. Thus, between Bootle and Southport chiefly, within a space of thirty years (1867-1897), the shore gained, by the accumulation of blown sand, an area of no less than 9,090 acres. At "The Green," Blundellsands, the high-water mark receded seawards to an extent of 64 feet. But when the estate changed hands, this condition was allowed to fall into abeyance, and the erosion gradually became very extensive. It is estimated that a loss of about 44 inches a year took place during a period of observation comprising forty-three years (ending in 1909) along a

third of the Great Crosby coast. "The erosion which is proceeding south of the Alt is due to the river turning south, close in shore, thus causing an eating into the sandhills. The change of its course from its earlier westerly outflow probably dated from . . . about 1700."

Thus it seems evident that two causes were operating in this erosive action—one, the alteration in the course of the Alt, and the other, the neglect for many years to plant and maintain the growth of the star-grass. A third cause is said to have been the construction of the revetment wall in the channel of the Mersey opposite this shore, but this has not been confirmed. As a result, about half-a-dozen large houses, with greenhouses and outbuildings, had to be demolished—and, where possible, the bricks and stones carted away—while others were endangered and vacated. It was always found that, being "built upon the sand" like the house in the Bible story, every kind of protection was useless: the winds blew upon them, the waves lashed against them, the sand was washed from underneath them, and then came "the fall thereof." Many attempts were made by the owners and authorities to remedy this state of affairs—such as the erection of stout barriers of stone and timber and wire, the deposit of quantities of black tin slag along the edge of the sandhills, and the laying down of beds of clay. Then, in 1935 and 1936 something effective was at last performed. "The first stage of Crosby's fight against erosion has been successfully accomplished. With the aid of one of the two temporary groins, the River Alt was, on Wednesday (11th March, 1936), diverted at the bottom of Hall Road West and turned into the main channel. This means that the Alt has been diverted away from the Serpentine, the scene of many years' destruction by the sea. Before long it is expected that the shore in front of this road will fill up with sand and form a pleasing beach."

Crosby Channel is an important entrance to the Mersey. It is three-quarters of a mile wide, and a lightship is stationed there. By continual dredging, a sufficient depth of water for the passage of the great Atlantic liners to and from Liverpool is maintained. This operation was assisted by the construction of the revetment wall mentioned above.

At Hall Road are the famous golf links of the West Lancashire club—on both sides of the L.M.S. railway line—which

have seen contests between some of the greatest golfers in the world.

The Church of St. Helen in Alexandra Road—one of the roads named after the Queen of King Edward VII—was dedicated in 1933.

Little Crosby was added to the Urban District in 1932.

The sands have become so popular in the height of the summer season—even with visitors from Bootle and Kirkdale—that there are practically as many holiday-makers on the shore as there are inhabitants of the district ; and with their white tents they make the seaside look almost like a military camp. One man who saw the hordes of children (coming down with joyous glee every summer's day to this shore) must have known his Lewis Carroll, whom he quoted and adapted by saying :

*"They laughed like anything to see
Such quantities of sand :"*

while, pointing to his own little son, who was hurrying down to the water's edge, he added :

"When the sands are all dry, he is gay as a lark."

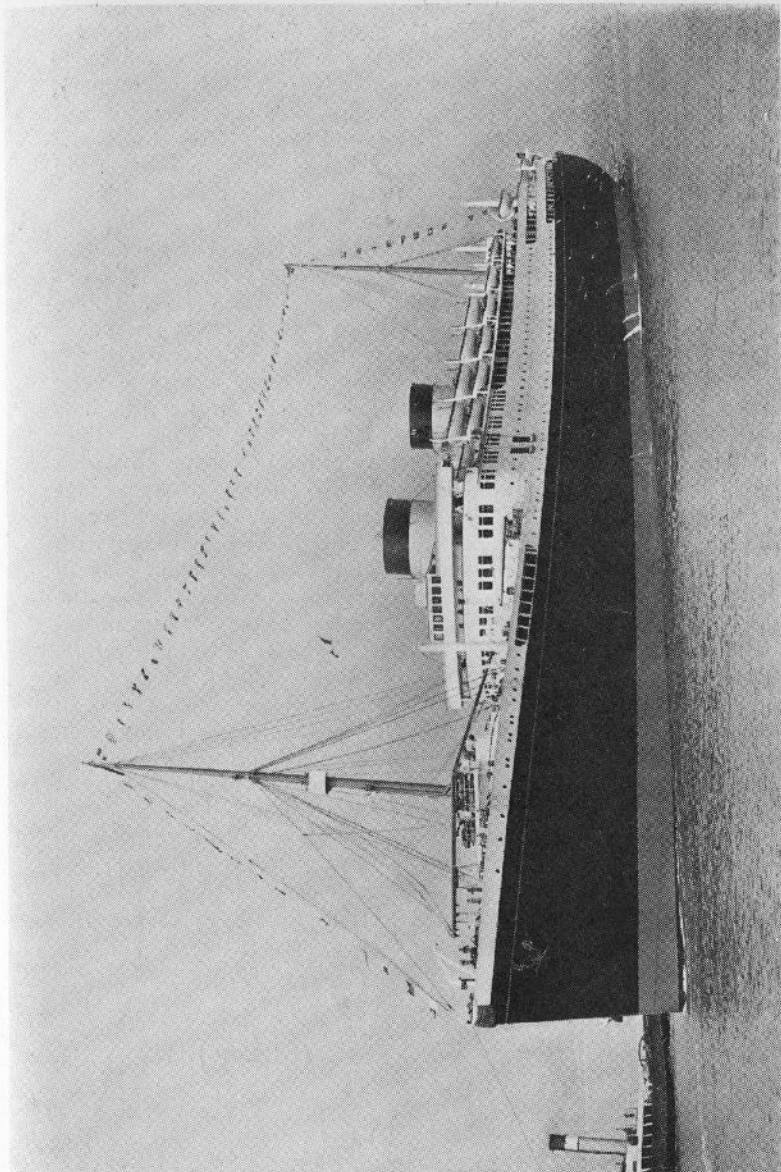
Past Crosby go the ships of all nations—vessels of all sizes, great and small, up and down the Mersey (one of the most interesting rivers in the world) to and from all parts of the globe, day and night. Their varied tonnage, different rigs, and multi-coloured funnels make them a constantly beautiful and attractive sight to the inhabitant and the visitor. Many a man goes down with his telescope to the "front" in the morning to watch the vessels going out or coming in, and to read through his spyglass the names and flags of the sailing ships or steamers as they pass. As an old verse says :

*"Then before me, schooners, brigs,
Steamers, sloops—all sorts of rigs—
Pass in panoramic view—
Waterloo !"*

(We may add, *"and Crosby, too"*).

In 1935, Mr. F. N. Blundell presented Sniggery Wood to the township of Great Crosby as a Silver Jubilee gift, to commemorate the 25th year of the reign of King George V, as an open space for the recreation of the people.

Near by are some spots of much interest and beauty—the green and shady glades of Ince Woods (beloved of holiday-



"SHIPS THAT PASS IN THE NIGHT"—AND DAY.

makers, and visited by hundreds of people every summer), the ancient Sefton Church with its recumbent statues of Crusader knights of this parish, the old Mill in Moor Lane, the great boulder stone in the Recreation Ground in Coronation Road, the salubrious seaside resort of Southport with its multitude of attractions (this town is found to have an atmosphere very beneficial to invalids), and the Overhead Railway running above the streets all along the river front of Liverpool, with its fascinating view of the long line of Liverpool's splendid docks and the vessels lying in them.

In 1936 is expected the amalgamation of this area with its good friend and neighbour, Waterloo-with-Seaforth, the ancient name of the area being wisely chosen for the new entity, "THE BOROUGH OF CROSBY."

Thus we have seen (in this little volume) the way in which an ancient and self-supporting village of field-workers, supervised and led by their "Reeve," has after centuries grown into a busy residential and industrial corporate borough with its "Mayor," a borough which will probably become one of the largest towns in the circle around the great seaport on the Mersey. This has been accomplished by the vigour and initiative of its leaders, spurred on when necessary by the public spirit of the general body of inhabitants. Both leaders and inhabitants are as conscientious as those of any other area in the kingdom in their care for the welfare of their borough, and form an excellent blend of the Lancastrian and the Liverpolitan. With reference to the former there is the old statement that "What Lancashire thinks to-day, London says to-morrow," and this far-sightedness of the Lancashire man is well combined with the business acumen of the Liverpool man in the inhabitants of Crosby. The latter possess in full measure the feeling enshrined in the famous verse of the great Anglo-Indian poet:

*God gave all men all earth to love,
But, since our hearts are small,
Ordained for each one spot shall prove
Beloved over all.* (KIPLING).

FIGURES OF POPULATION.

Little Crosby	Great Crosby	Waterloo Seaforth	Litherland	TOTAL. (Crosby, Waterloo Seaforth)
1801 ..		425		
1815 ..		500 (about)		
1863 ..	about 4,000			
1882 ..			(Estd.) 2,514	
1901 .. 563	7,555	W.-with-S. 23,101 13,263 (W'loo 9,839)	10,592	30,656
1911 ..	12,273	26,396	14,795	38,669
1921 ..	13,721	29,626	16,384	43,347
1931 ..	18,285	31,180		49,465
1934 ..	22,809	30,550		53,359
1935 ..		31,187 (Estd. <i>Echo</i>)	17,800 (Estd.)	
1936 ..				

PARKS AND GARDENS.

Victoria Park, Waterloo	19 $\frac{1}{2}$ acres
Bowersdale Park, Seaforth	2 $\frac{1}{2}$ "
Recreation Ground, Seaforth	6 $\frac{1}{2}$ "
Recreation Ground, Crosby Road (leased land) ..	13 $\frac{1}{2}$ "
Marine Garden	3 $\frac{1}{4}$ "
Adelaide Terrace Green	2 "
Recreation Ground, Brook Vale, Seaforth	9 $\frac{1}{2}$ "
Recreation Ground, Coronation Road, Crosby ..	7 $\frac{1}{10}$ "
Alexandra Park, Great Crosby	4 "
Forefield Lane Playing Fields	15 $\frac{1}{2}$ "
Derwent Road	2 "
Hall Road	$\frac{3}{10}$ "

PLACES OF INTEREST.

1. Ince Woods, green and shady ; through whose beautiful glades the main roads run to Southport : favoured by walkers, cyclists, and motorists.
2. Thornton : a pleasant village with country lanes : sundial and stocks.
3. Sefton Church (the Church of St. Helen) ; existing since before 1291 ; contains beautiful carving, and recumbent statues of Crusaders.
4. Sefton meadows in winter ; flooded (and frozen over) for skating.
5. (A walk along) the shore, from Seaforth or Waterloo to Hall Road, Hightown, or Formby, passing the peat beds formed from ancient forests, and a yachting station : healthful, exhilarating and invigorating.
6. Southport : a favourite Lancashire watering place, with large pleasure grounds and very fine promenade. Famous for its wide thoroughfare, Lord Street, one of the finest in the country, with gardens and bandstand (bands playing every day) on one side, and fine shops on the other. The air is very beneficial to invalids.
7. The Liverpool Overhead Railway, with trains (driven by electricity) running for seven or eight miles from Seaforth to Aigburth, above the streets, along the whole river front of Liverpool, with a fascinating view of the long line of Liverpool's splendid docks and famous "liners."

DATE CHART.

Prehistoric Times.—The Boulder Stone ; striations on rocks in Little Crosby Quarry ; peat beds on the shore ; formation of the Mersey and Alt.

Circa 2,000 B.C.—Settlements of the Ancient Britons, most probably, at Ince and on the banks of the Alt.

A.D.

613. Ethelfrith of Northumbria defeated the Britons at Chester. Penda of Mercia defeated and killed (St.) Oswald, King of Northumbria.

642. Oswy of Northumbria defeated and killed Penda. (Settlements of the English at Thornton, ?Sefton, Ford, Orrell). (The "Hundred" of West Derby formed).

900-905. Norsemen settled at Crosby, ?Sefton, Altcar, Lunt, Litherland.

1066 Englishmen held Crosby, Sefton, Thornton, Netherton, Lunt, Ford, Orrell, Litherland, Altcar.

1086. Normans held these lands ; *e.g.*, the Molyneux family held Sefton and Little Crosby.

Between 1189 and 1194. Prince John granted Great Crosby to his forester, Robert of Ainsdale.

1211. The Molyneux family held Little Crosby.

Circa 1277. Robert of Crosby (and Ainsdale) adopted the name of Blundell.

1312. Richard de Molyneux was made knight of the shire.

1362. David Blundell of Great Crosby married the Lady Agnes Molyneux of Little Crosby, and thus united the estates.

1513. Henry Blundell fell at Flodden Field.

1554. St. Michael's was a chapel of pilgrimage in Great Crosby.

1570. Thomas Harrison of Crosby had a dispute with the people of Litherland regarding rights of pasture on the Marsh.—John Harrison of Crosby went to London, and became a "Merchant Taylor."

1592. Nicholas Blundell died a prisoner in Lancaster Castle.

1611. A hoard of 300 silver pennies of Alfred the Great and Edward the Elder was found at Harkirk, near Crosby.
- 1618-19-20. John Harrison founded Merchant Taylors' School at Great Crosby.
1625. King Charles I sold Great Crosby for £12,000: Lord Molyneux acquired it.
1638. William Blundell died at Little Crosby.
1654. A race-course was "stooped out" by William Blundell in Crosby.
1666. The largest house in Great Crosby was Moorside, tenanted by the Johnson family.
1689. William Blundell was imprisoned at Manchester (died, 1698).
1715. The "Fifteen" Rebellion of the supporters of the Stuart kings: Crosby Hall was searched for Nicholas Blundell, who was hiding in the "priest's chamber" there, and escaped.
1737. Nicholas Blundell died.
1758. Catherine Halsall founded her Girls' School at Crosby.
1774. St. Michael's Church in Great Crosby was re-built.
1798. Great Crosby was bought by the trustees of the Blundells of Little Crosby.
1813. Sir John Gladstone built Seaforth House in Litherland (demolished, 1881).
1814. Sir John Gladstone erected St. Thomas's Church.
1815. The Battle of Waterloo.—Waterloo founded.—St. Thomas's Church, Seaforth, opened.—The Royal (Waterloo) Hotel erected at Crosby Seabank.
1816. Great Crosby Marsh enclosed.
1820. St. Thomas's Schools, Seaforth founded.
1830. The Gladstone family removed to Scotland.
1840. Christ Church, Waterloo, built (replaced by the present-day fine edifice in 1899).—James Muspratt built Seaforth Hall.
1841. Potter's Barn built by William Potter.

1847. St. Mary's Church consecrated.
1848. The Waterloo to Southport railway opened.
1854. St. Luke's Church and Schools, Great Crosby, erected; St. Michael's taken down.
1856. A Local Board of Health formed for Waterloo-with-Seaforth.—A little band of Wesleyans began to meet in Bath Street, and opened their church in Wesley Street (which thus, with Chapel Street, obtained its name) in the next year.
1861. The Town Hall was erected in Great George's Road.
1863. The Local Government District of Waterloo-with-Seaforth was formed out of the township of Litherland.
1864. St. John's Church, Waterloo, was built by the efforts of Archdeacon Jones of Christ Church (and was enlarged by the addition of two transepts in 1869).—St. Barnabas' Church in Warrenhouse Road, Blundellsands, was licensed. It is now used as St. Nicholas' Schools.
1866. Waterloo Congregational Church opened.
1868. Temporary chapel—later S. Thomas' of Canterbury—under SS. Peter and Paul's of Great Crosby, erected in Great George's Road.
1870. A Local Board formed for Little Crosby.
1874. 54 acres of land in Great Crosby added to Waterloo-with-Seaforth.
1876. St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church, Waterloo, provided.—St. John's Schools erected.
1877. An iron church erected in Waterloo Park—later named St. Mary's—a daughter of St. John's, replaced by an uncompleted stone building in 1883, completed in 1908.—S. Thomas of Canterbury's Church opened.
1880. The tower of the old St. Michael's Church, Great Crosby, demolished.
1881. Seaforth House demolished.—The Congregational Church, Seaforth, erected.

1882. The Calvinistic Methodist Church built in Crosby Road South.
1884. The Congregational School Chapel built in Great Crosby.
1888. Merchant Taylors' School for Girls, Great Crosby, founded.—The Wesleyan Church, Seaforth, built.
1889. Colonel Nicholas Blundell gave the land on which the Recreation Ground was formed, to Great Crosby.
1891. The Wesleyan Methodist Church, Blundellsands, erected.
1894. SS. Peter and Paul's Church opened, Great Crosby.—The Urban District Council formed for Little Crosby; six members.
1895. The Urban District Council formed for Waterloo-with-Seaforth.—The Town Hall constructed.
1898. A reading Room opened in the Town Hall, Waterloo-with-Seaforth.—The Presbyterian Church, Blundellsands, built.—Horse buses began to run along Crosby Road from Seaforth to Crosby.
1899. Christ Church in Waterloo Road opened.
1900. St. Faith's Church, Crosby Road, consecrated.—Tramways commenced from Seaforth to Crosby.—Escalator installed at Seaforth Sands Station (perhaps the first in England) of the Overhead Railway.
1901. Our Lady Star of the Sea opened (the Mission having been founded in 1884).
1906. A Branch Library established in Seaforth.—The U.D.C. of Waterloo-with-Seaforth obtained powers to make gardens along the sea front on the greens there.—The Carnegie Library was provided for Waterloo-with-Seaforth.
1908. The Echalaz Collection was placed in the Public Museum, Waterloo.
1910. A Board of Local Governors established for Merchant Taylors' School for Girls, Great Crosby.
1911. Merchant Taylors' School for Girls was reconstructed and enlarged.

1912. The Grammar School, Cambridge Road, Seaforth (formerly Waterloo-with-Seaforth Secondary School) established.
- 1914—1918. The Great European War.
1918. The Junior School provided at M.T.G.S.
1921. The Girls' Secondary School opened in Waterloo Park.—The War Memorial erected at the "Five Lamps."
1924. Seaforth Hall demolished.—The Gladstone Dock system commenced (held up since 1913 by the Great War).—Motor buses replaced the tram-cars along Crosby Road.
1927. SS. Peter and Paul's Schools built.
1932. Little Crosby added to the U.D.C. of Great Crosby.
1935. A £267,000 Drainage Scheme projected for the Rimrose Brook area.—Mr. F. N. Blundell gave Sniggery Wood to Great Crosby to commemorate the Silver Jubilee of the reign of King George V, as an open space for the recreation of the people.—Islington, in the centre of Great Crosby, with its small Cottages and little shops, its hotel and weighing machine, disappeared.—Great Crosby U.D.C. purchased about an acre of land for the Forefield Playing Fields.
1936. A retaining wall was built to direct the course of the Alt westwards into the Mersey.—Crosby and Waterloo-with-Seaforth to be amalgamated into the one "BOROUGH OF CROSBY."

WATERLOO.

(From "The Seaside Tattler and Waterloo Cracker" of 1859.)

When the sun with sultry heat
Burns the bricks and bakes the street
How I long thy sands to view—
Waterloo!

Others in the stifling town
Gulp gin-slings and cock-tails down.
I such fatal draughts eschew—
Waterloo!

But I seek thy smiling shore,
Where in mazy circles soar
Albatross* and wild sea-mew—
Waterloo!

Then, before me, schooners, brigs,
Steamers, sloops—all sorts of rigs—
Pass in panoramic view—
Waterloo!

While in nearer prospect seen
Gorgeous groups of crinoline
Spifflicate me through and through—
Waterloo!

Senseless critics, with a frown,
Stigmatize thy *green* as *brown*.
I can vaunt thy ether blue—
Waterloo!

What a contrast is thy shore
To the city's fiendish roar,
With its wild hullabaloo—
Waterloo!

Where pedestrians, cabs and drags
Through the roads or muddy flags,
With a roving, restless crew—
Waterloo!

When amid the hours of night
Nature's self puts out the light,
Vainly sweet repose I woo—
Waterloo!

Evening oysters, morning chips,
Hoarsely bawled from stentor lips,
Make sweet sleep a bug-a-boo—
Waterloo!

Ah, how different the scene,
When within thy haunts serene
I can taste Elysium true—
Waterloo!

For within thy favoured walls
Gentle slumber softly falls,
As on flowers the evening dew—
Waterloo!

Wrapped in peaceful slumber deep,
No peeler makes my flesh to creep;
No—nothing breaks my balmy snooze—
Waterlooze!

Let the noblest patriot, who
Loves the soil on which he grew,
Praise it till his face be blue:
'Tis not up to Waterloo.
Let the Austral savage strew
Incense o'er the kangaroo;
Let the Ethiopian, too,
Boast his skies of heavenly blue,
And bright birds of golden hue
That their tropic flight pursue
'Neath the palm-leaf and bamboo;
Let the Mormons—horrid crew—
To their wild affections glue
All the glories of Nauvoo;
Give to all the earth its due,
This one fact is indisputable—this alone is true:
(If in doubt, ask Mr. Drew)†
There's no place like Waterloo . . .

(The "Seaside Tattler and Waterloo Cracker" appears to have been a private little production, a kind of magazine, brought out by a small party of Waterloo residents, each of whom contributed something to it as an evening entertainment.)

*Poetic licence, surely.

† (?) Drew.

INDEX

	PAGE
Adelaide Terrace	80
Adelaide Garden	87
Ainsdale	31
Albert Road	80
Ale-tasters	33
"Ale-wives"	23
Alexandra Hall	36
Alfred the Great	17, 19
All Saints' Church	42
Alt, the River	16
Altcar	21, 22
Andrew's Church, St.	64, 80
Angles	24, 62
Armour, Canon	41
Assembly Rooms	36
Assize of Bread and Ale	34
Athelstan, King	17
Augustinian Sisters	84
Baptist Church	86
Barnabas' Church, St.	41
Barracks	73, 76
Barrow, Mr. & Mrs. James	86
Bathing Vans	73
Bath Street	80
Beach Lawn	80
Beach Road School	65
"Berewick"	26
"Bibby's Land"	74
Black Death, The	21
Blucher Street	80
Blundell	26, 27, 31, 33, 34, 35, 38, 44, 90, 94, 96
Blundellsands	41
Blundellsands Road	39
Boulder Stone, The	11, 12
Brighton-le-Sands	81
Britons, The Ancient,	13, 14
Brownmoor Lane	35
Brunswick Mews	79
Bull Baiting	35
Bull-croft	36, 75
Calvanistic Methodist Church, Welsh	86
Canal	52, 63, 66
Carlyle, Thomas	73
Cecil Road	71
Central School	65, 89
Chapel of Little Crosby	28

	PAGE
Charles I., King	27, 34
Charles II, King	27
Christ Church	64, 80
Christ Church School	89
Church Field	63
Church Road	81
Civil War, The	27
Coaches	81
Coast Erosion	94
College Road	36, 40, 56
Congregation Church,	41, 77
Conquest, The Norman	26
Constables of Crosby	32
Convent	74
Cooks Lane	37, 41
Cookson Family	75
Coracles	15
Coronation Road	11, 36
Council Schools	65, 89
County of Lancaster	25
Court Rolls of Crosby	34
Cromwell, Oliver	46, 50
Crosby Hall	29, 30
Crosby House	35, 38
Crosby, Little	37, 42
Crosby Road School	89
"Crosby Seabank"	79
Cross	22, 31, 37
Curzon Road	86
Derby, Earl of	63
Dickens, Charles	73
Domesday Book	25, 43
"Doom-man"	62
Drainage Scheme	68
Druids, The	14
Duke Street	80
"Earl"	18
East Street	80
Edgar the Peaceful, King	21
Edward I, King	31
Edward the Confessor, King	23
Edward the Elder, King	17
Edwin of Northumbria, King	21
Egbert of Wessex, King	18
Eisteddfod	15
Elm Road	71
Endbutt Lane	37, 38

	PAGE
Enfield Avenue	39
Electric Tramway	77
Elizabeth's School, S.	65
Escalator, at Seaforth	77
Ethelflæda, Lady of Mercia	22
Ethelfrith of Northumbria King	15
Ewart Road	73
Faith's Church, St.	41, 87
Fernie, Mr. W. K.	74
"Festival of the Cross"	35
Feudal System	21
"Fifteen" Rebellion	28
Fire of London, Great	54
"Five Lamps"	87
Flodden Field, Battle of	26
"Flowering of the Cross"	31
"Folk-Moot"	25
Ford	16, 38, 62, 63
Ford Bridge	38
Forests, Submarine	11
Formby	17, 22, 23, 29
Forwood Family	41
"Francis, M.E."	29
"Fyrd," The	19
"Garth"	22
George V, King	96
George Hotel	40
Glacial Period(s)	11
Gladstone Dock	74
Gladstone Road	73
Gladstone, Sir John	70
Gladstone, The Rt. Hon. W. E.	71
Good Shepherd, Convent of	63
Goose Feast	40
Grammar School	90
Great Fire of London	54
Great George's Road	80
Green, The	35, 39, 80
Halsall's School, Catherine	35
Harkirk	17, 27, 37
Harrison, John	52
Hartland, A.	85
Hatton	75
Hawarden Grove	73
Helen, Church of St.	96
Henry II, King	31
Henry VI, King	33, 49
Henry VIII, King	34, 50

	PAGE
"Hide"	19
Hightown	42
Hoard of Silver Pennies	17
Holme, The	63
Holy Sepulchre, Church of the	63
Hospital	84
Houghton, Squire	82
Hougomont Avenue	80
"Hundred," The	21
"Hundred" of West Derby,	21, 25
"Hundred" Man	21
"Hundred" Moot	21
Huson, R.A., Thomas	85
Ice Age	12
<i>Idylls of the King</i> , The	15
Ince	16, 23, 96
Ingimund	22
Islington	12
James I, King	27, 50
John, King	31
John's Church, St.	64, 82
John's Church Schools, St., John & St. James, Church of St.	82
Johnson Family	64
Jones, Archdeacon	35
Joseph's Church, S.	64
Joseph's School, S.	64
Julius Cæsar	14
Kershaw, Avenue	41
Kipling, Rudyard	98
"Lady"	19
"Lancashire"	16, 25
Lander Road School	65
Library	90
Life in Anglo-Saxon Times	17
Life in British Times	13, 14
Life in Medieval Days	31
Life in Norman Times	25, 26
Life in a Norse Village	22
Little Brighton	40
Little Crosby Cottage	37
Little Crosby Lane	37
Liver Inn	81
Liverpool Lodge	37
Local Board,	29, 42, 65, 68, 76
"Lord"	19

	PAGE
Lovers' Lane	84
Luke's Church, St.,	34, 35, 36
Luke's Church School, St.	35
Lunt	21, 22
L.Y.R.	66
L.M.S.	66
Malory	15
"Manor"	25
Manor Court	25
Marine Terrace	80
Mark's (Mission), St.	64
Marsh, The.. ..	36, 52, 63
Marsh Lane	40, 82
Martinmas	20
Mary's Church, St.	29
May, Dr.	82
Mayor	48
Merchant Taylors' School	35, 36
Mercia	16, 17
Methodist Church ..	42, 64
Mews, The	79
Mews, Brunswick ..	79
Michael, St.	22
Michael's Church, St.	35
Michael's Villa, St. ..	39
Michael's Well, St. ..	35
Michaelmas	18
Mill	39
Mock Corporation ..	48
Molyneux Family, 26,	34, 43, 44,
48, 49, 50, 52, 61,	66
Moor Lane	35, 42, 52
Moorside Road	35
"Moot-stow"	21
Morality Plays	33
Murat Street	80
Murphy, Mr. Vincent	84
Museum	90
Muspratt, James ..	73
Myers Road	87
Nag's Head Hotel ..	34, 42
Nazareth House	35, 41
Netherton	16, 17, 20
Nicholas' Church, St.	41
Nicholas' Church Schools, St.	41, 89
Norman Conquest, The	25
Norsemen	21
Northern Cricket Club	90
Northumbria	15, 16

	PAGE
Old English Life and	17
Customs	39
Old House	36, 40
Old Ship Inn Hotel ..	38
"Omnibus"	37
Ormskirk Lodge	16, 62, 63
Orrell	31
Osbert de Ainsdale ..	16
Oswald, King of Northumbria	16
(St. Oswald)	16
Oswy, King of Northumbria	16
Our Lady Star of the Sea..	76
Out Lane	39
Overhead Railway ..	72
Paulinus	16
Peat Beds on the Shore ..	11
Peat Beds in South Road	11
Peat Beds in Wellington Street	11
Penda, King of Mercia ..	16
Peter and Paul's Church, SS.	41
Peters, Mr. Edward ..	12
Philip's Church, St. ..	63
Philip's Church Schools, St.	65
Pickering's Farm	66
Picton Road	80
Pinfold (=pound) ..	37
Pit Farm	41
Potter's Barn	74, 81
Presbyterian Church ..	41, 80
Press Gang	44
Priests	29
Prince John	31
Punch-Bowl Inn	35
Quarry	11, 30, 37
Quarry House	37
Quern	14
Races	34
Railway	66
Railway Hotel	72
Rawson, Rev. Wm., ..	64, 70
Rawson Road	70, 89
Recreation Ground ..	36, 87
"Reeve," The	25, 32
Richard I, King	31
Rimrose Bridge	72
Rimrose Brook	63, 72
Ripley John	81
Robert de Ainsdale ..	31
Robert de Crosby ..	31
Roger the Poitevin ..	25

	PAGE
Rollo Family	84
Rolls of the Manor Court ..	21
Royal Hotel	79
Rugby Club, Waterloo ..	90
Rutherford Family ..	41
Sacred Heart, Church of the	63
Sand Heys	81
School at Little Crosby ..	28
School Lane	37
Scarisbrick, Margery ..	26
Seafield	74
Seaforth Corner	38
Seaforth Hall	73
Seaforth House	70
Secondary School	84, 90
Sefton .. 16, 19, 21, 22, 28, 34,	43
Sefton, Earl of	64, 65, 66
Sefton Hall	46
Setantii, The	11
Ship Inn	36
Sisters of Nazareth ..	35
Sisters of St. Paul ..	41
Smithwick, Rev. R. F. G.	75
South Road	80
Southport	31, 81
Spetchley	84
Springwell House	63
Sniggery Wood	96
Stanfield (Standfield) ..	35, 37
Star Chamber	27
Star of the Sea, Our Lady	76
Star of the Sea Schools,	
Our Lady	89
Stephen, King	62
Stocks, The	34
Strathclyde	16
Striations	12
"Submarine Forests" ..	11
Such Field	63
Sutton, William	81
Tannery	67
Tannery Mission	64
Tennyson	15
Thomas's Church, St. ..	49, 70
Thomas's Church Schools, St.	75
Thomas of Canterbury,	
Church of S.	82
Thomas of Canterbury	
Schools, S.	89

	PAGE
Thornback Pool	29
Thornton 16, 19, 20, 21, 33, 34,	46
"Town Field"	17, 32
Town Hall	36, 82
Tramways	85
Treaty of Wedmore ..	22
Tudor Times	33
Tun, The	16, 17
U. D. C. (Urban District	
Council) 29, 42, 67, 82, 85, 89	
Vermont House	39
Victoria, Queen	80
Victoria Channel	37
Victoria Park	80
Victoria Road	80
Village	17
Virgins Lane	37
"Wapentake"	62
War Memorial	87
Warren Road	49
Warrenhouse Road ..	36, 40
Wat Tyler's Revolt ..	21
Water Street	34, 42
Waterloo Hotel (Royal	
Hotel)	79
Waterloo Park	84
Waterloo Park School ..	90
Welfare Centre	90
Well	35, 37, 72
Wellington Street ..	11, 80
Welshmen	16
Wesleyan Church	41, 77
West Derby	22, 23
West Lane House	28
Wessex	18
Whabs, The	63
Whitehaven	12
Wilberforce, Rev. E. R. ..	75
William the Conqueror, King	25
William IV, King	80
Wilson's Lane	64
Windmill	32
Witlaw	-63
Woods, Ince	100
Wrecks	75
York Street	80

